



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 811th FSC Plenary Meeting

(10 February 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)

(Agenda item 1)

Madam Chairperson,

Ukraine has aligned itself with the EU statement, which we fully support. In addition, let me also make some remarks in our national capacity.

The Delegation of Ukraine joins other delegations of the participating states in warmly welcoming today's speaker Mr. Mark Bromley, and thanks him for the valuable contribution to the FSC discussion on the "Arms transfers and arms transfer controls reporting instruments".

We would like to reiterate in this connection Ukraine's consistent support for strengthened implementation of OSCE commitments in the area of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) and conventional weapons, especially in view of the fact that the risks stemming from illicit large scale trafficking of conventional arms and ammunition have reached a new dimension, leading to tragic events such as those experienced in the Donbas region of Ukraine.

Since spring of 2014, the Delegation of Ukraine has been continuously drawing the attention of the participating States to the issue of illegal arms transfers from the Russian Federation into the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and to the pro-Russian illegal armed formations operating in Donbas. Such illegal international transfers of military goods, including the most sophisticated heavy weapons, from the Russian territory across the uncontrolled sections of the Ukrainian-Russian state border fully contradict the arms transfer controls reporting instruments of the OSCE.

In 2014-2015 Ukraine has provided OSCE participating States in this Forum with extensive evidence of the considerable Russian military presence in eastern Ukraine. Despite multiple requests by many

delegations here in the FSC as well as in the PC, Russia has failed to provide explanations for the presence in Donbas of Russian sophisticated military equipment, including tank T-72B3, the TOS-1 “Buratino” thermo baric rocket system and the “Zhytel” mobile jamming station which had been registered or retrieved in areas controlled by the pro-Russian illegal armed groups.

There is sufficient evidence that those illegal transfers are continuing, undermining de-escalation in Donbas and impeding the implementation of the very first provisions of the Minsk agreements on comprehensive and sustainable cease-fire and the withdrawal of weapons.

The evolution of the conflict in Donbas underlines the critical importance of firmly seeking that Russia restores its respect for international law and the OSCE fundamental principles and commitments it has violated, in particular, in the sphere of arms transfers and arms transfer controls.

This situation also highlights the need for dialogue on development of stringent arms transfer controls instruments which would contribute to strengthening mutual confidence and preventing crisis situation associated with «hybrid warfare». Given the importance of these issues for peace and security in Europe, Ukraine is interested in taking them forward in the FSC discussions.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.