

Chairmanship: Poland

819th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 11 May 2016

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 12.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Bugajski

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OSCE OFFICE IN TAJIKISTAN AND SECURITY SITUATION IN THE REGION

Presentation by Mr. M. Mueller, Head of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan: Chairperson, Head of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, Netherlands-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; 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 Andorra and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/91/16), Romania, United States of America, Switzerland, Russian Federation, Tajikistan

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

(a) *Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (Annex 1) (FSC.DEL/90/16), Netherlands-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, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/92/16), United States of America, Canada, Russian Federation (Annex 2), Croatia*

- (b) *Reply by the Russian Federation to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: Moldova (Annex 3), Russian Federation*

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Letter from the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-Operation to the Chairperson of the Permanent Council (FSC.DEL/87/16/Rev.1 OSCE+) and the FSC contribution to the annotated agenda of the 2016 Annual Security Review Conference (FSC.DEL/88/16 OSCE+): Chairperson, Germany*

The Forum for Security Co-operation agreed to forward the letter from the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the Chairperson of the Permanent Council, as well as the FSC contribution to the annotated agenda of the 2016 Annual Security Review Conference.

- (b) *Reminder to delegations who had not yet exchanged information on defence planning for 2015 as required under Chapter II of the Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures: Chairperson*
- (c) *Informal meeting on the Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, “Chapter IV: Contacts and visits in conjunction with the visits of other participating States; report of the spokesperson for the visitor group”, to be held on 12 May 2016 (FSC.INF/54/16 Restr.): Chairperson*
- (d) *Briefings on the seventieth meeting of the OSCE Communications Group and the Global Exchange of Military Information, both held on 28 April 2016: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 18 May 2016, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/825

11 May 2016

Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

819th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 825, Agenda item 2(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with today's statement by the Russian delegation on the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC), the delegation of Ukraine wishes to emphasize the following.

International law prohibits the acquisition of part or all of another State's territory through coercion or force. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which remains an integral part of Ukraine, was illegally occupied by military force and annexed by the Russian Federation in violation of OSCE principles and commitments and norms of international law. Illegitimate actions on the part of the Russian Federation do not have any legal consequences with regard to the status of the ARC as an integral part of Ukraine. The territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders is safeguarded by international law and UN General Assembly resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014, "Territorial integrity of Ukraine".

We call on the Russian Federation to return to the tenets of international law and reverse the illegal occupation and annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this statement be registered in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/825

11 May 2016

Annex 2

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

819th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 825, Agenda item 2(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the reference to Crimea in the statements by a number of delegations today, the delegation of the Russian Federation feels obliged to make the following observations.

The proclamation of independence of the Republic of Crimea and its incorporation into the Russian Federation was a legal expression of the right of the people of Crimea to self-determination at a time when Ukraine, with outside support, was in the throes of a *coup d'état*, with radical nationalist elements exerting a forceful influence on the decisions adopted in the country, which in turn resulted in the interests of the Ukrainian regions and Russian-speaking population being ignored.

The multi-ethnic population of Crimea took the corresponding decisions by a huge majority in a free and fair expression of its will. The status of the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as constituent entities of the Russian Federation is not open to reconsideration or discussion. Crimea is and will remain Russian. This is a fact that our partners will have to come to terms with.

This position is based on and fully complies with international law.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



819th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 825, Agenda item 2(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MOLDOVA

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to draw the attention of participating States to certain issues related to the status and activities of the so-called Operative Group of Russian Forces (OGRF) on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

First of all, let me refer to the information presented by the Russian Federation under the reference number FSC.EMI/138/16 on 5 May 2016 in response to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security on an issue related to the Republic of Moldova.

As in the previous years, in response to point 2.1 of the Questionnaire, related to the deployment of military forces on the territory of other participating States in accordance with freely negotiated agreements as well as in accordance with international law, there is a reference to the Agreement on the Principles of the Peaceful Settlement of the Armed Conflict in the Transnistrian Region of the Republic of Moldova signed on 21 July 1992.

In this connection regard, we would like to reiterate that the Agreement does not in any manner provide a status for the stationing of the so-called Operative Group of Russian Forces on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. There is not a single reference in the Agreement that could be interpreted as giving possible consent to for the stationing of the OGRF on the territory of Moldova. The primary goal of the 1992 Agreement was to halt the military hostilities in the conflict area and to establish the security zone and the peacekeeping mechanism. And we make a clear distinction between the Russian military contingent participating in the peacekeeping mechanism and the so-called Operative Group of Russian Forces.

The only reference to the units of the former 14th Army of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation dislocated in the Republic of Moldova is made in article 4, which states that “questions about the status of the army, procedures and time interval of the stage-by-stage withdrawal shall be determined in the course of negotiations between the Russian Federation and Republic of Moldova.” Twenty-four years since the signing of the Agreement, the status of the Russian armed forces on the territory of the Republic of Moldova has not been determined. Thus, no valid document exists to provide a legal basis for the stationing of these forces in the Republic of Moldova.

Secondly, on the basis of the data provided by the Russian Federation in the framework of the Global Exchange of Military Information under the reference number FSC.EMI/105/16 on 28 April 2016, we conclude that 1,199 Russian soldiers are still stationed on the territory of the Republic of Moldova without the consent of the host authorities. However, even this number is difficult to verify due to the lack of access for international inspections to the Russian military units in the Transnistrian region. In addition to the lack of status, we are seriously concerned by the increased military activities that have been conducted by the OGRF on a number of occasions together with the paramilitary units from Tiraspol. The real purpose and nature of these exercises remain unclear and more military transparency is required.

Thirdly, I would like to bring to your attention the communiqué of the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of 10 May 2016 regarding the participation for the first time of the so-called Operative Group of Russian Forces at the military parade in Tiraspol on 9 May 2016. It is evident that the OGRF's participating together with the paramilitary forces of the Transnistrian regime contravenes commitments undertaken by the Russian Federation in accordance with the norms and principles of international law, and in particular contravenes statements made by many high-ranking Russian officials on respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova. We expect the Russian Federation to respect the norms and principles of international law in good faith and to abstain from acts that could undermine the good relations between our States.

Finally, our position on the issue of the Operative Group of Russian Forces remains unchanged and we reiterate the need for the completion of the withdrawal of the Russian military forces and ammunitions from the territory of the Republic of Moldova; even now, almost 17 years after the Istanbul Summit, this is still an unfulfilled commitment.

May I kindly ask you, Mr. Chairperson, to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you.