

**Chairmanship: Serbia**

**861st PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 13 September 2017

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 1.30 p.m

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Ninčić

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

Agenda item1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: “IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 (2000) – THE ROLE OF THE DEFENCE SECTOR IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325 (2000)”

- *Presentation by Mr. Z. Djordjević, Minister of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia*
- *Presentation by Major General T. L. Harris, Deputy Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force*
- *Presentation by the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Mr. M. Peško*

Chairperson, Minister of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs of Serbia (FSC.DEL/214/17 OSCE+), Major General T. L. Harris (FSC.DEL/209/17), Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Estonia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/210/17), Norway, Croatia, Austria (FSC.DEL/213/17 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Slovenia (Annex), United States of America, Turkey, Germany, Switzerland, Armenia, FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325 (Italy)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

*Situation in and around Ukraine:* Ukraine (FSC.DEL/216/17 OSCE+), Estonia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/211/17), United States of America, Russian Federation

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Decision by the Council of the European Union, adopted on 4 August 2017, in support of OSCE activities to reduce the risk of illicit trafficking and excessive accumulation of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Georgia:*  
Estonia-European Union (FSC.DEL/212/17), Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Georgia
- (b) *Matters of Protocol: Serbia*
- (c) *Conference on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, to be held in Washington, D.C., on 30 and 31 October 2017:*  
FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Montenegro)

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 20 September 2017, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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**861st Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 867, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SLOVENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to thank our Serbian colleagues for putting this topic on the agenda at such an early stage in their FSC Chairmanship. I am saying this because the promotion of gender equality is not only a priority of Slovenian foreign policy, but also of our defence and security policy. In fact, our Ministry of Defence is headed by a woman for the second time. This can also be confirmed by Minister Djordjević, who just a few months ago, in his former capacity, hosted our Minister Katič during her official visit to Belgrade.

In addition to what has already been stated on behalf of the European Union, I would therefore like to point out that the policy of gender equality has been promoted in the Slovenian armed forces for the past quarter of a century. In fact, it is included in the actual conditions of employment. The result is that today women account for 16 per cent of our military personnel and are represented throughout our forces, from the tactical to the strategic levels, including decision-making positions. Since the deployment of the first Slovenian contingent in 1997, women have also played an active part in international operations and missions. Last year, they represented 9.5 per cent of our military staff and 21.7 per cent of our police personnel abroad.

I am mentioning these figures with a sense of satisfaction not only as a Slovenian diplomat, but also as the Chairperson of the OSCE MenEngage Network. As you know, this Network was launched at the OSCE in 2012 and seeks to raise awareness of the important influence men can have in ending gender-based violence and speaking out against all kinds of inequality. Therefore, let me say that, like the Norwegian representative before me, I too strongly believe that the presence of both male and female personnel within the armed forces is essential. Diversity leads to a more comprehensive approach. By merging the complementary characteristics, abilities and skills of both men and women, better effectiveness of the armed forces can be achieved.

Also, contemporary security situations, such as violent extremism, natural disasters or the still topical migrant and refugee situation are placing new challenges before us. Consequently, gender mainstreaming may also be considered as a bridge towards effective solutions for peace and security. In this connection, I would like to emphasize the important role of the OSCE and its field operations in promoting the gender perspective in conflict prevention and resolution. I was therefore heartened by the statement of Ambassador Peško. I

would also like to take this opportunity to stress once again – like the Austrian representative earlier – the need to finally adopt an OSCE-wide action plan on women, peace and security.

Finally, I would like to address a question to Major General Harris. We know that balancing work and life can be especially demanding for those in uniform. At the same time, we also know that this is an important precondition for achieving equal opportunities for women and men. How do the Canadian armed forces cope with this challenge?

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, I would like to ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you.