

**Chairmanship: Sweden**

**898th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 7 November 2018

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Suspended: 1.05 p.m.

Resumed: 3.05 p.m.

Closed: 3.15 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador U. Funered

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

(a) *Briefing on the military exercise “Trident Juncture 18”, being conducted from 25 October to 7 November 2018:* Norway, Russian Federation, United States of America, France, Denmark, Canada, United Kingdom, Austria, Germany, Poland, Spain, Romania, Ireland

(b) *Situation in and around Ukraine:* Ukraine (FSC.DEL/220/18 OSCE+), Austria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/219/18), United States of America, Canada, Russian Federation, Lithuania

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Briefing on the military exercise “Century of Victors 1918–2018”, to be conducted in Serbia on 9 and 10 November 2018:* Serbia

(b) *Symposium on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, to be held in Berlin on 22 and 23 November 2018:* Germany

- (c) *Regional Workshop on the OSCE Best Practice Guide on the Deactivation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, held in Podgorica on 29 and 30 October 2018: Germany, Germany (on behalf of the FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary)) (Annex)*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 14 November 2018, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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**898th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 904, Agenda item 2(c)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY  
(ON BEHALF OF THE FSC CO-ORDINATOR FOR PROJECTS ON  
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF  
CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION (HUNGARY))**

I should like to inform you about the Regional Workshop on the OSCE Best Practice Guide on Deactivation of Small Arms and Light Weapons that took place in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 29 and 30 October 2018.

The objective of the workshop was to support OSCE participating States in the region in applying standards, approaches and procedures for the permanent deactivation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in order to combat the diversion and illicit transfer of SALW.

The workshop was designed to contribute to the efforts currently being undertaken in South-Eastern Europe to tackle the risks and challenges associated with reactivated, converted or otherwise illegally modified SALW. The workshop focused on the recently issued Best Practice Guide: Minimum Standards for National Procedures for the Deactivation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (2018), and on how to integrate the standards contained in this guide into national legislation and SALW control procedures.

Significantly, the workshop was the first event to be held in direct, practical support of the recently launched Franco-German joint initiative to promote adoption of the “Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024”. The workshop also sought to promote implementation of national action plans on illicit firearms trafficking and comprehensive SALW control. The workshop focused on two goals of the above-mentioned roadmap: to ensure that arms control legislation is fully harmonized with the international regulatory framework by 2023, and that the collection and legalization of SALW is carried out using deactivation procedures that comply with international standards.

The workshop was attended by a total of 50 participants from South-Eastern Europe (specifically from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia), including representatives of the ministries of the interior who are responsible for SALW-related norms and regulations, as well as technical experts on SALW control. Representatives from France, Germany, the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the OSCE field operations also contributed to the event.

During the two-day workshop the participants presented their national perspectives on SALW deactivation, and discussed possible loopholes and other challenges related to the existing SALW control mechanisms in the region. The outcomes of the event were as follows:

1. National legislation on the deactivation of weapons is in place in most of the countries in the region; however, these norms and regulations still need to be harmonized with international standards;
2. A number of States are exploring sustainable ways of strengthening SALW control, such as keeping records of deactivated weapons and improving traceability and supervision measures;
3. The region as a whole would benefit from the training of national inspectors and experts to carry out deactivation, monitoring and oversight duties.

At the conclusion of the workshop it was also underlined that the OSCE remains available to provide further practical assistance with harmonizing national legislation, with the training of experts, and with monitoring and evaluating the enforcement of SALW control measures.

I should like to extend my gratitude to the FSC Support Section within the Conflict Prevention Centre for its excellent organization and co-ordination of the event, as well as to the Government of Germany for the support provided.

I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the meeting.

Thank you.