

**ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՊԱՏՎԻՐԱԿՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ**  
**DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**  
**ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

**Statement**

**on the occasion of assumption by Portugal of the FSC Chairmanship  
delivered at the 828th Plenary Meeting of the**

**Forum for Security Co-operation**

**September 14, 2016**

Mme Chairperson.

Armenian delegation congratulates and warmly welcomes Portugal, the new chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation. We would like to extend our warm welcome to H.E *Mr. Santos Silva*, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal and thank him for his thorough address.

We would also like to express our thanks to Poland for its successful chairmanship and welcome Romania as a new member of the FSC Troika.

Mme Chairperson,

We noted positively the outline of the priorities of the Portuguese chairmanship, which perfectly meets the wide scope of challenges we are facing today in our security environment. The basic principle, which constitutes a major security challenge in the OSCE area is the principle of non- use of force or threat of force. Only abiding by this very principle and fully implementing our commitments in the political-military field by letter and spirit we will strengthen the dialogue, rebuild military trust and predictability. Hence, any attempts to selectively classify those commitments as well as the principles of international law will only further erode the dialogue undermining the indivisibility of our security.

Mme Chairperson,

We appreciate the utility and relevance of the topics of the Security Dialogues selected by Portuguese chairmanship without overloading our schedule and keeping them to the point. We are particularly pleased to note that the backbones of our security- Arms Control and CSBMs, will shape the main focus of our work towards the Ministerial Council. In this vein, we took good note of the August 26 article of the Chairman-in- Office which emphasizes the necessity to re- launch talks on Arms Control in Europe. We agree that the uncontrolled and skyrocketing accumulation of offensive weaponry should be prevented in the OSCE area.

Armenia supports the efforts of the chairmanship to update and modernize Vienna Document for increased military transparency and predictability in the OSCE region. We have been constantly calling for greater attention from the OSCE pS to grave violations of Arms Control and Vienna Document commitments voicing our concern particularly with regard to notification of military exercises.

We hope that the meetings of the Forum for Security Cooperation will be used to their best to hold those who erode military stability and predictability accountable and strengthen transparency and cooperation in our path to Hamburg Ministerial.

We are looking forward to contribute discussions in a due course.

Finally, let me conclude by wishing every success to the Portuguese chairmanship and pledge Armenia's full support.

Thank you Mme Chairperson.