



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 820th FSC Plenary Meeting

(18 May 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)

(Agenda item 1)

Mr Chairman,

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

We join other delegations in warmly welcoming today's speakers: - Ambassador Benno Laggner, Head of the Security Policy Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland; - Ambassador Grzegorz Poznanski, Director of the Security Policy Department, Ministry Foreign Affairs of Poland, and thank them for the valuable contribution to the FSC discussion on the Conventional Arms Control (CAC) and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs).

CAC and CSBMs are important pillars of the European security and remain the cornerstone of the OSCE politico-military commitments. This security dialogue provides a useful opportunity for discussion on the ongoing challenges in relation to arms control and CSBMs and how to effectively respond to them. Both CAC and CSBMs are crucial for strengthening mutual confidence in the OSCE area.

Ukraine holds a firm view that Russia's illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and its military intervention in eastern Ukraine pose a serious challenge to the European and global security. Russia's selective approach to the implementation of CAC and CSBMs commitments undermines trust and confidence within the OSCE. It is necessary to restore full implementation of our obligations and commitments by all participating States and find common solutions together.

The Delegation of Ukraine would like to present you some thoughts and observations based on our experience related to the crisis in and around Ukraine. Over the last two years, to dispel security concerns over the unusual military activity of the Russian Federation, the Delegation of Ukraine sought to make full use of existing mechanisms of the OSCE

politico-military toolbox, in particular, those instruments, envisaged in the Vienna Document on CSBMs. The VD's CSBMs have been used in Ukraine extensively. In particular, it relates to the voluntary visits to dispel concerns and above-quota inspections hosted by Ukraine.

Regrettably, these steps have not been reciprocated by our neighbour. Russia has refused to provide substantive answers to requests for clarification under the VD's Risk Reduction provisions and has chosen to avoid transparency on the build-up of the Russian forces on the border with Ukraine.

These present challenges compel us to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the OSCE politico-military instruments, in particular with respect to compliance with and implementation of the VD. In our view, there is a need for effective and updated multilateral solutions to manage existing complex political and security problems and for modernizing our toolbox to address them.

Of an essential importance remain the verification mechanisms stipulated by the Open Skies Treaty. The current situation also shows the urgent need for the soonest recovery of the CFE regime.

The Delegation of Ukraine has repeatedly brought to the attention of the OSCE participating States the numerous evidence of illegal international transfers of military goods and equipment from the Russian Federation across the uncontrolled sections of the Ukrainian-Russian border to Russia-backed illegal armed formations in the east of Ukraine, which constitute a serious violation by the Russian Federation its numerous international obligations and commitments. The OSCE should aim to employ its toolbox to put a halt to these illegal transfers which undermine the efforts of peaceful resolution in Donbas.

The Delegation of Ukraine would like to underline its readiness to pursue both a pragmatic and forward looking approach in the process of modernizing the Vienna Document on CSBMs as well as other OSCE instruments, which would enhance military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.