

Chairmanship: Czech Republic**923rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 11 September 2019

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 11.45 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Šrámek

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

Agenda item 1: OPENING STATEMENT BY H.E. MR MARTIN POVEJŠIL,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR
SECURITY AND MULTILATERAL ISSUES OF THE
CZECH REPUBLIC

Chairperson, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Security and Multilateral Issues of the Czech Republic (FSC.DEL/174/19 OSCE+), Finland-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/173/19), Slovakia, Switzerland (FSC.DEL/172/19 OSCE+), United States of America, Canada, Russian Federation, Belarus, Armenia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Ukraine

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Matters of protocol:* FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325 (United Kingdom), Lithuania, Spain, Bulgaria, Romania

(b) *Questionnaire on the OSCE Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) Best Practice Guides and a*

meeting on reviewing and updating the OSCE Best Practice Guides on SALW and SCA, to be held in Vienna on 7 October 2019: Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Latvia)

- (c) *Military exercise “Albanian Effort 19”, being conducted in Albania from 9 to 17 September 2019: Serbia (Annex), Albania, United Kingdom, Germany, United States of America, Bulgaria*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 18 September 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/929
11 September 2019
Annex

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923rd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 929, Agenda item 3(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

On 13 August 2019, in accordance with the Vienna Document 2011, the Republic of Albania, through the OSCE Communications Network, gave notification of the exercise “Albanian Effort 19” lasting from 9 to 17 September, in the agreed format under message number CBM/AL/19/0013/F25/O. In the notification it was stated that in addition to members of the Albanian armed forces and those of other OSCE participating States, 40 members of the so-called “Kosovo Security Forces” would also take part.

We do not see any reason for members of the so-called “Kosovo Security Forces”, representatives of a self-proclaimed and non-recognized country which is not a UN Member State and is not and cannot be an OSCE participating State, to take part in a military exercise announced as having the purpose of “training and exercising in order to improve operational capabilities while conducting security operations in support of NATO-led missions mandated by the UN”.

We underline, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), that so-called “Kosovo” is not an independent State, nor does it have its own armed forces, a minister of defence or a ministry of defence. We would also like to recall that the OSCE was established as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

No OSCE participating State has the right to propose that so-called “Kosovo” be involved in the field of defence co-operation in the region or beyond, in any format, given that so-called “Kosovo” is not an independent State and has no armed forces. The so-called “Kosovo Security Forces” are responsible only for carrying out tasks in cases of natural disasters.

Participation of the uniformed personnel of the so-called “Kosovo Security Forces” in the exercise is a direct breach of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) on the part both of the organizer of the exercise and of the other OSCE participating States taking part. In so doing, they are giving support to and are engaged in the development and transformation of the so-called “Kosovo Security Forces” into so-called “armed forces”.

The Republic of Serbia strongly objects to the direct involvement of certain OSCE participating States in developing the capacities of the so-called “Kosovo Security Forces” and in their transformation into so-called “armed forces”.

The use of the official OSCE Communications Network to promote the so-called “Kosovo Security Forces” as armed forces is completely unacceptable.

Dear colleagues,

The Republic of Serbia is strongly opposed to the establishment of the so-called “Kosovo Armed Forces” and to the involvement of other States in that process. The participation of uniformed persons from the so-called “Kosovo Security Forces” in the exercise “Albanian Effort 19” is clearly an activity designed to support the transformation of the so-called “Kosovo Security Forces” into the so-called “Kosovo Armed Forces”. What valid reasons can there be for creating another army in the region? Against whom would such an army be directed? The creation of the so-called “Kosovo Armed Forces” would pose nothing but a threat to the region and its States.

United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) must be respected by all UN Member States, and all open issues should be addressed in the framework of the Belgrade–Priština dialogue that takes place under the auspices of the European Union.

The Kosovo Force (KFOR) is the only armed force in Kosovo and Metohija that is able and has the legitimacy, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), to uphold peace in and protect the citizens of this southern Serbian province.

Kosovo and Metohija is an Autonomous Province of the Republic of Serbia and is under the interim administration of the United Nations, subject to the legally binding UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

It is absolutely unacceptable to misuse the above-mentioned OSCE notification formats in such a manner as to affirm the illegal, unilaterally declared independence of so-called “Kosovo” while the valid UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) guarantees the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia.

In addition, we would like to recall that the OSCE has proclaimed its position of neutrality with respect to the status of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija. Compliance with and implementation of the Vienna Document 2011 must be in line with UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

I thank you for your attention and kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.