

**Chairmanship: Mongolia**

**782nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 11 March 2015

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 12.50 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. P. Gansukh

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPON SYSTEMS (LAWS)

– *“LAWS – Preparing for the informal working group in the framework of the United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW)”, presentation by Mr. T. Göbel, Head of Division, Conventional Arms Control, Federal Foreign Ministry of Germany*

– *“Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems: The need for preventive control”, presentation by Mr. N. Schörnig, Senior Research Fellow, Peace Research Institute, Frankfurt*

Chairperson, Mr. T. Göbel (FSC.DEL/46/15 OSCE+), Mr. N. Schörnig (FSC.DEL/47/15 OSCE+), Latvia-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 country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/42/15), Switzerland (Annex 1), United States of America, Russian Federation, France, Romania, Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (Spain)

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND MODALITIES FOR THE FOURTH ANNUAL DISCUSSION

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF  
CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF  
SECURITY

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 1/15 (FSC.DEC/1/15) on the agenda, timetable and modalities for the Fourth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 3: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Situation in and around Ukraine:* Ukraine (FSC.DEL/41/15) (Annex 2), Latvia-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 country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/43/15), United States of America, Russian Federation, Canada
- (b) *Military exercises conducted by the Russian Federation in Abkhazia and South Ossetia on 5 March 2015:* Georgia (Annex 3), Latvia-European Union (FSC.DEL/44/15), United States of America, Canada, Russian Federation, Ukraine

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Distribution of the FSC Chairperson's perception paper on the terms of reference for the chef de file of the 2015 Annual Security Review Conference (FSC.DEL/40/15 OSCE+):* Chairperson
- (b) *Report on the 25th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting held in Vienna on 3 and 4 March 2015 by the Chairperson of the closing session (Ireland):* Ireland
- (c) *Response to a statement made by the Russian Federation at the 25th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting:* Czech Republic, Russian Federation
- (d) *Matters of protocol:* Latvia-European Union, United States of America

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 18 March 2015, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/788

11 March 2015

Annex 1

ENGLISH

Original: GERMAN

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**782nd Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 788, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND**

Switzerland welcomes the initiative by the Mongolian Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation to include the issue of lethal autonomous weapons (LAWs) on the agenda. We welcome Mr. Thomas Göbel, Head of the Conventional Arms Control Department of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Niklas Schörnig and thank them for their interesting, far-sighted and complementary presentations.

Regarding the fundamental approach to LAWs, Switzerland agrees that the subject of lethal autonomous weapons should involve comprehensive consideration of the ethical, humanitarian, legal, security, military and technical aspects. Topics remote from the core issue, such as research freedom, business development, positions relating to the civil use of the technology and the problem of dual use, should also be taken into account.

On the ethical question, Switzerland agrees that the development and use of fully autonomous weapon systems that can make fatal decisions without direct human control pose far-reaching and fundamental ethical questions. The entire framework of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, human rights, international law, the rules of war and humanitarian international law, must be taken into account and observed in both the development and the use of autonomous weapon systems.

In the light of the current state of knowledge and technology, Switzerland has concerns about autonomous weapon systems in which the target identification, selection and attack are completely and cohesively automated without the effective possibility of human intervention. As certain weapons by their nature can also cause humanitarian problems, binding rules need to be elaborated for them with a view to limiting their use. If the legal basis is absent or incomplete, it must be created.

With regard to autonomous weapons, Switzerland advocates differentiated discussion of the autonomy of weapon systems, in particular with a view to defining “autonomous features”, “autonomous functions” and “autonomous use” and determining the possible combined impact of different autonomous weapon systems. Switzerland also advocates differentiation and further development of the categorizations “human in the loop”, “on the loop” and “out of the loop”, and “semi-autonomous”, “supervised autonomous” and “fully autonomous”. These categorizations are important particularly in relation to measurable and verifiable criteria for the degree of autonomy. As weapons work within networks (for

example, the need for information from satellites for global positioning, command and control, flight control) there is also the question of software and its connectivity. In that regard, we would be interested to know how the speakers define the main elements of the term “autonomous”. Switzerland’s priorities are, on the one hand, to achieve a comprehensive and universal understanding of the problem and the challenges it presents and, on the other, to continue and even extend the mandate of the Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) expert group. In that regard, we wish Mr. Göbel every success in the discussions at the forthcoming CCW expert meeting in Geneva.

I should like in conclusion to ask Mr. Göbel and Mr. Schörnig to state their position on a possible role by the OSCE in these discussions, either now or in a later phase. We would also be interested to hear what end products the CCW might propose, be it legal regulation, a code of conduct, or even co-operation with the Wassenaar Agreement.

Thank you for your attention.



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

FSC.JOUR/788  
11 March 2015  
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

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**782nd Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 788, Agenda item 3(a)

## **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, 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 Autonomous Republic of Crimea 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, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/788  
11 March 2015  
Annex 3

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**782nd Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 788, Agenda item 3(b)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA**

On 5 March 2015, the Russian Federation launched large-scale field military exercises in its Southern Military District and in Georgia's occupied regions of Tskhinvali and Abkhazia, as well as in occupied Crimea.

These actions on the part of the Russian Federation constitute a flagrant violation of the fundamental norms and principles of international law as well as of Russia's international obligations, including those under the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement.

The experience of previous years vividly demonstrates that military exercises conducted by the Russian Federation on such a scale often precede military aggression and subsequent violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of neighbouring States.

We call on participating States duly to respond to Russia's destructive actions, which could lead to further deterioration in the already compromised security environment in the region.



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

FSC.DEC/1/15  
11 March 2015

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**782nd Plenary Meeting**  
Journal No. 788, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 1/15  
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND MODALITIES FOR THE FOURTH  
ANNUAL DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY  
ASPECTS OF SECURITY**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Recalling FSC Decision No. 12/11 on an annual discussion on the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security,

Recalling the importance of the Code of Conduct and taking into account the provision of paragraph 38 of the Code of Conduct stating that appropriate bodies, mechanisms and procedures will be used to assess, review and improve if necessary the implementation of the Code of Conduct,

Taking into account the deliberations of the Annual Discussions on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct held in 2012, 2013 and 2014,

Decides to organize the fourth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct, which is to take place on 8 July 2015 in Vienna, in accordance with the agenda and organizational modalities contained in the annex to this decision.

## **ANNUAL DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY**

### **I. Agenda and indicative timetable**

#### **Wednesday, 8 July 2015**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 10–10.30 a.m.     | Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Opening and introduction by the FSC Chairperson</li><li>– Remarks by the OSCE Secretariat representative</li><li>– General statements</li></ul>  |
| 10.30 a.m.–1 p.m. | Working session 1: Sharing of views on the implementation of the Code of Conduct in the context of the existing political and military situation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Introduction by session moderator</li><li>– Keynote speakers</li><li>– Discussion</li><li>– Moderator’s closing remarks</li></ul>                                       |
| 3–4.45 p.m.       | Working session 2: Evaluation discussion on the implementation and effectiveness of the Code of Conduct including the 2015 annual exchange of information pursuant to the Questionnaire <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Introduction by session moderator</li><li>– Keynote speaker</li><li>– Discussion</li><li>– Moderator’s closing remarks</li></ul> |
| 4.45–5 p.m.       | Closing session <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Discussion</li><li>– Concluding remarks</li><li>– Closure</li></ul>  |

## **II. Organizational modalities**

### **Background**

In FSC Decision No. 12/11 it was decided, *inter alia*, to “regularize a focused discussion on implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security by devoting an annual special one-day meeting to the Code of Conduct” and to “invite, as appropriate, representatives of think tanks of international standing and security-related scientific institutes to a morning session of this meeting to share views on implementation, while the following evaluation discussion of the afternoon session of the meeting is to be restricted to participating States.”

The fourth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct will therefore provide opportunities to discuss how to promote and improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct, including its annual information exchange, and to undertake an evaluation discussion and examine the application of the Code of Conduct in the context of the existing political and military situation.

### **Organization**

The Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct will take place on 8 July 2015 in Vienna.

The OSCE Rules of Procedure and standard working methods will be followed, *mutatis mutandis*, at the annual discussion on the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

A representative of the FSC Chairmanship (Montenegro) will chair the opening and closing sessions. Each session will have a moderator and a rapporteur.

Simultaneous interpretation between all six working languages of the OSCE will be provided at all sessions.

The FSC Chair will provide a report on the Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct within one month, including a survey of suggestions and recommendations made during the meeting.

### **Participation**

The participating States are encouraged to ensure that they are represented at policy and expert level at the Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct.

The OSCE Secretariat, the ODIHR, field operations, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Partners for Co-operation are invited to participate in the Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct.

Only the morning session will be open for the invited representatives of think tanks of international standing and security-related scientific institutes.

## **General guidelines for participants**

In accordance with FSC Decision No. 12/11, a report on the implementation of the Code of Conduct prepared by the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE Secretariat will be made available to participating States not later than 1 July 2015.

The Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct will be conducted in four sessions.

The working sessions will concentrate on major topics, which will be introduced by keynote speakers. The introductions shall be followed by discussions of any number of relevant subtopics that delegates may wish to raise. The aim is an interactive and free-flowing discussion.

Delegations are welcome to distribute written contributions in advance of the meeting, both on agenda items and on related matters for possible discussion. In order to ensure the most productive discussion when the participating States are considering suggestions made during the meeting, the recommended approach 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.

## **Guidelines for keynote speakers**

The introductions given by the keynote speakers should set the scene for the discussion in the sessions and stimulate debate among delegations by raising appropriate questions and suggesting potential recommendations based on OSCE realities. The keynote speakers' contributions should set the stage for substantive, focused and interactive discussions. The available speaking time is approximately 15 minutes per keynote speaker.

Keynote speakers should be present during the entire session they are speaking at and be ready to engage in the debate following their presentation.

## **Guidelines for moderators and rapporteurs**

The moderator chairs the session and should facilitate and focus the dialogue among delegations. The moderator should stimulate the debate by introducing items related to the subject of the opening and working session, as appropriate, in order to broaden or focus the scope of the discussion.

The rapporteurs' reports should deal with issues raised during the respective sessions; they should cover lessons learned, best practices, challenges, improvements, and suggestions made at the session, and any other relevant information.

Personal views shall not be advanced.

## **Guidelines on the timing of submitting and distributing written contributions**

Participating States and other participants of the meeting are invited to submit any written contributions by 1 July 2015.