

Chairmanship: Azerbaijan**998th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 26 January 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 4.40 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Sadigbayli

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson on behalf of the Forum, offered his condolences to the delegation of the Russian Federation on the death of Major General (ret.) Alexandre Peresyepkin. The Russian Federation thanked the Chairperson for his expression of sympathy. The United States of America also offered its condolences to the delegation of the Russian Federation.

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: “COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS”

- *Presentation by Ms. S. Aliyeva, Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudswoman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan*
- *Presentation by Ms. U. Hann, Head of Section “United Nations and International Co-operation”/Military Policy Division, Federal Ministry of Defence of Austria*
- *Presentation by Ms. C. Droege, Chief Legal Officer and Head of the Legal Division at the International Committee of the Red Cross*
- *Presentation by Colonel E. Azimzada, Director of the Legal Department, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan*

Chairperson, Ms. S. Aliyeva (FSC.DEL/29/22 OSCE+), Ms. U. Hann (FSC.DEL/32/22 OSCE+), Ms. C. Droege (FSC.DEL/31/22 OSCE+), Colonel E. Azimzada (FSC.DEL/27/22 OSCE+), France-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; 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 Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/23/22), United States of America (FSC.DEL/18/22/Rev.1), Switzerland (FSC.DEL/21/22 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Canada, Turkey (FSC.DEL/22/22 OSCE+), Georgia, Ukraine (FSC.DEL/16/22), Russian Federation (Annex 1), Armenia (Annex 2), Azerbaijan (FSC.DEL/28/22 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/17/22), France-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/24/22/Rev.1), United States of America (FSC.DEL/14/22 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Canada

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Briefing on the joint military exercise “Union Resolve 2022”, to be conducted from 10 to 20 February 2022:* Belarus (FSC.DEL/20/22 OSCE+), Russian Federation (Annex 3), United States of America, Lithuania, France
- (b) *Military exercise “Cold Response 2022”, to be conducted from 14 March to 1 April 2022:* Norway (FSC.DEL/19/22 Restr.)
- (c) *FSC side event on “Humanitarian Mine Action: challenges, innovative solutions and international assistance”, to be held on 2 February 2022:* Chairperson, FSC Co-ordinator for Assistance Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Austria)
- (d) *Posting of a consolidated reference compendium of FSC mandates and best practice guides on the OSCE Delegates’ Website:* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (e) *Briefing on the meeting of the OSCE Communications Group held on 16 December 2021:* Representative of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre
- (f) *Provision by the United Kingdom of a new security assistance package to Ukraine:* United Kingdom
- (g) *Information on the Latvia-led Vienna Document inspection in the Russian Federation:* Latvia, Russian Federation

(h) *Announcing and Reminding Mechanism pursuant to FSC Decision No. 10/02:*
Chairperson

(i) *Matters of protocol:* Belarus, Chairperson, Sweden

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 2 February 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/1004
26 January 2022
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

998th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1004, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful to the Azerbaijani Chairmanship for having chosen the topic of compliance with international humanitarian law for the Security Dialogue. We thank the distinguished keynote speakers – Ms. Sabina Aliyeva, Commissioner for Human Rights of Azerbaijan, Ms. Ursula Hann, Head of the United Nations and International Co-operation Section of the Federal Ministry of Defence of Austria, Ms. Cordula Droege, Head of the Legal Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Colonel Emin Azimzada, Director of the Legal Department of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan – for their informative presentations.

The Russian Federation has consistently acted as a responsible partner in preventing and responding to humanitarian crises. Our country was one of the pioneers of international humanitarian law: on the initiative of Emperor Nicholas II, the two Hague conferences were held in 1898 and 1907, laying the foundations for the development not only of this branch of the law being discussed today, but also of international humanitarian and peacekeeping institutions.

As one of the hardest-hit countries, confronted during the Second World War with the terrible phenomenon of a war of annihilation and with the *de facto* genocide of its population, Russia has consistently advocated absolute compliance with international humanitarian law.

We share the concern at the unprecedented increase in the number and scale of emergencies and humanitarian crises around the world. According to the Global Humanitarian Overview, in 2022, the total number of people in need of emergency humanitarian assistance in the world has increased to 274 million and humanitarian requirements to 41 billion US dollars. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating an already difficult global humanitarian situation. Only by working together can we rectify this.

We welcome the fact that today's discussion is in line with the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. More than a quarter of a century after its adoption, its goals and principles remain relevant. The Russian Federation is continuing to implement the

Code of Conduct, not least in the humanitarian sphere. In accordance with Order No. 170 of 2005 of the Russian Minister of Defence, sessions with all categories of Russian military personnel to explain to them the norms of international humanitarian law relating to the use of military personnel in armed conflicts are scheduled to be held as part of the military personnel training programmes concerned with aspects of society and government. Russian legislation takes into account the provisions of international humanitarian law when establishing responsibility for serious violations of this law.

Mr. Chairperson,

Humanity, including on the battlefield, is a hallmark of civilized behaviour by States. In that context, we remain seriously concerned about the large number of civilian casualties in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions as a result of the use by Ukrainian law enforcement and security agencies of weapons that have an indiscriminate effect and cause excessive harm. The use of heavy weapons, multiple-launch rocket systems, ballistic missiles, incendiary weapons and cluster munitions in the shelling of towns can be seen as flouting the fundamental norms of international humanitarian law and as a gross violation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1981 Inhumane Weapons Convention and their Protocols.

The regular instances of human rights violations and cases of abuse and torture, and sexual and other forms of violence committed by Ukrainian security forces are cause for outrage and disgust. Note that the majority of the victims mentioned here by the representative of Ukraine were civilians from Donbas. It is also puzzling how the representatives of certain delegations who loudly proclaim their full commitment to international humanitarian law and accuse Russia of all manner of “mortal sins” can calmly accept the lawlessness of the Ukrainian authorities and security forces against civilians in the Donetsk People’s Republic and Luhansk People’s Republic. Is this really compatible with the notion of so-called Western values? What more is there to talk about with you, colleagues? There are lies and cynicism in everything you say.

We urge the Ukrainian Government and its foreign sponsors to face the facts, take immediate de-escalation measures in dialogue with the authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk, put an end to the social and economic blockade of Donbas and return to the framework of the Minsk agreements, including on humanitarian issues. As a guarantor of the Minsk agreements, Russia is ready to facilitate these processes. I am convinced that they will soon be implemented in full.

Mr. Chairperson,

We note with satisfaction that the provisions of the statements by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia on 9 November 2020 and 11 January and 26 November 2021 are being implemented consistently. The Russian peacekeeping contingent is effectively ensuring the ceasefire in its area of responsibility. Our peacekeepers are involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance (a total of 1,581 tonnes of humanitarian cargo and 800 tonnes of building materials have been delivered to Nagorno-Karabakh by the Russian Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Disaster Relief) and in the reconstruction of infrastructure (around 4,280 facilities). Some 53,000 refugees have returned to their homes. As part of the humanitarian demining measures, 1,937 buildings have been inspected, some 3,100 hectares of land and 683 km of

roads cleared of explosive hazards, and 47,150 mines and unexploded ordnance detected. This important all-round assistance in the region will be continued.

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia is prepared to do more to strengthen and develop international humanitarian law, not least in the OSCE area. In that context, we note the importance of the draft documents on ensuring legal security guarantees forwarded by us to the United States of America and NATO. They reflect specific proposals not only for reducing military tensions in Europe but also for preventing incidents at sea and in the air, which is directly linked to humanitarian issues: the price of a mistake by the pilot of an aircraft or the captain of a ship could be a human life. We hope that our partners will finally move from words to deeds, take the draft documents seriously and provide answers in writing as soon as possible.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



998th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1004, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Dear colleagues,

Firstly, as my delegation mentioned in its statement last week, we have no illusions about the current Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) Chairmanship. However, even my delegation could not imagine the level of impudence and hypocrisy of those who drafted the agenda of this Forum and currently lead it. Unfortunately, for decades, antagonism, confrontation with and hatred against Armenia and anything related to Armenians have served as a source of inspiration and a role model in the process of shaping the Azerbaijani nationhood and consciousness. And outright plagiarism was one of the ways to achieve this goal. The Azerbaijani Chairmanship in the FSC, which simply copied some of the topics of the Armenian FSC Chairmanship and even invited some of the same speakers, is no exception. Selection or rather copying of international humanitarian law as one of the topics for the Security Dialogue in the light of the numerous war crimes and flagrant violations of international humanitarian law committed by Azerbaijan before, during and after the war of aggression against Artsakh in 2020 is particularly cynical.

Secondly, my delegation sees no merit in commenting on the statements and allegations of the Azerbaijani speakers, especially those of the so-called human rights defender who is in fact a defender of the authoritarian regime and State propaganda of Azerbaijan. Human rights defenders are persons who act to promote and protect human rights and not to justify their violations. It is doubly ridiculous to hear such allegations coming from Azerbaijan, a country which is notorious for endemic restrictions on human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Finally, I would like to make a short quotation from the statement of one participating State, and I quote “Panellists of Security Dialogue are supposed to contribute with their knowledge and expertise to the work of our Forum, so that all participating States can make best use of these in order to engage in constructive dialogue and discussions. Yet, in the presentation of the current panellist thus far we once again encounter ... obsolete conflict narrative, baseless accusations and aggressive rhetoric ... based on distortion of facts and torn out of the reality on the ground. The FSC Chair should assume neutral and impartial attitude, while panellists invited by the Chair to contribute to our deliberations should focus on the topic... instead of ... infusing to the FSC the spirit of confrontation.” This is a quotation from the point of order of the delegation of Azerbaijan delivered on 28 April 2021 at the Security

Dialogue “Compliance with International Humanitarian Law” organized by the Armenian FSC Chairmanship. Indeed, hypocrisy is an integral feature of the State policy of Azerbaijan, manifested also in the clear discrepancy between its words and deeds. This is yet another indication that the current chairmanship is a serious challenge for the FSC and for the credibility of the OSCE.

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



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

FSC.JOUR/1004
26 January 2022
Annex 3

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

998th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1004, Agenda item 3(a)

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

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to like to inform the esteemed delegations at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) about the inspection of the response forces of the Union State of the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation.

On 18 January of this year, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, Colonel General Alexander Fomin, in keeping with the principle of voluntary transparency, conducted a briefing for foreign military attachés, at which he clearly stated (I quote): “The number of participants in the exercise and the number of major weapon systems covered by the Vienna Document 2011 do not exceed the threshold subject to notification defined in it” (end of quote).

The Presidents of the Russian Federation and Republic of Belarus already agreed on the holding of this exercise in December of last year, as has been reported in the media on numerous occasions.

The purpose of the snap inspection of the troops is to assess their readiness to ensure military security, and to practise various joint operation scenarios to neutralize threats and stabilize the situation on the borders of the Union State.

Colonel General Fomin mentioned that various scenarios for the use of the Regional Force Grouping are practised on a regular basis. For example, the Grouping’s high level of combat readiness was confirmed in the “Zapad-2021” exercise conducted last year.

He also stated that a situation may arise in which the forces and hardware of the Regional Grouping would not be sufficient to guarantee the security of the Union State, and we should be prepared to strengthen it. In that regard, some of the command and control bodies and subunits of the Eastern Military District that are taking part in the snap inspection being conducted in the Russian armed forces in January of this year are coming from the Russian Federation for the forthcoming inspection activities on the territory of the Republic of Belarus.

As part of the inspection of the Union State's response forces, the training of troops and forces is planned not only for operations within their areas of responsibility, but also to deal with unexpected tasks that might arise in order to localize crisis situations in any threatened areas.

In addition, during the redeployment of the Russian unit to the territory of the Republic of Belarus, an assessment will be made of the transport infrastructure capabilities for ensuring the transportation of troops (forces).

In accordance with the plan, the inspection will take place in two stages.

The first stage until 9 February will consist of:

- Redeployment and creation of force groupings within a short period of time in threatened areas;
- Protection and defence of important State and military facilities;
- Protection of the airspace over the State border of the Union State, including as part of the Belarus-Russia joint regional air defence system;
- Verification of the readiness and capabilities of the air defence combat alert forces, including the joint air defence combat training centre, to fulfil their tasks in protecting important facilities on the territory of the Republic of Belarus.

Twelve Su-35 fighter jets, two battalions of S-400 surface-to-air missile systems and a Pantsir-S surface-to-air missile and gun battalion will also be redeployed to Belarusian territory as part of the inspection of the Union State's joint air defence system.

In addition, during this stage, verification exercises in weapons practice and other training matters will be conducted with subunits and military units of the Eastern Military District and the armed forces of the Republic of Belarus involved in the inspection. As part of unit cohesion, tactical exercises will be carried out at various training ranges to practise defence against illegal armed formations and engaging in combat with them.

The joint "Union Resolve-2022" exercise will be conducted during the second stage of the inspection from 10 to 20 February. The purpose of the exercise will be to practise the tasks of suppressing and repelling external aggression during a defensive operation, countering terrorism and protecting the interests of the Union State.

During the exercise, troops will practise measures for strengthening the protection of the State border so as to prevent its penetration by armed militant groups, blocking the channels for the supply of weapons and ammunition, and locating, disabling and destroying illegal armed formations and enemy sabotage and reconnaissance groups.

Practical operations by troops (forces) will take place at the Domanovsky, Gozhsky, Obuz-Lesnovsky, Brestsky and Osipovichsky training ranges, and in certain areas of terrain

located on the territory of the Republic of Belarus. The Baranovichi, Luninets, Lida and Machulishchi airfields will be used.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.