



Chairmanship: Belarus

1011th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 25 May 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.
Closed: 10.55 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Dapkiunas

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Current security situation in the OSCE area: Russian Federation (Annex 1) (Annex 2) (FSC.DEL/217/22) (FSC.DEL/217/22/Add.1), France-European Union (FSC.DEL/220/22), United Kingdom (FSC.DEL/219/22 OSCE+), Canada, Switzerland (FSC.DEL/213/22 OSCE+), Norway (FSC.DEL/214/22), Belarus (FSC.DEL/218/22 Restr.)

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 1 June 2022, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

FSC.JOUR/1017
25 May 2022
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

1011th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1017, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The “war by proxy” in Ukraine continues – a war being waged against the Russian Federation by the United States of America and the NATO countries using as a cat’s paw the fascistoid radicals from Right Sector and Svoboda, the ultra-nationalists from the punitive battalions of the armed forces and the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs, and fighters from private military companies. These States, which have proclaimed themselves to be “civilized”, are exhorting us to cease hostilities and sit down at the negotiating table, yet their statements about the need for a military victory by Ukraine signal quite the opposite. They are reckoning on us to concede, to give up our national interests and submit to the dictates of the West. This will not happen.

We can see how, under cover of a large-scale anti-Russian smear campaign, the NATO countries are intensifying the military threats near Russia’s borders. Over many years we proposed to them that the mechanisms for preventing dangerous military incidents be enhanced – in response they increased strategic bomber flights in Europe fifteenfold. We proposed to them that military exercise areas be moved deep into the interior of countries – in response the United States, as part of the “DEFENDER-Europe 2022” exercise, has transferred an entire division to the European continent. Instead of heeding our appeal for the de-escalation of politico-military tensions, NATO has increased the number of troops near Russia’s borders tenfold and continues to break the promise made to the Soviet leadership about not expanding to the east. What is this if not a case of the North Atlantic Alliance strengthening its security at the expense of the Russian Federation’s security? Given the growing tensions on our western borders, all necessary measures for appropriate counteraction will be taken. Apart from actively enhancing the combat strength of our troops, 12 military units and subunits will be formed in the Western Military District by the end of the year.

To us it is evident that the Ukrainian Government, while trying to adopt a lecturing tone when communicating with Europe, is in fact bartering its sovereignty. It is a well-known fact that the United States has been the puppet master pulling Ukraine’s strings for the past eight years. Now, though, the Kyiv regime, by enshrining special rights for Polish citizens, is in effect legalizing the *de facto* takeover of its country. This confirms that Ukraine for the

West is all about territory, not people. Otherwise the West would have long ago stopped egging the Ukrainian Government on to further escalation of the armed violence. The dimensions of Western military “assistance” to Ukraine are already comparable with the military budgets of European States: the United States Congress has approved the allocation of 40 billion dollars to the Ukrainian Government, including around 25 billion for military goods, which is equivalent to half the combined military budgets of Germany and France.

Of course, we cannot fail to take into account that Western weapons are being used to kill Russian military personnel and to shell Russian territory. That is evidently the aim. Judge for yourselves. Armaments delivered from the Czech Republic have the following written on them: “Take that for the Prague Spring of 1968!” According to available information, the Ukrainian Government is holding consultations with the US Department of Defense and British intelligence on a preventive strike in the Belgorod region of the Russian Federation. We are closely following the Kyiv regime’s attempts to get the United States to make available to it missiles with a range of over 300 km, which would enable strikes on border areas of our country to continue to be carried out. We have already warned about how this might play out for those who are advising the Ukrainian Government and supplying it with arms, for those who are giving it criminal orders to open fire. The transfer of such arms to Ukraine would imply that the US Government is allowing itself to be dragged ever further into the conflict, with the most unpredictable consequences for relations between two nuclear-weapon States.

The actions taken by members of the US intelligence services to recruit ISIS terrorists in Syria for deployment to Ukraine give cause for serious concern. The Al-Tanf base of the US armed forces and the adjacent area are being used for the massing of extremists. The intelligence services are being actively assisted by US private military companies, which are luring into Ukraine experienced jihadists from the Middle East. It is planned, in particular, to muster around 500 ISIS fighters and to deploy them, via Kurdistan in Iraq, to the zone of hostilities. The international community no doubt remembers how the United States, in its anti-Russian frenzy, supported the Taliban in Afghanistan and how, as a result, they got 9/11. The US Government and its European satellites are currently nurturing neo-Nazis and Banderites. It is not difficult to foresee what the United States, their allies and, indeed, the whole of Europe may end up getting in the future.

Mr. Chairperson,

Nazis and fascist collaborators are hailed as heroes in modern Ukraine. The authorities organize torchlit processions in honour of Bandera and Shukhevych; a cult of worship of war criminals is thrust upon children in schools. We urge our Western colleagues to reflect on how the orgy of neo-Nazism that they are encouraging in Ukraine is truly a betrayal of the memory of the victims of the Second World War.

One of the stages in the denazification of Ukraine was the liberation of the Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol, within which a group of Ukrainian fighters from the Azov regiment, a Nazi formation, had been holed up since 21 April. Last week, 2,439 Nazis and military personnel of the Ukrainian armed forces laid down their arms and surrendered. As reported in the media, instructors from NATO countries are among that group. The Russian Minister of Defence, Army General Sergei Shoigu, reported to President Putin on the conclusion of the operation and the complete liberation of the steelworks and the city of Mariupol.

I should like to dwell separately on the lengths to which the collective West has gone in seeking to conceal from its citizens the truth about the events that occurred around Azovstal. The European Broadcasting Union availed itself of dubious methods of manipulation when using footage from a news report by Russia's Channel One: it cut out all the key aspects that serve to characterize the radicals from the Azov regiment who were surrendering. In contrast to their fellow citizens, our esteemed colleagues now have a unique opportunity to see whom they were calling "defenders of Mariupol and the whole of Ukraine". Tattoos featuring swastikas, SS symbols, the occult Black Sun, a German slogan that appeared on a sign in Buchenwald, portraits of Hitler, passages from extremist literature – this is what met the eyes of our military personnel when they carried out a body search on these nationalists who had been hiding behind women and children. The Europeans were of course not shown this. That being said, it is not at all surprising given that over in the West they persistently "fail to notice" the stranglehold of Nazism on Ukraine, and that they describe what happened in Azovstal as an "evacuation", rather than as the surrender of combatants.

The interrogation of neo-Nazis from the Azov regiment and of Ukrainian military personnel continues as we speak. Almost all of them admit that they profess a Nazi ideology based on Russophobia and the glorification of Nazi criminals. This was encouraged by the country's supreme leadership. They state that NATO handlers took part in the preparation of operations against the Donbas republics and Russia. There is confirmation of the reports that Western instructors coached and trained fighters from the Azov regiment and other Nazi formations, teaching them how to take cover behind civilians as human shields, for which they were able to draw on the combat experience of Islamists in Syria. Significantly, casualties among the civilian population were to be laid entirely at the door of the Russians. In addition, we note that during the inspection of the premises of the Azovstal plant, US-made Stinger man-portable air defence systems and an OSCE satellite phone were found at the neo-Nazis' positions.

Regardless of these fighters' individual backgrounds, each one who requires medical care is receiving every possible form of professional assistance at a hospital in Novoazovsk in the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR). For us, the norms of humanitarian law are fundamental. No one should be in any doubt about this.

At the same time, we have real evidence of atrocities committed by Ukrainian military personnel and militants from the nationalist battalions in Donbas and in the course of combat operations against units of the Russian armed forces. Captives are shot in the kneecaps, the wounded are finished off with a shot to the head; they are subjected to physical violence and castration. A captive soldier from the Ukrainian armed forces said the following: "We have captured some Russian pilots alive. There aren't many of them and I think you can figure out for yourself why there are so few. They were simply put to death ... And they didn't die quickly – they were tortured." This is just one of many testimonies.

At the end of March, Russia issued an official protest in connection with the publication of video footage showing captive Russian military personnel being abused. Ukraine took note of this protest and promised to take the most drastic measures. However, according to information received, all that happened was that the command of the Ukrainian armed forces and the command of the State Border Guard Service sent out new combat

instructions prohibiting the release of such video footage into the public domain. These actions by the military leadership in Kyiv are due to the fear that documented abuses against captives could be categorized as war crimes by international human rights and humanitarian organizations. In other words, this has nothing to do with drastically curbing the ill-treatment of prisoners of war. I should like to inquire of the OSCE participating States that count themselves among the champions of international humanitarian law whether they consider this to be acceptable. If the answer is no, why has the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) so far not heard any appeals to the Ukrainian side to display a humane approach towards captured soldiers?

We must issue a firm warning, namely that officials from the Prosecutor General's Office and the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation are present on the battlefield and in the liberated cities and towns of Ukraine, where they are recording all the crimes committed by the Ukrainian side. Upon conclusion of the special military operation, everyone involved in these crimes will be held accountable. Not one fighter from the nationalist battalions will escape his just deserts.

Mr. Chairperson,

The objectives for the special military operation set by the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, namely to protect Donbas and demilitarize and denazify Ukraine, will most assuredly be accomplished.

The battle group of the Russian armed forces, together with people's militia units from the Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics, is expanding its control over the territories of Donbas. The liberation of the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) is approaching completion. In these circumstances, attempting to hold up the Russian troops' advance, the Ukrainian armed forces continue to use terrorist methods: they do not allow local residents to leave towns and settlements and use them as human shields; they set up heavy artillery in residential areas; and they arrange for those refusing to take part in the fighting to be executed by firing squad as a "lesson" to others. As it suffers defeat on the ground, the Kyiv regime seeks to achieve at least some fleeting successes in individual areas, which it makes out to be major triumphs.

In pursuance of the tasks related to the demilitarization of Ukraine, 178 airplanes, 125 helicopters, 995 unmanned aerial vehicles, 320 anti-aircraft missile systems, 3,243 tanks and other armoured combat vehicles, 425 multiple-launch rocket systems, 1,658 field artillery pieces and mortars, and 3,124 special operations tactical vehicles have been destroyed since the start of the special military operation. Foreign mercenaries and instructors are being systematically eliminated, as are Western shipments of military goods. Thus, on 21 May, near the railway station at Malyn in the Zhytomyr region, a major consignment of weapons and military equipment delivered from the United States and European countries and intended for the Ukrainian battle group in Donbas was destroyed by high-precision and long-range missiles, specifically by sea-based Kalibr missiles.

An ever growing number of Western weapons abandoned by the Ukrainian armed forces as they retreat are being picked up as trophies by the DPR and LPR people's militias and the Russian armed forces – to wit, Javelin and NLAW anti-tank missile systems, Starstreak and Stinger man-portable air-defence systems, Bayraktar unmanned aerial

vehicles, Switchblade loitering munitions, Sky Net Longbow electronic warfare systems, Caesar and Panzerhaubitze 2000 self-propelled howitzers, and M777 towed howitzers. Our esteemed colleagues can see on the screen how a British-made Saxon armoured vehicle is being used in the LPR: despite the difficulties in finding spare parts, specialists from Luhansk were able to make it roadworthy again. All this military equipment will continue to be successfully put to use by the allied forces of Russia, the DPR and the LPR in carrying out the special military operation's tasks.

Despite the attempts by the Ukrainian Government and its handlers to put on a brave face, the morale and the psychological state of the Ukrainian military personnel are deteriorating. A unit of the 115th Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in Sievierodonetsk refused to fight and recorded a video appeal addressed to Volodymyr Zelenskyy. They had been sent to the LPR from the Zhytomyr region without preparation and without well-thought-out routes in case of a retreat. As a result of the commanders' incompetence, the brigade sustained losses among its troops and to its equipment. The 58th Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces is in a similar situation: it simply cannot go into battle because its commanders have run away and there are no food supplies left. In this regard we would recall that the command of the Russian battle group in Ukraine are willing to facilitate the voluntary surrender of military personnel of the Ukrainian armed forces, which includes the assurance that their lives will be spared and that they will be treated in accordance with the Geneva Convention on prisoners of war.

The Russian Ministry of Defence and law enforcement agencies continue to record numerous instances of the Kyiv authorities' inhumane attitude towards the civilian population of Ukraine and of schools, hospitals and other civilian buildings being used for military purposes. We will circulate an updated list of these facilities, together with a compendium entitled "Ukrainian war crimes" that was prepared with the assistance of the Russian Historical Society.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russophobic hysteria and paranoid fears regarding the objectives of Russia's special military operation stoked up by the Western "wing" of OSCE participating States are quite groundless. They merely play into the hands of the United States, which, it would seem, has definitively set about implementing goals planned a long time ago, namely to turn Europe into its geopolitical appendage. In these circumstances we shall rely on ourselves, our allies and those partners of ours who do not dance to someone else's tune. And, of course, our country will continue to do everything it can to ensure that the liberated territories of the DPR, of the LPR and of Ukraine can return as soon as possible to a calm and safe life – something that many civilians have been awaiting for eight years now.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that the text of this statement be attached to the journal of today's FSC meeting.



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

FSC.JOUR/1017

25 May 2022

Annex 2

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

1011th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1017, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We are closely monitoring the accuracy and completeness of the interpreting of the Russian delegation's statements at meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation. We are extremely disappointed by the quality of the interpreting. Entire sentences were omitted from my statement, even though I was speaking slowly and clearly. I would stress that this is not the first time it has happened.

Moreover, while our presentation was being played, the whole presentation "crashed" just as slides Nos. 9 and 10 (about the OSCE) were put up on the screen. We regard all this as a deliberate provocation.

We demand that exhaustive measures be taken to rectify the situation and that the delegation of the Russian Federation be provided with a response in writing.

I should also like to reply briefly to the representative of the United Kingdom, who has just accused the Russian paratroopers and special operations forces of incompetence. I can only say that commandos from the British special forces, the SAS, escaped from Afghanistan by dressing up as women, thinking only of getting out alive. At least our troops are, thank God, not being taught such "professionalism" yet.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.