

Chairmanship: Estonia

541st PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 9 April 2008

Opened: 11.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ms. T. Parts

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Determination No. 2008-15 of the President of the United States of America on the Eligibility of Kosovo to Receive Defense Articles and Defense Services:

Russian Federation (Annex 1), United States of America, United Kingdom (Annex 2)

Agenda item 2: OPENING STATEMENT BY THE ESTONIAN
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE FSC

Permanent Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of Estonia (FSC.DEL/61/08/Rev.1 OSCE+), Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/64/08 OSCE+), Spain, Finland, United States of America, Russian Federation

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the occasion of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, marked on 4 April 2008:* Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey;

the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/65/08 OSCE+)

- (b) *Project on eliminating rocket fuel component in Ukraine*: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/66/08 OSCE+)
- (c) *ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy in Asia and Europe, held in Berlin from 12 to 14 March 2008*: Germany
- (d) *Briefing by the Co-ordinator for Projects on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition on the recent assessment visit to Albania with regard to the project for the destruction of rocket fuel*: Co-ordinator for Projects on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Denmark) (FSC.DEL/67/08), Albania
- (e) *Distribution of elements for a decision on introducing a questionnaire and a best practice guide on the prevention of illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons by air* (FSC.DEL/62/08 Restr.): Belgium, Chairperson
- (f) *Distribution by the Conflict Prevention Centre of the survey of suggestions made by participating States in the course of the Eighteenth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting* (FSC.AIAM/25/08/Corr.1): Chairperson
- (g) *Permanent Council draft decision on the agenda and organizational modalities of the 2008 Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC)* (PC.DD/9/08): Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 16 April 2008, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/547

9 April 2008

Annex 1

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

541st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 547, Agenda item 1

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

A decision has been adopted in the United States of America regarding the possibility of providing Kosovo with military material and defence services. This is supposed to “strengthen the security of the United States and promote world peace”.

This decision gives rise to serious concern as it is in direct violation of binding decisions of the United Nations Security Council. We may recall that paragraph 15 of Security Council resolution 1244 calls for the demilitarization of “armed Kosovo Albanian groups”, while paragraph 9 (b) calls on the Kosovo Force (KFOR) to ensure this demilitarization. No one has revoked this decision. Moreover, in lifting the arms embargo on Serbia, United Nations Security Council resolution 1367 emphasized the continuing authority of the Secretary-General’s Special Representative as head of the international civil presence and of the Commander of KFOR “to restrict and strictly control the flow of arms into ... Kosovo, pursuant to resolution 1244”.

It is completely evident that the decision by the United States of America, adopted in spite of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, is detrimental to the authority and role of this principal body in the Kosovo settlement process and gives rise to further tension in this territory and in the region as a whole. It also runs counter to a number of OSCE norms set forth in the document on Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers. In this document, all OSCE participating States, including the United States of America, undertake to “avoid transfers that would be likely to be used for the violation or suppression of human rights and fundamental freedoms” and for the purpose of repression.

In considering proposed transfers of conventional arms, the OSCE participating States also undertake in this document to take into account the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the recipient country and also the need for the least diversion for armaments of human and economic resources. It is not excessive to point out in this context that the state of affairs in Kosovo, both in economic terms and with regard to respect for human rights and the rights of minorities, leaves a lot to be desired to put it mildly.

Finally, there is the question of the consequences that the decision adopted by the United States of America will have with respect to implementation of article IV of the

Dayton Agreements on Sub-Regional Arms Control. These consequences are hardly likely to be favourable.

In a wider sense, there is good reason to wonder about the aim of the decision adopted by the United States of America and the way in which it fits in with the declared mission by Washington of “promoting world peace”. Do Kosovo and its population really need the supply of arms today more than anything else? There are no external threats from beyond the administrative boundaries of this territory. The conclusion therefore suggests itself that any military supplies that might be provided could be used for internal repressive measures. This places an enormous political and moral responsibility on potential exporters.

We should therefore like to appeal to the United States of America to adhere strictly to the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and OSCE norms and to refrain from taking steps that could bring about an increase in tension in Kosovo.



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

FSC.JOUR/547

9 April 2008

Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

541st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 547, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Madam Chairperson,

The United Kingdom has some sympathy for the views expressed by the United States of America. As delegations will know, the United Kingdom recognizes Kosovo as an independent State. We firmly believe that UN Special Envoy Ahtisaari's Proposal, with its comprehensive safeguards for minority rights and provisions for extensive international supervision, represents the most viable way forward for a stable Kosovo and Balkan region. The establishment of an effective and well-disciplined security force is an integral element of the Ahtisaari Proposal.

The United Kingdom would be most grateful if this statement was attached to the journal of the meeting.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.