



Chairmanship: Estonia

546th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 14 May 2008

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 10.15 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ms. T. Parts

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Reply to the questionnaire on the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: Azerbaijan (Annex 1) (FSC.DEL/96/08/Corr.1 OSCE+), Armenia (Annex 2)

Agenda item 2: SECURITY DIALOGUE

None

Agenda item 3: LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FSC TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL ON A LIST OF POLITICO-MILITARY ELEMENTS FOR THE 2008 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE

Chairperson

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 on a list of politico-military elements for the 2008 Annual Security Review Conference (FSC.DEL/81/08/Rev.2).

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Seminar on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004): a path for further implementation, to be held in Croatia, on 5 and 6 June 2008: Romania

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 21 May 2008, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



546th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 552, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

Madam Chairperson,

My purpose in taking the floor is to call the attention of the distinguished delegations to the note verbale by the delegation of Armenia circulated under reference number FSC.EMI/78/08 of 27 March, about its response to the OSCE Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

First of all, we would like to state that we take note of the timely distribution by the delegation of Armenia of its response to the Questionnaire, which for technical and bureaucratic reasons, some delegations, including my own, do not achieve. Nevertheless, this dedication to the deadline does not necessarily testify to the reliability of all the information that is provided. Speaking in more concrete terms, let me emphasize that my delegation is disappointed and also somewhat perplexed by the deliberate misinformation given by the delegation of Armenia in their reply to question No. 4 of the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct, which is about “stationing of armed forces on the territory of another participating State in accordance with their freely negotiated agreement as well as in accordance with international law.” In their response to the question, the Armenian side does not make a single reference to its armed forces that are deployed in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and seven districts adjacent to it. On the contrary, it states that “The Republic of Armenia does not have its armed forces permanently stationed on the territory of another participating State”.

It is not a secret to anybody that, as a result of the undeclared war that was imposed on my country, Armenia has occupied 20 per cent of Azerbaijan’s territories, which have still not been liberated from their control. Great damage has been done to its nature, environment, infrastructure, settlements and most lamentably, to its historical legacy. The human tragedy that about one million refugees and internally displaced persons have faced and which obliges them to come to terms with deprivation and despair, is yet another cruel consequence of the armed aggression against my country.

However, we do not intend to portray all the consequences of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict here. All we need to achieve is to call the attention of our partners to the false information that is being distributed to them. Perhaps one of the reasons for this deliberate disinformation should be looked for in the formulation of question 4 of the

Questionnaire itself? I would like to reiterate that question 4 states that the participating States should submit information about the stationing of armed forces in accordance with their freely negotiated agreement as well as in accordance with international law.

Could it be that by intentionally ignoring and attempting to overlook the obvious facts — the occupation of Azerbaijani territories and the existence of Armenian armed forces in the occupied territories — the Armenian side is tacitly acknowledging the illegality of their occupation, since the occupation of Azerbaijani territories has definitely not been carried out either in accordance with a freely negotiated agreement, or based on international law? If admission of this fact stands beyond this intentional omission in question 4 of the Questionnaire, then it could perhaps be justified. Otherwise, we insist that this should be considered as an intentional distortion of the facts and biased information-sharing.

Therefore, we expect that the delegation of Armenia will make the necessary corrections to question 4 of the Questionnaire, giving an indication of its armed forces stationed in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Thank you.



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

FSC.JOUR/552

14 May 2008

Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

546th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 552, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA

Madam Chairperson,

Let us start by saying that as usual our delegation was not informed about the intention of the Azerbaijani delegation to make a statement on the issue which concerns us. We do not have a prepared response, therefore we would not exclude that our delegation may come back to this issue again at a later stage.

We find in today's statement of Azerbaijan yet another example of propaganda which that delegation continuously tries to use at different fora including OSCE bodies. Our delegation always advocates that conflict related issues should be discussed in the internationally recognized formats specifically designed to work on the conflict resolution. As for the case which also concerns Armenia, and which was mentioned in the statement of our distinguished Azerbaijani colleague, the OSCE Minsk Group and its Co-chairs deal with it on a daily basis. The Chairman-in-Office has his special representative on the conflict, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, who permanently reports on it to all participating States. For all those who are interested, we would advise the Personal Representative's reports to have a better insight on the current situation around the conflict.

As for the Armenia's response to the OSCE Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security itself we have to reaffirm once again the correctness of the provided information.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.