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FSC Chairmanship: Moldova

OSCE Chairmanship: Switzerland

**56th (SPECIAL) JOINT MEETING OF THE  
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION  
AND THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1. Date: Wednesday, 30 April 2014

Opened: 3.35 p.m.

Closed: 4.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Popov (FSC) (Moldova)  
Ambassador T. Greminger (PC) (Switzerland)  
Mr. G. Scheurer (PC) (Switzerland)

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

Agenda item 1: OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE  
PC AND THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FSC

Chairperson (PC), Chairperson (FSC)

Agenda item 2: ACTIVATION OF PARAGRAPH 16.3 OF THE VIENNA  
DOCUMENT 2011 ON CONFIDENCE- AND  
SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES, CHAPTER III  
“MECHANISM FOR CONSULTATION AND  
CO-OPERATION AS REGARDS UNUSUAL MILITARY  
ACTIVITIES”, PARAGRAPH 16.3 “MEETING OF ALL  
PARTICIPATING STATES REGARDING UNUSUAL  
MILITARY ACTIVITIES”

Ukraine (FSC-PC.DEL/20/14), Greece-European Union (with the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and 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-PC.DEL/19/14), Canada (FSC-PC.DEL/21/14)

OSCE+), Turkey, United Kingdom (Annex), United States of America  
(FSC-PC.DEL/22/14), Chairperson (FSC)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

*Organizational matters:* Chairperson (FSC)

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



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

FSC-PC.JOUR/43  
30 April 2014  
Annex

Original: ENGLISH

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**56th Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC**  
FSC-PC Journal No. 43, Agenda item 2

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

The United Kingdom obviously subscribes fully to the EU statement and would like to make the following national comments.

The priority for all of us at this point must be to achieve the release of the Vienna Document observers, and their escort team, currently illegally detained in Sloviansk. The United Kingdom condemns this abduction in the strongest terms as an affront to the efforts not only of the OSCE but also to the international community writ large. We call upon those responsible to release all currently detained immediately and unconditionally.

The United Kingdom commends the ongoing efforts of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to mediate the release of those detained and is particularly concerned that the Special Monitoring Mission be given access to all concerned to ensure their well-being, especially the escort team leader whose whereabouts and condition is far from clear.

The illegal abduction of international monitors puts at risk the role of the OSCE and the wider international community in their efforts to bring transparency, de-escalate tension and help resolve the crisis. It is therefore incumbent on all OSCE participating States to support a rapid resolution to this dreadful situation, making clear that the role of international observers under the auspices of the OSCE remains fundamental to resolving this crisis and lowering tension in the region. In particular we look to the Russian Federation to use its evident influence to the full, and in constructive and tangible terms. We call upon Moscow to make an unambiguous public statement at the highest level, condemning the abduction and demanding the immediate release of the observers and their Ukrainian escort team, which would send a clear signal of inadmissibility to their captors.

The purpose of the Vienna Document is to build confidence and increase transparency for all participating States. The relevant provisions of the Vienna Document oblige us to act in “good faith” and to develop a mutually acceptable solution over the understandable concerns that have brought us here today. It is abundantly clear that the concerns over unusual Russian military activity are, in actual fact, shared by the vast majority of participating States around this table.

The United Kingdom believes that a significant part of the answer is more meaningful military transparency. This is our primary politico-military means for building confidence

and security. Such transparency can either be used positively and constructively, to build confidence and security, or negatively, if denied as we have unfortunately observed over recent weeks, with a view to coerce and aggressively increase tension in an attempt to impose one State's will on another. The latter obviously fosters uncertainty and increases the risk of miscalculation which could lead to a serious escalation.

The United Kingdom commends the meaningful military transparency demonstrated by Ukraine, including through hosting voluntary Vienna Document activity on its territory. This is a positive example that increases transparency, helps to dispel concerns, aids confidence building and serves to reduce tension. It would be constructive if the Russian Federation were willing to follow this lead, particularly in terms of complying with the spirit and letter of the Vienna Document. There have been recent reports that Russia may be withdrawing troops from near Ukraine's eastern border – if true, and if implemented in significant terms, then all the more reason for Moscow to host voluntary Vienna Document activity in the area in question so others can verify the situation on the ground and we can start to rebuild confidence and security.

Various OSCE-related activities must be allowed to continue to play a pivotal role in helping provide an environment in which the Ukrainian people see tension reduce in favour of increased dialogue to resolve this crisis. To this end, we call upon all participating States to put their unequivocal, active, tangible and public support behind the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission, and ensure that they are able to fulfil their remit comprehensively, effectively and in safety.

I would be grateful if this statement could be attached to the journal of the meeting.