

**71st JOINT MEETING OF THE
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION
AND THE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1. Date: Wednesday, 14 November 2018

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 12.35 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador U. Funered (FSC) (Sweden)
Ambassador A. Azzoni (PC) (Italy)

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

– *Report by the Chairperson of the Informal Working Group on the Structured Dialogue*

Chairperson (FSC), Chairperson (PC) (FSC-PC.DEL/32/18 Restr.), Chairperson of the Informal Working Group on the Structured Dialogue (Belgium), Austria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC-PC.DEL/24/18), Switzerland, United States of America, Germany (Annex 1), Armenia, Poland (FSC-PC.DEL/27/18 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Spain, France (FSC-PC.DEL/31/18 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (FSC-PC.DEL/25/18 OSCE+), Latvia, Romania (Annex 2), Norway, Russian Federation, Finland (FSC-PC.DEL/26/18 Restr.), Italy (FSC-PC.DEL/33/18 Restr.), Turkey, Slovakia, Georgia, Ukraine (FSC-PC.DEL/30/18 OSCE+), Kazakhstan

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Briefing on the military exercise “Century of Victors 1918–2018”, conducted in Serbia on 9 and 10 November 2018: Serbia (Annex 3) (FSC-PC.DEL/29/18 OSCE+)

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



71st Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
FSC-PC Journal No. 58, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY

Germany fully supports the EU statement.

I would like to seize this opportunity to contribute a few thoughts to today's discussion in my national capacity. We thank the Belgian Chairperson of the Informal Working Group on the Structured Dialogue (IWG) for his excellent perception paper on the last meeting of the IWG, held on 25 October. As this was also the last IWG meeting scheduled for this year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Paul, and your team, as well as the OSCE Secretariat, for the outstanding work and for your commitment throughout this year to bringing the Structured Dialogue forward.

The perception paper distributed earlier this month fully reflects the main results of the discussion we had last month. Complementing the EU-Statement, which Germany fully supports, I would like to comment on five points.

First, the excellent summary by Professor Heuser was a demonstration of the added value that external input can generate for the Structured Dialogue. Short, concise and addressing the issues relevant to the topic, Professor Heuser's contribution laid the ground for a very fruitful and informed discussion, enriching our debate without in any way affecting our ownership or the basic principle that our work is state-driven.

Secondly, we would like to invite our esteemed colleagues to take up the suggestion in the perception paper of working towards a consensus-based code of conduct containing guiding principles on the prevention and handling of military incidents, thus deepening our efforts in the field of risk reduction. We would recommend engaging in such an endeavour with a broader horizon, also looking at such matters as early warning, transparency policy and incident management.

Thirdly, we support the Chairperson's suggestion that further sessions on other parameters of intent should be convened. In particular, we support the action items mentioned, such as:

- An expert-level meeting on the verifiability of qualitative aspects of major weapon and equipment systems;

- An expert-level meeting on modern military technology, relevant for conventional arms control;
- An expert-level meeting on exercise planning; and
- An intersessional seminar on military doctrines in the first half of 2019.

Fourthly, we would like to thank you, Ambassador Huynen, and the Conflict Prevention Centre for the excellent presentation of the iMARS tool during our last Structured Dialogue meeting. We fully support this tool, which aims to aggregate the existing data compilation in various fields into a more accessible format, in tune with the general progress and advancement that the digital age has brought us. This tool can effectively support work of the FSC on the Vienna Document but also on SALW and stockpiles of ammunition, and no doubt, the Structured Dialogue can profit from it as well.

Last but not least, we would like to look ahead to our further discussions in 2019. We recommend that the Structured Dialogue should address in particular the following matters: risk reduction, options for improved compliance-handling and dispute resolution as suggested in the paper distributed in December 2017 (CIO.GAL/234/17 of 19 December 2017), and a further deepening of military-to-military dialogue. On the subject of military-to-military dialogue, I would like to draw your attention to our non-paper distributed during the last meeting of the IWG on 25 October (PC.DEL/1269/18 of 25 October 2018).

Thanking you again, Paul, I would like to underline that we are very much looking forward to the presentation of your report on this year's work in the IWG on the Structured Dialogue. Your perception papers have already brought forward many good ideas on how to continue our work, giving me much hope that our ministers will encourage us to continue on this path next year.

Looking ahead more concretely to the OSCE Ministerial Council in Milan, I wish our Italian friends and colleagues all good fortune and success, not least with a view to positive achievements in the politico-military dimension of the OSCE.

Please add this statement to the journal of the day.



71st Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
FSC-PC Journal No. 58, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ROMANIA

Madam Chairperson,
Mr. Chairperson,

I take the floor within the parameters set up by the EU statement in order to emphasize a few key elements. We are nearing the end of the second year of implementation of the Hamburg mandate. Under the able chairmanship of our German and Belgian colleagues respectively, the Informal Working Group on Structured Dialogue examined the broad scope of current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area. Dialogue was open and meaningful. It purported on hard security matters, which is in and by itself a commendable achievement, given the level of mistrust that exists among participating States today.

At the Milan Ministerial Council, as well as next year, we need to continue the Structured Dialogue with the aim to fulfil its potential to foster greater understanding on these issues, through transparency, inclusivity and State ownership. We need to do more to improve the level of interest of capitals from all OSCE regions and their Vienna-based delegations to attend and contribute meaningfully. And, we need to make clear that entrenched, immutable positions will not be conducive to building a common solid basis for a way forward.

The Hamburg mandate is structured along two basic lines: one line that begins from full implementation on to further development of arms control agreements; and a second line, which portrays the interrelation between confidence- and security-building measures and conventional arms control and the wider politico-military context. This is a delicate multidimensional balance, and everyone should be aware that pressing on one scale to the detriment of the other risks undermining the whole process.

For this reason, Romania believes that in 2019 the Structured Dialogue should continue to address the whole range of concerns expressed by all participating States during the past two years, including military build-ups, incidents and exercises, protracted conflicts, hybrid warfare, terrorism – to name just a few. Nobody should feel excluded, ignored, or forgotten. We claim that the Structured Dialogue is an OSCE flagship project, therefore we expect all 57 participating States to genuinely own it; we expect formats such as Security Committee or institutions such as the Representative on Freedom of the Media to contribute

to it, as appropriate; and we expect the Secretariat to support it, as requested, under the responsibility of the Chairperson.

Two years down the road, we are entitled to ask ourselves: is there a greater understanding among participating States on the current and future challenges and risks to security? Definitely it is greater, but still not enough to serve as a common solid basis for a way forward. Therefore, the Hamburg mandate continues to be valid. This is why Romania believes that narrowing down the scope of the mandate would be completely inadvisable. Picking and choosing just one topic discussed in the past two years would perhaps better streamline the 2019 agenda to the taste of some, but unfortunately be against our commonly declared commitment to keep the Structured Dialogue open and meaningful.

May I reassure the Chairperson-in-Office and the Chairperson of the FSC of Romania's continuous support in steering the Structured Dialogue on the right track and the solid ground provided by the Hamburg mandate.



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

FSC-PC.JOUR/58
14 November 2018
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

71st Joint Meeting of the FSC and the PC
FSC-PC Journal No. 58, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA

Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

As a voluntary transparency measure on military activities that are not notifiable under the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011, we would like to brief the delegations today on the exercise that took place in the Republic of Serbia from 1 November to 10 November 2018.

On the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War and as a celebration of victory in that war, in accordance with the decision made by the President of the Republic of Serbia, with guidelines given by the Minister of Defence and on the orders of the Chief of General Staff, the Army Command, together with the Air Force and Air Defence, was tasked with preparing, organizing and conducting a multi-level joint live exercise on the operational-tactical level, with the topic “Preparation and engagement of the Serbian Armed Forces”. The exercise was named “Century of Victors 1918–2018”.

The Republic of Serbia wanted to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War, and its victory in that war, in a proper manner and at the same time to show openness and transparency with an exercise that was in no way to be threatening. That was the reason why, in accordance with the Vienna Document, the Republic of Serbia voluntarily gave prior notification of this exercise by submitting an F25 notification form and sent an invitation to the event by submitting an F22 notification form, on 31 October 2018.

The very short time between the decision and the beginning of the exercise resulted in our formats F25 and F22 being delivered at short notice.

At the same time as the invitation for observers from OSCE participating States, in accordance with the bilateral agreement, we also invited guests from the People’s Republic of China.

We hosted 13 observers from eight OSCE participating States and two guests from the People’s Republic of China.

They had an opportunity to visit two main training areas and observed activities in the exercise's preparation and execution, also attending "Distinguished Visitors' Day".

The aim of the exercise was to demonstrate the resoluteness, skills and firing power of the Serbian armed forces and their ability to respond to challenges, risks and threats to the security of the Republic of Serbia.

The exercise was conducted in three phases.

1. Preparation phase from 1 to 7 November 2018: bringing forces from their peacetime locations to the exercise location, practising tactical activities and firing.
2. Execution phase from 8 to 10 November 2018: execution of the multi-level joint live tactical exercise, in line with suppositions and operational environments as assigned. "Distinguished Visitors' Day" was held on 10 November 2018.
3. Disengagement phase from 11 to 15 November 2018: disengagement of forces in accordance with the plan for disengagement and return to peacetime locations.

The exercise was executed at ten different locations, with different tactical purposes at each location.

At four locations, the Air Force and Air Defence performed air force and air defence operations in co-operation with other forces of defence, aimed at establishing and controlling sovereignty of air space, providing close air support, and establishing conditions for army forces to conduct offensive operations and anti-terrorist operations.

The exercise was conducted under the command of the Army Commander and involved more than 7,700 service personnel and more than 600 pieces of main weapon and equipment systems, including new types of major weapon systems which are in the process of testing and 100 battle tanks as a symbol of the hundredth anniversary.

An important conclusion that may be drawn from this exercise is that the Vienna Document is alive and functioning, and that it is in the interest of the OSCE participating States to make efforts towards its proper implementation so that it remains fit for its purpose in the future.

The Republic of Serbia would like to thank the OSCE participating States which sent observers to the exercise "Century of Victors 1918–2018."

I thank you for your attention and kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.