

Chairmanship: Serbia

871st PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 13 December 2017

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Ninčić
Mr. M. Pančeski

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE AGENDA AND MODALITIES OF THE
TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION
ASSESSMENT MEETING

Chairperson

Decision: The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 8/17 (FSC.DEC/8/17) on the agenda and modalities of the twenty-eighth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 2: DISCUSSION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE 2017
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Chairperson, Estonia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/258/17/Rev.1), Austria (Annex 1), Azerbaijan, Switzerland, Canada, FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary), Russian Federation, United States of America

Agenda item 3: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Situation in and around Ukraine*: Ukraine, Estonia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/257/17), Canada, United States of America, Russian Federation
- (b) *Financial contributions to the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM)*: Luxembourg, Montenegro, FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary), Chairperson
- (c) *Illegal military exercises in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (SEC.DEL/476/17 OSCE+)*: Azerbaijan (Annex 2), Armenia

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 20 December 2017, at 11 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



871st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 877, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AUSTRIA

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.
Dear colleagues,

Our position is covered by the statement by the European Union, but in addition and on behalf of the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, I would like to express our gratitude for the excellent work of the Serbian FSC Chairmanship and for the good co-operation before and during the Ministerial Council. We very much welcome the adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) and strongly believe that it will contribute to reducing the risks stemming from the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW, as well as from the unintended detonation of outdated SCA, and thereby increase stability and security in the OSCE area.

At the same time, we deeply regret that it was not possible to reach consensus on the declaration on military stability and security or on the commemorative declaration on the 25th anniversary of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). These two declarations would not only have highlighted the continued relevance of the Forum as a platform for dialogue, but could also have defined possible areas for its future work, *inter alia*, discussions on voluntary information-sharing and on developing incident prevention and response mechanisms.

Although we could not find agreement at the Ministerial Council meeting, we are convinced that our discussions demonstrated the high importance participating States attach to these issues.

Austria will continue to support efforts to strengthen our common security architecture, *inter alia*, by reinvigorating conventional arms control and by modernizing the Vienna Document. At the same time, given the rapidly evolving security situation, characterized by a lack of military transparency, an increasing number of large-scale military exercises and hazardous incidents at sea or in airspace, we feel that there is an urgent need to continue discussions on additional voluntary information-sharing and ways to prevent and respond to incidents of a military nature. We would furthermore welcome continued efforts to foster military-to-military contacts and dialogue, noting that they increase transparency, predictability and mutual understanding. Thus we encourage the FSC and future FSC Chairmanships to promote discussions on these topics, for example, through FSC Security

Dialogues. We also encourage participating States to organize events such as breakout workshops on confidence- and security-building measures or the Intersessional OSCE Dialogue on Military Doctrines, and stand ready to support such initiatives.

Finally, we would like to thank delegations for their interest in the side event on “Promoting Military Stability and Security”, which outlined the key findings of the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship’s undertakings in the politico-military dimension. A booklet presented on this occasion is available just outside this room and will soon be available on the website of our Ministry of Defence and Sports.

Thank you very much for your attention.

I kindly request this statement to be attached to the journal of the meeting.



871st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 877, Agenda item 3(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to draw the attention of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the note verbale distributed on 12 December 2017 under reference number SEC.DEL/476/17 and to give the following information about the latest blatant violation by the Republic of Armenia of international law, as well as of OSCE norms, principles and commitments.

According to official press reports, on 2 December 2017, the President of the Republic of Armenia in his capacity as Supreme Commander-in-Chief observed illegal military exercises of the armed forces of Armenia carried out in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The involvement of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia in this military activity was confirmed by the Chief of Defence Staff of the Republic of Armenia as he presented these exercises as “joint exercises of combined arms” of the Republic of Armenia and an illegal separatist entity established in the occupied Azerbaijani territories (<http://www.interfax.ru/world/590118>). The exercises were based on a “large-scale counter-attack” scenario, with the participation of several hundred units of military equipment and several thousand servicemen. During his illegal stay in the Azerbaijani territories, the President of the Republic of Armenia was also briefed on the military-technical specifications and the purpose of new “Armenia-made military equipment”, and observed the process of its practical application. A fact-sheet on the latest illegal military activities by Armenia is attached to the above-mentioned note verbale and will be attached to this statement.

To put it bluntly, almost on the same days as we, the OSCE participating States, were sitting around this table discussing important Ministerial Council deliverables on the promotion of security and stability in the OSCE area and debating certain concepts related to weapons and ammunition, one particular participating State was busy at the highest level with engaging on the ground in military activity clearly contrary to the letter and spirit of all OSCE documents related to the military behaviour of participating States.

The above-mentioned information supplements countless previously recorded facts testifying to Armenia’s illegal military presence and build-up in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This constitutes a clear manifestation of Armenia’s flagrant violation

of its international obligations and OSCE norms, principles and commitments, including those set out in the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

Armenia's latest provocative actions in the occupied territories come at a time of intensification of the substantive negotiations under the aegis of the Minsk Group Co-Chairmen, and are illustrative of the real intentions of Armenia to misuse the ceasefire and negotiations to exercise and train its armed forces for renewed hostilities. This was vividly demonstrated in the course of the military exercises through the targeting of the ruined houses of the expelled Azerbaijani population. This is a clear testimony of the mind-set of the senior leadership of Armenia built upon a series of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and acts of genocide committed against Azerbaijan and its civilian population.

In the light of the above, the Azerbaijani side strongly urges the OSCE and in particular the OSCE Minsk Group and its Co-Chairmen and the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship to publicly condemn Armenia's flagrant violations of its international obligations and OSCE commitments, demand that Armenia put an end to its aggression against Azerbaijan, withdraw its forces and continue substantive negotiations with a view to finding a lasting political solution to the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

871st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 877, Agenda item 1

DECISION No. 8/17
AGENDA AND MODALITIES OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH
ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT MEETING

(27 and 28 February 2018)

Vienna Document:

- (148) *The participating States will hold each year a meeting to discuss the present and future implementation of agreed CSBMs. Discussion may extend to:*
- (148.1) – *Clarification of questions arising from such implementation;*
- (148.2) – *Operation of agreed measures, including the use of additional equipment during inspections and evaluation visits;*
- (148.3) – *Implications of all information originating from the implementation of any agreed measures for the process of confidence- and security-building in the framework of the OSCE.*
- (149) *Before the conclusion of each year's meeting the participating States will normally agree upon the agenda and dates for the subsequent year's meeting. Lack of agreement will not constitute sufficient reason to extend a meeting, unless otherwise agreed. Agenda and dates may, if necessary, be agreed between meetings.*
- (150) *The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) will hold such meetings. It will consider, as required, suggestions made during the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) aiming at the improvement of the implementation of CSBMs.*
- (150.4) *Participating States which, for whatever reason, have not exchanged annual information according to this document and have not provided an explanation under the FSC announcing and reminding mechanism, will during the meeting explain the reasons why and provide an expected date for their full compliance with this commitment.*

I. Agenda and indicative timetable

Tuesday, 27 February 2018

- 10–11 a.m. Opening session
- Opening of the Meeting by the Chairperson
 - Remarks by the Chairperson of the FSC
 - Presentation of a summary report and of the report on the Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres by the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC)
 - General statements
- 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 1: Implementation of the Global Exchange of Military Information (GEMI) and the Vienna Document, Introduction and Chapters I to III: Clarifications, assessments and conclusions
- GEMI
 - Vienna Document
 - Introduction
 - Annual exchange of military information
 - (i) Information on military forces
 - (ii) Data relating to major weapon and equipment systems
 - (iii) Information on plans for the deployment of major weapon and equipment systems
 - Defence planning
 - (i) Exchange of information
 - (ii) Clarification, review and dialogue
 - Risk reduction
 - (i) Mechanism for consultation and co-operation as regards unusual military activities
 - (ii) Co-operation as regards hazardous incidents of a military nature
 - (iii) Voluntary hosting of visits to dispel concerns about military activities
- 1–3 p.m. Lunch break

- 3–5 p.m. Working session 1 continued if necessary
- Working session 2: Implementation of the Vienna Document, Chapters IV to XII: Clarifications, assessments and conclusions
- Contacts
 - (i) Visits to air bases
 - (ii) Programme of military contacts and co-operation
 - (iii) Military contacts, military co-operation
 - (iv) Demonstration of new types of major weapon and equipment systems
 - (v) Provision of information on contacts
 - Military activities
 - (i) Prior notification of certain military activities
 - (ii) Observation of certain military activities
 - (iii) Annual calendars
 - (iv) Constraining provisions
 - Compliance and verification
 - (i) Inspection
 - (ii) Evaluation
 - Regional measures
 - Communications Network

Wednesday, 28 February 2018

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 2 continued if necessary
- Working session 3: Suggestions aiming at improvement of the implementation of CSBMs
- 1–3 p.m. Lunch break
- 3–4 p.m. Working session 3 continued
- 4.30–5.30 p.m. Closing session
- Discussion
 - Possible recommendations on the dates and the agenda and modalities of the 2019 AIAM
 - Concluding remarks
 - Closure

II. Organizational modalities

1. The AIAM will last two days and will have opening and closing sessions and working sessions dealing with the topics contained in the agenda (Part I, above). The indicative timetable provides greater detail.
2. The organizational meeting of chairpersons, co-ordinators, rapporteurs, and the CPC is scheduled to be held on Monday, 26 February 2018, at 3 p.m. The working hours of the AIAM will be on the first day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m., and on the second day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 5.30 p.m.
3. Interpretation into the official languages of the OSCE will be provided at all sessions of the AIAM.
4. The sessions will be chaired by representatives of the participating States, in rotation, in accordance with the French alphabetical order, following on from the chairing of the closing plenary meeting of the 2017 AIAM by Latvia. The chair of the opening session and working sessions will be held by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The chair of the closing session will be held by Liechtenstein.
5. Debates in the working sessions will be oriented towards problems and solutions and there will be no formal statements. Any national statements for the opening session should be presented in written form only and are to be distributed in advance. The working sessions are designed to be informal meetings of national experts with the objectives of answering questions, exchanging information and allowing for constructive debate between participating States. Delegations are strongly encouraged to provide detailed presentations and concrete examples of their own implementation experiences. Delegations are welcome to distribute written contributions prior to the Meeting, both on agenda items and on related matters for possible discussion. All delegations are strongly encouraged to provide national experts to participate in the AIAM.
6. To serve as a basis for preparatory work by delegations and co-ordinators, the CPC will circulate the following no later than 1 February 2018:
 - The revised Annual Survey on CSBM Information Exchanged and the AIAM Survey of Suggestions 2017;
 - A summary report on recent trends in the implementation of the Vienna Document and other measures;
 - A summary report on the Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres.
7. Each working session will have one designated co-ordinator and one rapporteur throughout. The task of the co-ordinators will be to facilitate and follow the discussion, while the immediate task of the rapporteurs will be to present brief written summary reports for use by the Chairperson of the closing session.
8. The co-ordinators will circulate a list of topics and questions designed to facilitate discussion in their working sessions no later than 12 February 2018. They will be supported

by the CPC in this regard. They will ensure that all relevant areas are addressed. The co-ordinators are also encouraged to focus discussions on suggestions that might be supported by the delegations.

9. Delegations that have volunteers to act as co-ordinators and/or rapporteurs for the working sessions should provide the names of the individuals to the Chairperson of the FSC as soon as possible, but no later than 29 January 2018. The names of the co-ordinators and rapporteurs for all the working sessions will be made known to all delegations no later than 1 February 2018.

10. At the first FSC plenary meeting following the AIAM, the Chairperson of the closing session will report to the FSC on the AIAM. Within one month after the AIAM, the Chairperson will provide the Consolidated Summary containing the Chairperson's statements and the presentations in the opening session, the reports of the rapporteurs of the working sessions and the Chairperson's closing remarks. Prior to publication, the rapporteurs are encouraged to circulate their draft reports to the delegations of those participating States that contributed to the relevant working session. Within a month after the AIAM, the CPC will circulate a written report on suggestions made during the Meeting aimed at improving the implementation of CSBMs.

11. In order to ensure the most productive discussion in the FSC when the participating States consider, as required, suggestions for improvement of the implementation of CSBMs made during the Meeting, the approach recommended is for delegations to bring forward suggestions or topics of interest by means of food-for-thought papers. Discussions on initial papers could lead to further work in the FSC.

12. Before the conclusion of the 2018 AIAM, the participating States are encouraged to consider recommendations for the agenda and dates for the 2019 AIAM. The agenda, modalities and dates of the 2019 AIAM should be adopted by a decision in the FSC before the end of 2018.

13. The Partners for Co-operation and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are invited to attend all sessions of the 2018 AIAM.