

**Report by the Chairperson
of the Forum for Security Co-operation
Ambassador Triin Parts
to the Annual Security Review Conference 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

It is a great pleasure and an honour for me to address this distinguished forum today on the occasion of the sixth Annual Security Review Conference as representative of the current FSC Chairmanship during the second session of 2008.

Since the last ASRC, the Forum for Security Co-operation has continued its active efforts to strengthen the implementation of existing politico-military commitments, as well as discussing possible new, additional measures. The initiative on awareness raising on the topic of cyber security also falls within this realm. Hopefully discussion on this important issue will continue and lead not only to further understanding of cyber security but also produce some added value. The OSCE as an influential organization with 56 participating States definitely has a role in reducing the threats emerging from cyber space.

The FSC has had, since the last ASRC, constructive discussions especially under the Security Dialogue, and this has, in our view, deepened our discourse and shown that the Forum can tackle and move on with its most urgent security matters. The 6 August 2007 missile incident in Georgia triggered an overview of existing OSCE mechanisms, the use of which this spring to discuss security concerns and the incident involving the unmanned aerial vehicle over Abkhazia, Georgia on 20 April is evidence of the continued relevance of the OSCE and its mechanisms. However, there is still potential to take a step further and to discuss at this ASRC, in the third session, both the application of the existing OSCE mechanisms and procedures and possibly also engage in creative thinking to elaborate new approaches.

Entering the main thrust of the current FSC activities, I would first of all like to recall that the Fifteenth Ministerial Council held in Madrid adopted the Decision No. 3/07 on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation. This was the first time in the FSC's history that the Ministerial Council adopted a comprehensive decision of this sort. This decision is serving as a basis for the activities of the Forum, and we hope it will also contribute to inspiring the delegates and experts gathered here at the ASRC.

In the Decision, the ministers recalled Decision V of the CSCE Helsinki Document 1992, which established the Forum for Security Co-operation and reaffirmed that the participating States would ensure coherent, interrelated and complementary efforts in the Forum to promote arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building, security co-operation, and conflict prevention.

Ministers recalled Ministerial Council Decision No. 3, adopted at the Ninth Meeting of the Council in Bucharest in 2001, on Fostering the Role of the OSCE as a Forum for Political Dialogue. Among other things, this decision tasked the FSC with addressing those

aspects of new security challenges that fall within its mandate and with updating its activities accordingly.

More specifically, the Ministerial Council expressed its desire to build on and strengthen the implementation of the following documents: the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons; the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition; and the relevant decisions adopted in the framework of the FSC. Ministers also expressed their determination to continue enhancing the implementation of the existing confidence- and security-building measures in the framework of the Vienna Document 1999, taking into account the evolving nature of threats to security and stability in the OSCE area, and to continue enhancing the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

Since the last ASRC, the Forum has held two Special Meetings: on 26 September 2007, the Forum held a “**Special Meeting on civil-military emergency preparedness**”. The Meeting aimed at promoting information sharing and updates of existing policies, programmes and mechanisms implemented both by participating States and by international organizations with responsibilities in the area of civil and/or military co-operation in emergency situations.

On 24 October last year, the FSC held a Special Meeting on “**Existing and future arms control and confidence and security building measures in the OSCE area**”. The meeting afforded an opportunity to States to exchange views and comments in a structured and specialised manner, and thereby contributed to the collective aim of strengthening European security. Participating States agreed that new challenges have emerged in the post-Cold War security environment, and that these need to be dealt with when considering current instruments. These new security challenges can only be met successfully through co-operative and multilateral action.

On 5–6 February, **a workshop was organized on the implications of technical, managerial and financial issues on existing and planned OSCE projects on SALW and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition**. This meeting aimed at reviewing the requests for assistance as well as drawing lessons learnt and best practices from project implementation. It also looked at ways of how to further enhance effectiveness of project planning and implementation through co-operation and co-ordination of efforts with other international organizations.

In addition, the Forum has held Special Working Group “A” meetings on two subjects, anti-personnel landmines (APL) and small arms and light weapons. **The Special Working Group “A” meeting on APL**, convened on 23 January 2008, enabled participating States to discuss possibilities to strengthen mine action and supporting these efforts within the OSCE area through concrete measures. In addition, delegations discussed the possibility of carrying out public awareness campaigns and organizations sub-regional seminars with regard to mine action. Views expressed regarding a possibly more active role for the OSCE in combating anti-personnel landmines underlined especially the need to avoid duplication with other actors and the need to ensure continued co-ordination and co-operation between them.

The Special Working Group “A” Meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons, held on 4 June 2008 concentrated first, on the OSCE contribution to the Third Biennial

Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW, to be held in New York later this month, and second, to future actions by the OSCE in the field of small arms and stockpiles of conventional ammunition.

As these examples of recent meetings show, the FSC continues to actively address a broad range of politico-military issues on the regular basis. Indeed, the FSC was also preparing for the reinforced discussions during the ASRC and we all expect the key Ministerial tasks to be further addressed by delegations in the following days along with other crucial developments affecting security and stability of all OSCE participating States.

In this context, I would like to recall the list of politico-military elements submitted by the FSC Chair to the PC Chair, which — in accordance with FSC Decision No 3/08 on the FSC contribution to the 2008 Annual Security Review Conference — “could serve as items for discussion and possible subjects of keynote speeches in all sessions, as suggested by FSC delegations”. The list speaks for itself, providing a comprehensive outline of major developments on various aspects of politico-military security, their impact and challenges they bring to us.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, I would again extend to each and every one of you my best wishes for a very productive meeting.

Thank you for your attention.