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STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR GENEVIÈVE RENAUX, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BELGIUM TO THE OSCE, AT THE 612th MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION

Vienna, 19 May 2010

Regarding the Russian military doctrine and the current reform of the armed forces of the Russian Federation

I thank the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation for having placed a discussion of the Russian military doctrine on the security dialogue agenda. Transparency is essential in order to restore confidence between participating States. This is consistent with the Corfu Process dialogue on the future of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security, which aims to establish a common understanding of security issues in the OSCE area.

I thank Major-General Sergey Rudskoy for having presented the Russian military doctrine and the reform of the Russian armed forces. We appreciate the mention made in the Russian military doctrine of the intensification of international security co-operation within the OSCE framework as one of Russia's priorities for preventing military conflict. We also appreciate the reference to the importance of the conclusion and implementation of arms control agreements, the implementation of mutual confidence-building measures, and participation in efforts to counter international terrorism.

I should like to emphasize that Russia is facing basically the same challenges as other OSCE participating States, and that security is indivisible. No participating State can by itself address transnational threats, such as drug trafficking, particularly that which emanates from the territory of Afghanistan, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and cyber threats. Belgium attaches a great deal of importance to pragmatic co-operation with Russia in these areas within the OSCE and in other formats.

As I represent a NATO member State, I should like to point out that Russia is not perceived as a threat to the Alliance, and that the Alliance is not a threat to Russia. The expansion of the Alliance involves, among other things, military reforms and the strengthening of the rule of law, and hence greater transparency and greater security for Russia as well, and not a risk to the stability of the region. I should also like to mention the ongoing co-operation between NATO and Russia within the framework of the NATO-Russia Council, of which the Founding Act and 2002 Rome Declaration state clearly that Russia and NATO are not adversaries and that each country is free to choose its own security

arrangements. Lastly, I refer to the tangible co-operation as regards Afghanistan, anti-missile defence and anti-terrorism efforts. This co-operation can be developed further.

I am convinced that this discussion can be deepened within the framework of a high-level seminar on military doctrine, which could be organized in 2011, as proposed by some participating States.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.