

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR TRIIN PARTS,
CHAIRPERSON OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY COOPERATION,
ON THE CLOSING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE FORUM IN 2008**

ENGLISH only

23 July 2008

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is truly an honour for me to address you at the conclusion of the Estonian chairmanship of the Forum for Security Cooperation.

Please allow me to begin my intervention by thanking Spain and Finland as FSC Troika members for their invaluable input and expertise and assure Estonia's readiness to continue close cooperation and coordination within the Troika until the end of this year. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all FSC coordinators: FSC Coordinator for the Code of Conduct - Colonel Anton Eischer from the delegation of Austria, FSC Coordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons - Colonel Steve Hartnell from the delegation of the United Kingdom, FSC Coordinator for Projects on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition - Lieutenant Colonel Niels Poul Petersen from the delegation of Denmark and the outgoing Chairman of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons - Mr. Vasily Pavlov from the delegation of Belarus. It is my pleasure to remind you that Colonel Walter Schweizer from the delegation of Germany will take over the work of Mr. Vasily Pavlov as Chairman of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Let me also thank Lieutenant Commander Misa Kangaste from the delegation of Finland as *Chef de File* for the FSC contribution to the 2008 ASRC and Mr. John Gosal from the delegation of Canada as rapporteur of the (Special) Working Group "A" meeting conducted on the OSCE contribution to the Third Biennial Meeting of States on the 2001 United Nations' Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects and on future actions by the OSCE in the field of SALW and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. And last but not least, my delegation's sincere gratitude goes also to the OSCE Secretariat - without your constant input and advice we would lack a lot of expertise.

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to present to you a short statistical overview of the Estonian chairmanship. During the previous spring and summer months we have met at 14 plenary meetings and had 4 joint FSC-Permanent Council meetings. We have had many distinguished guests address us at the plenaries and at the joint FSC-PC meetings. I believe the issues we have been dealing with, both under Security Dialogue as well as at the joint FSC-PC meetings, have been very topical and relevant to the FSC. During the Estonian chairmanship the so-

called Vienna Mechanism was put into practice from A to Z for the very first time and we also exercised the so-called Bucharest mechanism.

Let us also not forget the importance of FSC Working Groups. In addition to meetings with regular agendas, during the Estonian chairmanship there was also one (Special) Working Group “A” meeting organised, as previously mentioned, on the OSCE contribution to the Third Biennial Meeting of States on the 2001 United Nations’ Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects and on future actions by the OSCE in the field of SALW and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. The meeting provided a framework for the input to the Third Biennial Meeting of States and also paved the way for further normative work in the field of SALW and SCA. In our view the OSCE made a tangible contribution to the BMS by preparing report on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action, organizing side-event and delivering statement at one of the plenary sessions of the meeting.

All in all, I believe we can all agree that the second session of the FSC this year has been a busy and intense one. On many Wednesday’s work continued well into the afternoon.

I note with pleasure the successful outcome of the 2008 Annual Security Review Conference and thank delegations for their input to the list of politico-military elements conveyed to the Chairperson of the Permanent Council and interventions, in particular, at Working Session II.

I would like to emphasize on the work done during the second session of the FSC in 2008 vis-à-vis the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. On the Code of Conduct the work focussed on the update of the Questionnaire and the continuation of engaging the OSCE Partners for Cooperation in the Code. Regarding the update of the Questionnaire many delegations participated actively at an intensive exchange of views during informal as well as WG “A” meetings. This engagement resulted in a consolidation of the draft update and in order to complete this endeavour participating States have been asked to prepare themselves for the upcoming meetings in the autumn. Regarding the engagement of OSCE Partners in the Code, two further meetings were convened during the Estonian chairmanship and more information as well as presentations on the implementation of the Code of Conduct was provided to them. During these activities OSCE Partners for Cooperation asked for more detailed information on the provisions of the Code itself. Besides the ongoing work on the update of the Questionnaire and the engagement of the OSCE Partners for Cooperation the work will start on the third cluster on supplementary measures for improving the implementation of the Code of Conduct as it is foreseen in the tentative programme.

During the second session of 2008 the Forum devoted a great deal of attention to the normative work in the field of Small Arms and Light Weapons aimed at elaborating new initiatives in this field as well as further development of the OSCE Document on SALW and related FSC decisions. In May, for example, the Forum took a decision on updating the OSCE Principles for export control of MANPADS, which established more stringent

control over their export. Two more documents which have been elaborated by the FSC are also in the pipeline – draft decisions on introducing best practices to fight illicit trafficking of SALW by air and associated questionnaire and on the information exchange with regard to the sample formats of end-user certificates. Hopefully both documents will be adopted during the fall session of the Forum.

There has been development in several SALW and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition projects. The SALW and conventional ammunition project in Tajikistan is approaching its final stages; it is intended to be completed by the end of this year. It is proposed that a final donor visit will be made in spring 2009 in order to evaluate the fulfillment and finalization of the project.

In Belarus, the first phase of the OSCE-UNDP project on Capacity Building on SALW Stockpile Management and Security is being implemented by the UNDP Office in Minsk in co-operation with the Belarus Ministry of Defence. A donor participating States' visit took place in May, and confirmed that the aim is to finalize Phase I by the end of 2008. In order to prepare for the continuation and fulfilment of the project, a staff assessment visit is proposed for October 2008, with the purpose to revisit phases II and III. The visit will focus on finding the most cost effective and timely way forward to achieve full implementation.

The recent extension of the MoU between OSCE Secretariat and UNDP for another two years (until June 2010) is a most welcome development.

In Montenegro destruction of heavy weapons and rocket fuel component melange is expected to be completed this fall – the same goes for 30 tonnes of melange in Albania. The initial phase of the ammunition project in Moldova is expected to be completed by the end of the year. We have on-going projects in Moldova, Montenegro and Georgia and projects under development in Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Furthermore, we have received a request for assistance from the Kyrgyz Republic that includes the destruction of SALW, SALW and ammunition stockpile management, and security. It is proposed by the CPC to plan an assessment for early fall 2008, with a project approved by early 2009.

Let me also mention the melange project in Ukraine, which has been under development for quite some time now. The OSCE has expressed its commitment to resolve the remaining issues in time to permit commencement of melange disposal before the end of 2008. In this context the project was also put high on the Programme outline of the Secretariat for 2009. The FSC remains focused on this project and will closely follow development of the project implementation plan in the fall.

Dear Colleagues,

The discussion of many issues and proposals, which commenced during the Spanish chairmanship, continued during the Estonian chairmanship and most of these were finalised as FSC Decisions. But this is not all. With pleasure can it be noted that FSC delegations are relatively active in putting forward new proposals on improving the

implementation of current FSC documents and commitments and even on proposing new topics to be dealt with within the FSC. Some of the proposals, which were first introduced during the Estonian chairmanship, have already been adopted as FSC decisions. All in all, during its second working session of this year the FSC has taken 7 decisions.

At the same time, work in the FSC continues and there are plenty of files and documents the discussion of which is to be conveyed to the Finnish chairmanship. I would like to take the opportunity to wish Finland all of success in taking the Chairmanship of the Forum for the autumn session of 2008 and confirm once again the readiness of the Estonian delegation to participate in the work of the Forum as an active Troika member.

Allow me to thank all of the participating States, OSCE Partners for Cooperation and the OSCE Secretariat for good cooperation and wish everyone a pleasant summer recess.

Thank you for your attention.