
Chairmanship: Montenegro**787th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 6 May 2015

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Suspended: 1 p.m.

Resumed: 3.05 p.m.

Closed: 4.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador S. Milačić

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: CONVENTIONAL ARMS
CONTROL AND CSBMS

– *“Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs: State of Play and Perspectives”,
presentation by Mr. L. Zannier, OSCE Secretary General*

– *“Use of Conventional Arms Control Instruments and CSBMs in Crisis
Management”, presentation by Mr. W. Alberque, Head of the Arms Control
and Coordination Section, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)*

– *“Prospects of Conventional Arms Control in Europe: Russian Approach”,
presentation by Mr. V. Chernov, Principal Counsellor, Department for
Non-Proliferation and Arms Control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
Russia, and Deputy Head of the Delegation of the Russian Federation to the
Vienna Negotiations on Military Security and Arms Control*

Chairperson, Secretary General, Mr. W. Alberque (FSC.DEL/79/15 OSCE+)
(FSC.DEL/79/15/Add.1 OSCE+), Russian Federation, Germany, Greece
(FSC.DEL/78/15 Restr.), Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries
Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and
Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and
potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade
Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as
well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment)

(FSC.DEL/82/15), Switzerland (Annex 1), Turkey, Belarus (FSC.DEL/84/15 OSCE+), United States of America, Azerbaijan, Austria, United Kingdom (Annex 2), Luxembourg, Armenia, France, Canada, Ukraine (FSC.DEL/80/15)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Situation in and around Ukraine*: Ukraine (Annex 3) (FSC.DEL/81/15), Latvia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/83/15), Poland, Russian Federation, Holy See, United States of America
- (b) *Pre-deployment training courses for the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, conducted in Götzendorf, Austria*: Austria
- (c) *Non-paper on the FSC's support to the implementation of the Minsk agreements (FSC.DEL/75/15 Restr.)*: Austria, Chairperson, Greece

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons, held on 5 May 2015*: Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (Spain)
- (b) *Assistance to Ukraine for the disposal of explosive ordnance*: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (c) *Meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, to be held on 26 May 2015*: FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Czech Republic)

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 13 May 2015, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/793

6 May 2015

Annex 1

ENGLISH

Original: FRENCH

787th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 793, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND

Switzerland wishes to thank the Montenegrin Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) for having placed the topic of arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) on the agenda. The OSCE has proved its strategic usefulness as a unique platform for discussing politico-military issues in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian zones.

Our delegation joins others in thanking the OSCE Secretary General, Mr. Lamberto Zannier, Mr. William Alberque, Head of the Arms Control and Coordination Section of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and Mr. Vladislav Chernov, Principal Counsellor in the Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, for their presentations.

Switzerland is concerned about the ever more pronounced trend towards conventional rearmament in the OSCE area. We believe that the failure to observe certain fundamental principles of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the lack of political will to settle conflicts by peaceful means, and the failure of a legally binding treaty on conventional arms control to function properly are the main factors that have led to the deterioration of military stability in the OSCE area, resulting in conventional rearmament. We also think that arms control tools are useful throughout the conflict cycle, in prevention, management, transition and rehabilitation.

Madam Chairperson,

Political will is the key to ensuring the full implementation of the commitments entered into by the participating States and in the peaceful settlement of conflicts. The Vienna Document has demonstrated its value as a political instrument in the case of unusual military activities and its effectiveness as an early warning tool. While its modernization is an arduous process, the participating States have modernized its implementation through innovative interpretations of several commitments contained in the Document. However, the crisis in and around Ukraine has also shown the limits of some of the current measures contained in the Document.

Switzerland is also concerned about the lack of momentum in the negotiations on modernizing the Vienna Document. The crisis in and around Ukraine should not blunt

discussions in the FSC – quite the contrary. The challenges posed by this crisis should stimulate debates on improving the Document. The FSC was established as a platform for negotiation, discussion and review of the implementation of commitments undertaken in the conventional arms field, and it is also mandated by the 57 participating States to modernize the Vienna Document.

Switzerland supports a broad discussion among experts aimed at revising Chapter III so as to strengthen the OSCE's ability to act in the event of crisis. We think that it would also be useful to hold a discussion on how to include non-State and irregular armed groups. The next High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine could be an appropriate venue for this.

Lastly, we think that CSBMs still have a great deal of potential that is worth exploring at the regional and subregional levels. Regional stabilization agreements, customized confidence-building measures and even regional arms control regimes represent real options for the future.

Madam Chairperson,

Switzerland will support any effort to reinvigorate the discussions on CSBMs.

Thank you for your attention.



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

FSC.JOUR/793

6 May 2015

Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

787th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 793, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

I'm grateful for the presentations by the OSCE Secretary General H.E. Lamberto Zannier, the Head of NATO's Arms Control and Coordination Section Mr. William Alberque, and Mr. Vladislav Chernov from the Russian Federation, and would like to respond with a statement in my national capacity, in addition to the one made by the EU.

Madam Chairperson,

We are experiencing the worst crisis of European security since the end of the Cold War. In and around Ukraine, Russia continues to undermine the fabric of European security in order to serve its own narrow interests.

Organizations like the OSCE, and indeed the UN, were founded on the principles of dialogue and a respect for peace and stability based on territorial integrity and sovereignty. We should be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Founding Act rather than condemning its violation. Therefore, it is incumbent on Russia to show through its actions a clear commitment to established fundamental principles and commitments. It is also vital that all countries remain clear and united in striving to uphold the rules-based international system.

That's the big picture. More specifically, in recent times we have seen a trend in Russian policy towards undermining the integrity and relevance of conventional arms control in Europe while trying, unconvincingly, to pin the blame on others. Recently we have seen Russia "suspend" its participation in the Joint Consultative Group. The last few years have seen Russia refuse to modernize the Vienna Document, with the result that this valuable CSBM has become more and more out of step with evolving European security. For example, the vast majority of participating States could agree to a key proposal to lower thresholds. But Russia blocks. This would appear to be an attempt to diminish the current framework with a view to pressuring others to rebuild on Moscow's terms. As the deficit in trust has been caused by Russia, the Russians are the ones that need to prove they have the integrity to make any system work.

Over the last year or so a specific trend has developed of Russia conducting “snap drills”. As we know, there is a “get out” in the Vienna Document for otherwise notifiable activities carried out without advance notice to troops and lasting 72 hours or less. The trend suggests that Russia is increasingly using this clause to avoid using military transparency as a means to build confidence and security. In fact, it appears that Russia is using a lack of military transparency and predictability to coerce and intimidate. Given this fact, might there be value in looking to address this specific clause when trying to modernize the Vienna Document?

There has been much concern expressed over the deployment of Russian armed forces around the international border with Ukraine. Instead of proactively and conscientiously using available politico-military instruments to try to alleviate such concerns, Russia argues that it is adhering to the letter of the relevant arrangements and needs to do no more. Might it not be responsible and constructive if Russia, in the circumstances, were to allow voluntary Vienna Document ground inspections? That would show a real commitment to using military transparency to build confidence and security. Using the risk reduction provisions of the Vienna Document fully and appropriately would also serve this purpose. We certainly agree that lessons need to be learnt and improvements made.

There will always be ways to try to circumvent the intent of agreements such as those we are considering. Ultimately, however, it is the political will invested that really counts.

The UK values co-operative security in the OSCE area highly and for our part we will continue to do what we can to uphold its integrity.

Madam Chairperson, I’d be grateful if you could attach this statement to the journal of this meeting.

Thank you.



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

FSC.JOUR/793
6 May 2015
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

787th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 793, Agenda item 2(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Madam Chairperson,

In connection with today's statement by the Russian delegation on the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC), the delegation of Ukraine wishes to emphasize the following.

International law prohibits the acquisition of part or all of another State's territory through coercion or force. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which remains an integral part of Ukraine, was illegally occupied and annexed by the Russian Federation in violation of OSCE principles and commitments and norms of international law. Illegitimate actions on the part of the Russian Federation do not have any legal consequences with regard to the status of the ARC as an integral part of Ukraine. The territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders is safeguarded by international law and UN General Assembly resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014, "Territorial integrity of Ukraine".

The Russian Federation is now in breach of such fundamental principles of the Helsinki Final Act as sovereign equality and respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty, refraining from the threat or use of force, inviolability of frontiers, territorial integrity of States, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-intervention in internal affairs, and fulfilment in good faith of obligations in international law.

We call on the Russian Federation to return to the tenets of international law and reverse the annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this statement be registered in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.