

Chairmanship: Romania

841st PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 18 January 2017

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador C. Istrate
Mr. D. Șerban

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

Agenda item 1: OPENING STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. GEORGE CIAMBA,
SECRETARY OF STATE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, ROMANIA

Chairperson, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania (Annex 1), Austria (FSC.DEL/4/17 OSCE+), Switzerland (FSC.DEL/6/17 OSCE+), Malta-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 Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/1/17), Turkey, Moldova (FSC.DEL/7/17 OSCE+), Portugal, Canada, United States of America, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus (FSC.DEL/5/17 OSCE+), Russian Federation, FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Montenegro)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (Annex 2) (FSC.DEL/3/17), Malta-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, Moldova, San Marino

and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/2/17/Rev.1), Canada, United States of America, Russian Federation (Annex 3)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Financial contributions to the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM) and to the repository programme for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: Czech Republic, Montenegro*
- (b) *Matters of protocol: Germany, Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 25 January 2017, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



841st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 847, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ROMANIA

Mr. Chairperson,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour to welcome you to the first meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) under the Chairmanship of Romania.

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to Portugal for its efforts in advancing the Forum's agenda during the last FSC session of 2016, and especially for facilitating the agreement reached at the recently concluded Ministerial Council in Hamburg on the Declaration on OSCE Assistance Projects in the Field of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and the Declaration "From Lisbon to Hamburg" on the Twentieth Anniversary of the OSCE Framework for Arms Control. This consensus reflects general recognition of our joint aspirations regarding dialogue and co-operation and is all the more important given that the state of the security environment within the OSCE area has seriously influenced the work of the Forum in recent years. Let me also welcome the Russian Federation as the new member of the FSC Troika.

The last time Romania was at the helm of FSC was back in 2001, coinciding with Romania's OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office. The key words for the Chairmanship at that time were "pragmatism" and "efficiency". These two key words remain valid under the current Romanian FSC Chairmanship.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The overall security situation in Europe remains fragile and continues to be a source of concern. The OSCE community is struggling to identify how to best address several developments in Europe's security environment, notably the large movements of migrants and refugees; increased terrorist activity in Europe linked to the rise of Daesh and radicalization; the risks of conflict stemming from the use of information and communications technologies; and drug trafficking, arms trafficking, and trafficking in human beings. Joint efforts are needed in order to tackle all these challenges.

The predominant concern by far relates to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, which remains the most significant threat to European security. It continues to undermine Europe's

overall stability, as well as the already fragile security environment around the Black Sea. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all sides to adopt the kind of constructive approach that will be necessary if we are to identify a peaceful and sustainable solution to this conflict. Full respect for international law and the OSCE's principles and commitments, including the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Ukraine, is of paramount importance to overcoming the crisis. A satisfactory level of trust between participating States will not be regained without restoring respect for those principles, which are at the core of a rules-based European security order. We cannot compromise on principles which we stand for!

Full implementation of the Minsk agreements remains the formula for a sustainable solution. We welcome the substantial role being played by the OSCE, which has succeeded in responding quickly and professionally, and we reiterate our support to the Chairmanship-in-Office and the Special Monitoring Mission, also paying tribute to the tireless efforts of the Trilateral Contact Group and the discussions held under the auspices of the Normandy format.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The OSCE politico-military toolbox, with the CFE Treaty and the Treaty on Open Skies, remains an essential pillar of the European security architecture. Now more than ever before, raising the level of security in the OSCE area requires the full implementation, updating, strengthening and, where appropriate, modernizing of these instruments.

Arms control and CSBM arrangements are primarily about trust, transparency, military predictability and stability in Europe. By fully and unconditionally implementing the commitments in this area, we are advancing the ultimate goal of the restoration of trust and confidence.

We should not forget that Europe's conventional arms control regime is the most advanced in the world by far. It reached a peak in the early 1990s with the conclusion of several outstanding instruments: the CFE Treaty, the Treaty on Open Skies, and the Vienna Document – all elaborated and adopted within the framework of the OSCE.

Despite the regrettable situation in 2016, when we failed on the reissuance of the Vienna Document, updating and modernizing this instrument remains a subject of particular importance. The Romanian Chairmanship intends to continue the work of the Dutch, Polish and Portuguese Chairmanships by providing further impetus on updating and modernizing the Vienna Document, which should be a continuous process aimed at strengthening its risk reduction mechanisms, and increasing military stability, transparency, and predictability for all participating States.

The Romanian Chairmanship will organize a Special FSC Meeting dedicated to the Vienna Document in order to discuss these issues.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Romania is aiming at a meaningful Chairmanship and is fully aware of the security challenges within the OSCE area. In order to respond better to these challenges, we have

structured our Programme of Work and respective Security Dialogue sessions in accordance with two dimensions: the geographical dimension, from regional issues to more “global” ones, and the thematic dimension, which includes both traditional and also innovative questions.

In their respective FSC Chairmanships, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland and Portugal brought up the security situation in the High North, the North Sea, the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean. Now Romania intends to complete the picture by organizing two Security Dialogue sessions on regions of direct interest at the present time: the Balkans and the Black Sea.

Continuing to promote the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security is another priority for Romania. One Security Dialogue session under our Chairmanship will be devoted to this issue, with a particular focus on gender equality in the military.

Both non-proliferation and gender also qualify as traditional topics on the FSC agenda. We envisage organizing a Security Dialogue session in order to inform the Forum about how the Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management Programme for Serbia (CASM) has developed and is now contributing to a safer environment and to the security and safety of the civilian population in the Republic of Moldova.

By the same token, we feel it will add value to involve the field presences in our Security Dialogue. For this reason, we have invited the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine to brief us on their politico-military activities and by so doing to highlight the specific role the field missions might play in connection with FSC-related topics.

On the more innovative side of our Programme of Work there is the topic of “Cybersecurity in the military dimension”, which will be dealt with at a Joint Session of the FSC and PC. The purpose of the Joint Session is to underline complementarity with what has been achieved so far in the non-military part of the first dimension, in particular the two sets of cyber CBMs adopted by OSCE in 2013 and last year respectively.

The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security remains a key normative instrument governing the armed forces in democratic societies. In this context, we will, in what is a novelty for the FSC, dedicate one Security Dialogue session to the “Role of military chaplains in the armed forces and freedom of belief (in peace or wartime)”. Moreover, in co-operation with our fellow Troika members, the FSC Support Section and the Austrian Chairmanship-in-Office, we will work on a number of traditional events such as the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting in February-March.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Romania would like to encourage participating States to further advance dialogue on military doctrine. In our view, the High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar (HLMDS) from February 2016 was a successful event and a confidence-building measure in its own right. In this context, we share the assessment made by the Netherlands, included in the food-for-thought paper drafted as a follow-up to the HLMDS, on the need for more regular

and structured dialogue on military doctrines and developments within the armed forces of participating States.

As FSC Chair, we stand ready to take the issue forward in a manner suitable for interested delegations. In our view, one possible way forward would be the setting up of an informal working group of friends, or another format.

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to introduce to you the team of co-ordinators who have agreed to support our efforts during this Chairmanship:

- Mr. Benno Laggner, Co-ordinator of the FSC Chair for the Vienna Document;
- Lieutenant Commander Vučić Bošković, FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security;
- Ms. Isa Ghivarelli, FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325;
- Mr. Vasily Pavlov, FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues;
- Lieutenant Colonel Ville Pouttu, Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons;
- Colonel László Szatmári, FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition;
- Ms. Tiphaine Jouffroy, *Chef de file* of the FSC for the 2017 Annual Security Review Conference.

As well as expressing my appreciation to all these individuals, I also wish to thank Ambassador Peško and his able team in the Conflict Prevention Centre, specifically the FSC Support Section, and to Conference Services and all those who are working hard to ensure that our Chairmanship runs smoothly.

Furthermore, I would like to stress that the Romanian Chairmanship will take forward the legacy of Hamburg and build upon the achievements of the three preceding Chairmanships of the Netherlands, Poland and Portugal; will work in close co-operation with the Austrian Chairmanship-in-Office; will take an institutional approach within the FSC Troika together with Russia and Serbia; and will promote transparency and inclusiveness as means of providing participating States with the ownership of the process which is our common goal.

I thank you for your attention and I wish you all the best of luck in 2017.

Mr. Chairperson, I kindly ask you to attach my statement to the journal of this meeting.



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

FSC.JOUR/847
18 January 2017
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

841st Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 847, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. 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 by military force 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".

We call on the Russian Federation to return to the tenets of international law and reverse the illegal occupation and 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, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/847
18 January 2017
Annex 3

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

841st Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 847, Agenda item 2

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

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the reference to Crimea in the statements by a number of delegations today, the delegation of the Russian Federation feels obliged to make the following observations.

The proclamation of independence of the Republic of Crimea and its incorporation into the Russian Federation was a legal expression of the right of the people of Crimea to self-determination at a time when Ukraine, with outside support, was in the throes of a *coup d'état*, with radical nationalist elements exerting a forceful influence on the decisions adopted in the country, which in turn resulted in the interests of the Ukrainian regions and Russian-speaking population being ignored.

The multi-ethnic population of Crimea took the corresponding decisions by a huge majority in a free and fair expression of its will. The status of the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as constituent entities of the Russian Federation is not open to reconsideration or discussion. Crimea is and will remain Russian. This is a fact that our partners will have to come to terms with.

This position is based on and fully complies with international law.

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