
Chairmanship: Portugal**830th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 28 September 2016

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.35 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador M. da Graça Mira Gomes

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: “DEACTIVATION OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS”

Presentation by Mr. A. Whiting, consultant to the Conflict Prevention Centre:
Chairperson, Mr. A. Whiting (FSC.DEL/185/16 OSCE+), Slovakia-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; as well as Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/189/16/Rev.1), Switzerland, France (Annex 1), Spain, Canada, United States of America, Russian Federation, Belarus, FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary), Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (Slovenia)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (Annex 2) (FSC.DEL/188/16), Slovakia-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 Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/190/16/Rev.1), United States of America, Canada, Russian Federation (Annex 3), Netherlands, Austria

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Briefing on the seventy-first meeting of the OSCE Communications Group, held on 21 September 2016:* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (b) *Visit to Russian airbases, with attendance at demonstrations of new pieces of equipment and systems, conducted from 19 to 23 September 2016:* Russian Federation, Czech Republic

4. Next meeting:

Tuesday, 4 October 2016, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/836
28 September 2016
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

830th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 836, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of the European Union (EU), but I should like to make a few remarks in a national capacity.

I should like to thank you for putting the subject of the deactivation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) on the agenda of this meeting of the Forum. The use of weapons that have not been properly neutralized and then reactivated, of which we have seen tragic examples in the attacks that have hit us in recent months, is particularly worrying. We need to take action in this area.

More than 800 million small arms and light weapons are in circulation worldwide and they are responsible for almost half a million deaths each year. They are also responsible for 90 per cent of the victims of armed conflicts, women and children for the most part.

The spread of these weapons continues to fuel many regional conflicts, promote organized crime and encourage terrorism. It constitutes a major destabilizing factor.

In order to try to stem this scourge effectively and sustainably, the international community has joined forces within the framework of the United Nations, the OSCE and a number of other regional organizations. The Arms Trade Treaty, which entered into force on 24 December 2014, includes SALW within its scope of application. In addition, several operational initiatives exist today for the control of SALW transfers, marking and stockpile security, both of weapons and ammunition, and the destruction of surpluses. One such example is the initiative launched by France, Spain, Malta and Monaco in the OSCE to combat illicit trafficking in SALW and ammunition by sea. A new proposal should be distributed soon.

With regard more specifically to the neutralization or deactivation of firearms, we have had an opportunity to address this problem, the consequences of which have been felt particularly acutely in France. In December 2015, the EU adopted a regulation establishing common minimum standards for the neutralization of firearms. France, through its administration and its expert bodies like the Saint-Étienne Proof House, seeks to implement best practices. This is also why we have launched an initiative within the framework of the

Wassenaar Arrangement to promote the dissemination of best practices for the neutralization of small arms, whether it is a question of techniques for irreversible neutralization or standards for the movement and export of these goods.

The OSCE has done a lot of work on SALW. It has enjoyed great success in carrying out projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania and Belarus. The current projects should continue. The OSCE has also developed an exemplary and outstanding standard-setting activities, with the elaboration of a comprehensive set of programmes of action and handbooks of best practices in which France was very much involved: the Handbook of Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2003) and the Principles on the Control of Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons (2004), for example.

However, this progress is still not enough, as current events continue to remind us. The circulation of SALW in the OSCE area poses a threat to the security of all of us. This is why dialogue and the exchange of good practices should continue, in the Forum as well. We are grateful to you, Madam Chairperson, for having devoted this security dialogue to the deactivation of SALW, a highly important subject given the current situation.

France has always regarded conventional arms control as a priority. Today, in the current environment, it is essential to take action on this matter. This is why we should like to see the negotiations result in a text on arms control at the Ministerial Council meeting in Hamburg in December.

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



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

FSC.JOUR/836
28 September 2016
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

830th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 836, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Madam 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, Madam Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/836
28 September 2016
Annex 3

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

830th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 836, Agenda item 2

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

Dear Madam 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, Madam Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.