

Chairmanship: Moldova

757th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 1 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Popov

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE

Presentations on:

– *The Arms Trade Treaty: Possible Implications of Its Implementation, by Ms. R. Nicholls, Head of the Conventional Arms Policy Team, Arms Export Policy Department, United Kingdom*

– *Russia's Proposals to Improve the Effectiveness of Control over Illegal Supplies of Arms, Promoted in Multilateral Formats, by Mr. V. I. Vasilenko, Expert, Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation*

Chairperson, Ms. R. Nicholls (FSC.DEL/106/14 OSCE+), Mr. V. I. Vasilenko (FSC.DEL/105/14 OSCE+) (FSC.DEL/105/14/Add.1 OSCE+), Greece-European Union (with the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Moldova, Monaco and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/108/14), Spain (Annex), Belarus, United States of America, Turkey, Romania, United Kingdom, Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (Spain)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/107/14), Greece-European Union (with the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/109/14), Russian Federation, Germany, United States of America, Canada, Estonia, Georgia, Poland

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Distribution of a report on a German-led inspection to Ukraine, conducted from 31 April to 3 May 2014:* Germany
- (b) *Distribution of the monthly report on major implementation activities of the Conflict Prevention Centre (FSC.GAL/72/14 Restr.):* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (c) *Matters of protocol:* Croatia, Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 18 June 2014, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/763

11 June 2014

Annex

ENGLISH

Original: SPANISH

757th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 763, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN

Mr. Chairperson,

Spain wishes first of all to underscore the statement by the representative of the European Union and would like to make the following observations in a national capacity.

Allow me to thank in particular Ms. Riona Nicholls of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom and Mr. Valentin Vasilenko of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation for their informative presentations on the Arms Trade Treaty and multilateral control over the supply of illegal arms.

Mr. Chairperson,

Spain has invested considerable efforts and resources to ensure the early entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty and its effective implementation and universalization. I should like to reiterate my country's firm belief that once it enters into force, this Treaty will serve its purpose of ensuring more responsibility and transparency in international arms transfers.

Spain believes that the entry into force of the Treaty is a matter of urgency and that it is important to attain a large number of signatories if the Treaty is to achieve its objectives. To that end, we call on the OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty.

Furthermore, in response to this urgent situation, my country already decided at the time to provisionally apply the provisions of Articles 6 and 7 of the Arms Trade Treaty on prohibitions and the assessment of arms exports on the basis of aspects concerning human rights, international humanitarian law, obligations under international agreements or the risk of undermining international peace and security.

Subsequently, on 2 April this year, Spain deposited at the headquarters of the United Nations its instrument of ratification of the Treaty. The deposit was made at a joint ceremony together with 17 other countries to mark the first anniversary of the adoption of the text of the Treaty by the General Assembly.

We are aware of the challenges this Treaty poses for many countries and we are therefore making our experience in this matter available to participating States.

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to take this opportunity also to refer to Security Council resolution 2117 on small arms and light weapons, the first Security Council resolution on such weapons, and one that was co-sponsored by Spain.

Furthermore, Spain attaches great importance to the implementation and full application of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the instruments stemming from the Action Plan, such as the marking and tracing instrument. In this regard, during the next meeting of the States Parties to be held in New York next week, the Spanish delegation to the United Nations is planning an intensive programme of activities, including a press conference, together with the delegation representing the OSCE.

At the same time we are committed to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, known as the Protocol on Firearms, the only universal legally binding instrument in the area of firearms.

We should also like to highlight the need to strengthen control of the trade in ammunition, parts and main components. Only by bringing these under control can we gain effective control of the arms trade and illicit arms trafficking.

Moreover, Spain actively advocates all measures to build confidence, transparency and predictability, such as the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the United Nations Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures and other instruments of a regional nature.

Mr. Chairperson,

In recent years important steps have been taken in the field of humanitarian disarmament through the Ottawa Convention and the Oslo Convention. Spain is firmly committed to both Conventions in the belief that the humanitarian considerations that led to their adoption should prevail.

In the area of anti-personnel mines, we must recognize the progress made in the universalization and implementation of the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. The Review Conference held in Cartagena de Indias gave renewed impetus to our efforts. Spain has reaffirmed its commitment to the Cartagena Action Plan as well the goal of the universalization of the Convention.

Finally, Spain is strongly opposed to the use, development, production, acquisition and stockpiling of cluster munitions. My country was among the first to sign and ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which entered into force in 2010. Two years earlier, Spain had already taken the decision to apply the Convention provisionally and unilaterally,

demonstrating my country's commitment to the norms of international humanitarian law and human rights.

I conclude, Mr. Chairperson, by recognizing the significant progress made in the past year, in particular the adoption and opening for signature of the Arms Trade Treaty and the adoption of Security Council resolution 2117, while at the same time stressing the importance of continuing this remarkable undertaking also within the OSCE.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would be grateful if the text of this statement could be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you very much.