
Chairmanship: Serbia**862nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 20 September 2017

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 12.35 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 4.40 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Ninčić
Mr. M. Pančeski

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: “SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION – REGIONAL EFFORTS IN COMBATING THE ILLICIT TRADE OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE”

- *Presentation by Mr. A. Radomirović, Senior Police Advisor, Head of the Forensic Department, Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia*
- *Presentation by Mr. S. Bošković, South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC)*
- *Presentation by Mr. M. van der Meij, Analyst, Operations Department, Europol*

Chairperson, Mr. A. Radomirović (FSC.DEL/221/17 OSCE+), Mr. S. Bošković (FSC.DEL/222/17 OSCE+), Mr. M. van der Meij (FSC.DEL/223/17 OSCE+), Estonia-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; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/219/17),

United States of America, United Kingdom (Annex 1), Armenia, Russian Federation, FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325 (Italy), Slovakia, France (also on behalf of Germany) (Annex 2), Spain (Annex 3), Canada, Greece, Bulgaria

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Meeting of the Trilateral Peer Review on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) among Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, held in Dushanbe from 2 to 4 August 2017 (SEC.DEL/395/17 OSCE+):* Tajikistan
- (b) *Activities related to the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) in Mongolia:* Mongolia
- (c) *Situation in and around Ukraine:* Ukraine, Estonia-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 and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/220/17), United States of America, Canada, Russian Federation
- (d) *Military exercise in Azerbaijan, being conducted from 18 to 22 September 2017:* Armenia (Annex 4), Azerbaijan (FSC.DEL/224/17 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Financial contributions to the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM) and to the project on the safety and security upgrade of ammunition and weapons storage sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SAFE-UP):* France, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro
- (b) *Conference on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, to be held in Washington, D.C., on 30 and 31 October 2017:*
FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Montenegro)

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 27 September 2017, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



862nd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 868, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

The United Kingdom aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union. We would like to make a few additional remarks in our national capacity.

The United Kingdom remains fully committed to the fight against the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition and stands ready to work with partners in the region to tackle this challenge. We believe that international co-operation and assistance are vital in ensuring the effective implementation of international treaties, regimes and standards. We commend the efforts by the national authorities in the region, bilateral donors, the OSCE, SEESAC, the NATO Trust Fund, the UNDP and civil society actors, among others.

Stemming the flow of illicit weapons within the region and beyond is a multidimensional challenge that requires strategies and programmes that engage a range of actors to reduce the availability and misuse of weapons and tackle the underlying drivers of illicit demand. We welcome the research done in recent years that sheds light on the arms trafficking routes, including through monitoring the flows of ammunition, to identify sources, trafficking patterns and diversion points. The data available makes it clear that to achieve sustainable progress we cannot work in silos, but should take a holistic approach in our mitigation efforts. Here the OSCE has a role to play, as evidenced by this kind of dialogue, to build synergies between our efforts on stockpile management, law enforcement, manufacturing and export controls and to regulate civilian access.

The United Kingdom remains committed to working with partners to promote regional security and prevent controlled goods from falling into the wrong hands. We have provided bilateral assistance and supported multilateral efforts to promote regional co-operation and strengthen national capacities to implement international obligations under the UN Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument and the Arms Trade Treaty. Our bilateral funding is channelled through our Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF), which incorporates both defence spending and Overseas Development Assistance. We have also made contributions to the Arms Trade Treaty, NATO and OSCE trust funds and deployed technical experts to share our national experience.

We are grateful to the Serbian FSC Chairmanship for scheduling this discussion and look forward to the meeting next month to review the implementation of OSCE assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA. In addition to this, we would suggest that it is timely

that we review the implementation of the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW, to ensure that it adequately addresses new developments in the field of conventional arms control and drives collective action to achieve tangible results.

Thank you.



862nd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 868, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF GERMANY)**

I have the honour of speaking today on behalf of France and Germany.

On 12 July 2017, France and Germany submitted a draft Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) decision and a Best Practice Guide on Deactivation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) designed to encourage the OSCE to take action in this regard.

The OSCE has in fact already started working on the issue of the deactivation of SALW. In the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted in 2000, the participating States agreed that “the deactivation of small arms will be carried out only in such a way as to render all essential parts of the weapon permanently inoperable and therefore incapable of being removed, replaced or modified in a way that might permit the weapon to be reactivated.”

A study carried out by the Conflict Prevention Centre in September 2016 revealed a great diversity in SALW deactivation standards in the participating States. A seminar organized in March 2017 with the support of Germany on SALW deactivation controls enabled States to gain a better understanding of the stakes involved and current deactivation practices and to identify a common approach to meeting the challenges connected with the use of deactivated arms for criminal purposes.

The OSCE needs to continue and consolidate its work in response to the challenges connected with the use of reactivated or modified arms.

Madam Chairperson,

Following on from the activities and considerations since the beginning of the year, France and Germany would like now to submit the following proposal for a draft FSC decision and Best Practice Guide on Deactivation of SALW.

Although non-binding in nature, the Guide would help to establish a common understanding of the essential aspects of the permanent deactivation of SALW and could provide the basis for practical assistance by the OSCE in that area to interested participating States. It contains information on relevant international commitments and suggests

approaches and procedures for ensuring the irreversible deactivation of light weapons, including operational measures such as the adoption of adapted legislation, technical specifications for SALW deactivation standards, the designation of control authorities and marking and tracing measures.

Madam Chairperson,

At a time marked by terrorist attacks, organized crime and armed conflicts, the deactivation of SALW remains a security issue of prime importance. The series of attacks within OSCE participating States has shown the major role played by SALW in the terrorists' resources. The reports on the investigation of the attacks on 13 November 2015 in Paris confirmed the presence of supposedly deactivated arms in the arsenal of the jihadist commando.

The risks associated with the illicit conversion, modification or reactivation of SALW and the trafficking in these arms represent a serious threat to our common security. We are therefore convinced that definitive deactivation, backed by regular control of SALW, is a matter of priority. Our security forces should not have to deal any longer with arms that should normally be unusable or destroyed.

France and Germany therefore appeal to the participating States and the OSCE to consider the full import of this proposal. A common effort based on a shared will remains the only effective way of deactivating and efficiently controlling SALW. Our common security is at stake.

Thank you.



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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN

Madam Chairperson,

Spain fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union and would like to make some remarks in its national capacity.

First, I should like to thank the speakers this morning for their interesting and informative presentations and the Chairmanship for including this topic of such relevance on our agenda today.

Making progress on issues connected with the control of small arms and light weapons (SALW) is a priority for Spain. In this case, combating illicit trade in South-Eastern Europe is a commitment that we have assumed, as illustrated by our participation in different activities to assist with this effort. To cite a few examples:

- The financial contribution to Montenegro's Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM) aimed at the destruction of surplus SALW and conventional ammunition and the reconstruction of storage sites in order to reduce the risk of these objects landing on the black market;
- The recent participation by Spanish experts in a visit to Georgia to advise on the best way of going about the destruction of certain ammunition for the same purpose as above;
- At a more regulatory level, the proposal spearheaded by Spain and co-sponsored by France, Italy, Malta and Germany on the prevention of illicit trafficking in SALW and/or ammunition by sea and inland waterways, a first revised version of which was presented last week in Working Group A.

I will not repeat today what was said last week on this last proposal, but would like to highlight just one aspect, that of the consequences.

Regardless of the provenance of arms, be it by manufacture, reactivation or modification, or of the way in which they are transported to undesirable destinations, be it by land, sea or inland waterways or air – as you know, this Forum adopted Decision No. 11/08

on introducing best practices to prevent destabilizing transfers of small arms and light weapons through air transport – one thing is certain: we are all potential victims of arms that are not subject to adequate controls.

For this reason, Spain welcomed and supported the Franco-German proposal regarding the reactivation and illicit modification of SALW and also urges everyone to consider the best way of obstructing illicit trade, bearing in mind the negative consequences for the stability of the OSCE area.

Madam Chairperson,

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/868
20 September 2017
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

862nd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 868, Agenda item 2(d)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA

Madam Chairperson,

We would like to draw the attention of the Forum to the large-scale military exercise being conducted in Azerbaijan. According to the official website of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan, the exercises which started on 18 September and will last until 22 September involve up to 15,000 military personnel, more than 150 tanks and armoured vehicles, up to 120 missiles and artillery systems of different calibres, multiple-launch rocket systems and mortars and 20 combat aircraft for various purposes, as well as new types of electronic warfare assets and unmanned aerial vehicles.

In accordance with paragraph 40.1.1 of Chapter V (“Prior Notification of Certain Military Activities”) of the Vienna Document 2011, this military activity is subject to notification at least 42 days in advance, since the number of troops involved in the exercise exceeds the threshold by 6,000.

We would like to reiterate our concerns regarding the continued and systematic violation of the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011 by Azerbaijan. Given Azerbaijan’s previous record of rejecting our requests for clarification on its military exercises exceeding the relevant threshold, we call on other participating States to take a clear position on protecting the letter and spirit of the Vienna Document.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, I would like to ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

I thank you.