

**Chairmanship: Belarus**

**1013th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 8 June 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 11.15 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Dapkiunas

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

*Current security situation in the OSCE area: Belarus (FSC.DEL/233/22 Restr.), France, Russian Federation (Annex) (FSC.DEL/232/22), France-European Union (FSC.DEL/228/22), United Kingdom (FSC.DEL/229/22 OSCE+), Canada, Switzerland (FSC.DEL/230/22 OSCE+)*

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Update on the work to determine the date, agenda, and modalities for the 11th Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: Chairperson (FSC.DEL/234/22 Restr.)*
- (b) *Report on the technical assessment visit on the request for assistance in enhancing the capacities of the national authorities of Azerbaijan to implement explosive hazards risk reduction and response action (FSC.GAL/57/22 Restr.): Armenia (FSC.DEL/235/22 OSCE+), Azerbaijan, Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 15 June 2022, at 10 a.m., in the Ratsaal and via video teleconference



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

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Annex

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**1013th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1019, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

In the course of eight years the United States of America and the NATO and European Union member countries have been training Ukrainian neo-Nazis and radical nationalists, equipping them with weapons and equipment, and fighting side by side with them against the Russian-speaking population of Donbas – and now also against the Russian Federation. We condemn in the strongest terms these actions, which are not only making the prospect of a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Ukraine more remote, but are also triggering a multiplication of threats to European and international security.

Just at the start of this year, we spoke at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) about how the OSCE was making a tangible contribution to global efforts to prevent illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition. However, it appears that the steps taken by participating States in that direction have been in vain. The OSCE area is today confronted with the all too real challenge of illegal trade in sensitive weapons systems – man-portable air defence systems, anti-tank missile systems, multiple-launch rocket systems and long-range air defence systems – which the “civilized” West is constantly shipping to Ukraine. Who knows, the States “west of Vienna” may well start reaping the fruits of their gross violations of the fundamental principles of export control and of responsible behaviour that pertain when considering the issue of arms transfers to conflict zones. Unfortunately, all the preconditions for that to happen are present.

First of all, at the end of February, the Ukrainian leadership took the decision to hand out, on a large scale, thousands of small arms and light weapons (SALW) to the civilian population, including criminals released from prison. In open sources it was possible to find shocking evidence of how US-made Javelin anti-tank missile systems were being stored in people’s homes. The consequences of these thoughtless decisions were destabilization of the domestic security situation, a surge in everyday violence and looting, and also ever new unnecessary casualties among the civilian population. According to data from the National Police of Ukraine, the number of crimes there involving the use of firearms has recently grown by almost 40 per cent.

This brings me to my second point. The tremendous volumes of Western SALW are inevitably trickling down to Ukrainian neo-Nazis and into the underground, and feeding into the black market for weapons in Europe. On the Dark Web there have already sprung up numerous large online shops trading in weapons that offer as part of their merchandise SALW provided to Ukraine by Western countries. Our colleagues can see on this slide how US-made Javelin anti-tank guided missiles are being advertised for sale at 30,000 dollars apiece. Moreover, now anyone who fancies doing so can purchase a US-made Barrett M82 sniper rifle or a German-made Panzerfaust 3 grenade launcher, with express delivery to one's home from Kyiv courtesy of the services of the international company DHL. But these are just small potatoes, as they say. According to the Secretary General of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Jürgen Stock, criminal groups are already "interested" in the military goods being supplied to the Ukrainian Government and they will eventually start distributing illegal weapons in Europe.<sup>1</sup> Will the governments of European countries pay heed to the position of INTERPOL?

Thirdly, Western military supplies to the Ukrainian Government have already begun to spread across the whole world. The other day, fighters from the "Sheikh Mansur Battalion", an illegal armed formation, boasted about the new weapons that they had managed to take out of Ukraine with, as they claim, the assistance of that country's military and political leadership. Reports are even coming in of a channel being set up for arms transfers from Ukraine to Syrian territory via Romania and Bulgaria. How could Javelin anti-tank guided missiles and Belgian-made SCAR-L rifles otherwise "pop up" among extremists in Idlib? We invite our Western colleagues to finally start reflecting on how they are turning into arms suppliers not for "the defence of Ukraine" but for the benefit of radical Islamists in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Western OSCE participating States' mantras about their military "assistance" to Ukraine being of a legitimate and defensive nature are not fit for anything but a "wishful thinking fest" among themselves. The reality is quite different.

The EU Common Position stipulates that when making decisions on arms transfers, the Member States of that integration association must take into account the risks of unauthorized re-export of the weapons and of their diversion to illicit circulation. Moreover, in accordance with international practice, transfers of most types of weapons always involve the submission of an end-user certificate by the country receiving the weapons. One of the key conditions for such a certificate to be issued is that it is not permitted to retransfer the weapons received without the exporting country's written consent. This provision is being violated by Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and other NATO countries led by the United States. The fact that the US Government takes a cavalier attitude towards its international obligations is clear from its plans to send Mi-17 helicopters to Ukraine which our country had previously transferred to the United States to be used exclusively in Afghanistan.

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1 <https://amp.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/02/ukraine-weapons-end-up-criminal-hands-says-interpol-chief-jurgen-stock>

The Arms Trade Treaty requires each State Party to assess the likelihood that the arms to be transferred could undermine peace and security. Together with the OSCE Document on SALW and the OSCE Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers, the Treaty prohibits authorization of the export of weapons if that would pose a clear risk of international humanitarian law being violated and is likely to exacerbate an armed conflict.

All of the aforementioned principles of responsible policy in the control of exports are being recklessly violated by the EU and NATO member countries that are actively “helping” Ukraine to kill Donbas civilians. I now propose that we take a short break and watch some video footage illustrating the “achievements” of Western diplomacy “thanks” to which Donbas civilians spent last weekend under a fierce cannonade by the Ukrainian armed forces’ artillery. On 6 June, a French-made Caesar self-propelled 122 mm artillery system was used in the shelling of residential areas of the city of Donetsk, as a result of which two people were injured. There have been reports pointing to the use of Norwegian-supplied M109A3 howitzers and British-made M777 155 mm artillery pieces. Fragments of 155 mm LU 211 high-explosive fragmentation shells have been discovered in places where there was firing activity: with such shells it is possible to fire at a distance of up to 40 km using guns that are in service in NATO countries. As a result of the targeted shelling of the city of Donetsk by Ukrainian nationalists, serious damage was inflicted on exclusively civilian infrastructure: schools, kindergartens, medical facilities and blocks of flats. During the past week alone, no fewer than 18 people have been killed in that city and over 80 civilians, including children, have been injured. It is impossible to understand the monstrous logic behind this shelling. Will we at least hear words of regret today about the casualties and destruction in Donbas from the delegations of the EU, France, Norway, the United Kingdom and Canada?

We are reliably informed that hundreds of officers from the CIA and the British intelligence services have been operating in Kyiv since 2014, if not earlier. Ukrainian military and political leaders also receive instructions from military officers on the other side of the Atlantic. According to CNN, the commander of the State Military Department in California, Major General David Baldwin, holds video calls about once a week with the most senior leaders of the Ukrainian armed forces: “[H]e exchanges text messages and has one-on-one phone calls about ‘the overall situation’.”<sup>2</sup> Baldwin himself openly talks about how members of the California National Guard, in particular pilots, are in daily contact with Ukrainian military personnel so that they can share with them ideas and “tips” about combat tactics. So will the US handlers of the Ukrainian Government perhaps finally instruct the latter to stop its genocide against the civilian population of Donbas, which has now been going on for eight years? Or is it just par for the course if residents of Donetsk and Luhansk and all those who have not sworn loyalty to the Nazi and neo-Nazi regime are killed? We expect the US delegation to provide detailed clarifications.

We stress that participating States rendering military-technical assistance in any form to the Ukrainian Government share full responsibility with the Ukrainian military and neo-Nazis for the casualties among the civilian population and for any further destruction in Donbas. They will most assuredly be held to account.

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2 <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/06/04/politics/national-guard-ukrainian-forces/index.html>

Mr. Chairperson,

The nationalist regime in Kyiv and its Anglo-Saxon handlers have not only the civilian population of the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) and the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) in their cross hairs, so to speak, but also that of the Russian Federation. It is pointless to discuss the promises by the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, that US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems will not be used to shell Russian territory. We do not believe those promises. All the more so since radio intercepts obtained by the Russian Ministry of Defence indicate that the Ukrainian Government plans to deploy such a rocket system from the United States in residential areas of the city of Shostka in the Sumy region and, when instructed by the Ukrainian Security Service, to open fire on border areas of our country. The goals are predictable, namely to provoke retaliatory fire from Russian troops, accuse them of indiscriminate attacks and annihilation of the Ukrainian civilian population, and then disseminate fresh anti-Russian fake news in the Western media.

In this regard, I should like to convey to my FSC colleagues the Russian Federation's official position as clearly as possible by quoting a pronouncement by President Putin: "If they [long-range missiles] start to be supplied, we shall draw our conclusions accordingly and employ our weapons, of which we have plenty, to strike at facilities that we have not been attacking so far." (From an interview of 5 June 2022 with the Rossiya 1 television channel.) This position is also confirmed by the Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, Dmitry Medvedev: "If, God forbid, these types of [Western] weapons were to be used against Russian territories, the armed forces of our country would have no choice but to strike at decision-making centres. This refers, in particular, to the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence and the General Staff. However, it has to be understood that the ultimate decision-making centres in this case are, unfortunately, not even located in Kyiv." (From an interview of 3 June 2022 with the Al Jazeera television channel.)

To sum up what has been said about the transfers of Western weapons and equipment to the Ukrainian Government, we firmly warn that any military supplies to Ukraine are ultimately not an act of war against Russia but are tantamount, rather, to holding Europe at gunpoint. We urge you to reflect on this.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation continues with its demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine according to plan. During the special military operation, 304 formations of combat troops have demonstrated their high level of combat capabilities and training. We are of course analysing how the enemy is acting and which weapons it is employing. We are looking for new, more effective means of conducting hostilities in a context where the Ukrainian neo-Nazis are using terrorist methods of armed confrontation.

Since the start of the special military operation, 190 airplanes, 129 helicopters, 1,139 unmanned aerial vehicles, 333 anti-aircraft missile systems, 3,443 tanks and other armoured combat vehicles, 478 multiple-launch rocket systems, 1,807 field artillery pieces and mortars, and 3,464 special operations tactical vehicles have been destroyed. Last week, T-72 tanks supplied by Eastern European countries and other armoured vehicles stationed inside the buildings of a railway-car repair plant on the outskirts of Kyiv were destroyed. Air-launched precision missiles were used to strike at an artillery training centre of the

Ukrainian armed forces near the settlement of Stetskivka in the Sumy region, where foreign instructors were training Ukrainian military personnel in the use of British-made M777 howitzers. The armed forces of the Russian Federation are also continuing to systematically eliminate foreign mercenaries, the numbers of which have recently shrunk by half, namely from 6,600 to 3,500. Incidentally, a few days ago the identification papers of a serving Polish colonel, Dariusz Majchrzak, were found in Sievierodonetsk. He may well be already briefing Bandera on the combat missions that he carried out.

With the Western countries' connivance, the Ukrainian armed forces and the Kyiv regime continue to commit war crimes, taking cover behind civilians as human shields, setting up firing positions in residential buildings and destroying religious sites. In Sviatohirsk (DPR), they used incendiary ammunition during their retreat to shell the wooden shrine of All Saints of the Russian Land on the territory of the Sviatohirsk Lavra. It would not be amiss to recall that on 22 May, during a service in the Resurrection Church in the city of Stryi in the Lviv region, radicals splattered a priest from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate) with green paint. In his daughter's view, this was done by nationalists who are "taking over church buildings".<sup>3</sup> For some reason, these and other facts concerning gross violations of the norms of international humanitarian law continue to be overlooked by the United Nations, the OSCE and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

To date, 17 localities in the LPR and the DPR have been liberated. Sviatohirsk has come under the control of the allied forces: the remnants of battalions of the 95th Air Assault Brigade and the 81st Separate Airmobile Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces that were there abandoned military equipment and weapons under the onslaught of Russian units. We regard the refusal by Ukrainian military personnel to defend the nationalist-led regime in Kyiv that no one has any need of not as cowardice but as the right thing to do. Over the past six days, more than 126 military personnel of the Ukrainian armed forces have surrendered; the total number now exceeds 6,400. We reiterate that all Ukrainian military personnel who voluntarily lay down their arms are guaranteed dignified treatment in line with the norms of international humanitarian law and can count on being able to return to their families.

At the same time, we note with indignation that the Ukrainian side continues to torture and abuse captive soldiers from Russia, the LPR and the DPR. We will disseminate a video report that reveals the details of how a detained militiaman from Mariupol was treated: marines from the 36th Brigade of the Ukrainian Navy slashed at him with a bayonet until he lost consciousness and then threw his body out on the street assuming him to be dead. It was a miracle that he survived. In this regard, it is outrageous that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has not once informed the Russian Federation about visits to Russian prisoners of war by its representatives. This comes on top of the fact that our observers are not being allowed to see these prisoners at all.

Many questions are also raised by the discovery, in the ICRC's abandoned office in Mariupol, of medical records indicating the healthy organs of children; instructions on chemical safety and how to deal with explosive hazards; maps of the area showing fatalities and non-fatal casualties; and incubators. We have taken note of the ICRC's press release on

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3 <https://news.church.ua/2022/05/22/u-m-strij-svyashhenika-lvivskoji-jeparxiji-upc-oblivi-zelenkoyu-pid-chas-liturgiji/>

this matter, but, in our view, this refutation by no means answers as yet all the questions that arose during the inspection of that organization's Mariupol office.

Meanwhile, Russia continues to do everything it can to ensure that the liberated territories of Ukraine, the DPR and the LPR can return to a calm and safe life as soon as possible. Mine clearance detachments of the armed forces of the Russian Federation are performing tasks related to clearing areas of mines and explosive hazards. The premises of the Azovstal plant, including its underground constructions, have been fully cleared of mines. The first cargo ships have docked at the demined seaport of Mariupol. All in all, almost 3,000 hectares of land, 35 buildings and around 10 km of roads have been checked. Some 14,000 explosive hazards have been detected and neutralized.

Mr. Chairperson,

Instead of a conclusion and by way of "early response" in anticipation of the statements by Western delegations, I should like today to cite some quotes by prominent US military commanders who are no longer in office. By an ironic twist of fate, most Western officials become insightful only once they have stepped down from public office.

In response to the hypocritical anti-Russian accusations by OSCE participating States regarding the perpetration of war crimes, I shall cite some remarks by James Mattis, who was US Secretary of Defense from 2017 to 2019: "[W]e look like vile hypocrites ... I remember the massacre in Son My (Vietnam, 1969), when our American soldiers killed in cold blood 504 civilians, including 210 children; many women were raped. This is a proven fact. But was Richard Nixon condemned as a war criminal?"

In response to the groundless insinuations that Russia has allegedly provoked a global food crisis, I shall cite Colonel Douglas Macgregor, former senior adviser to the US Secretary of Defense: "They [the presidential administration and the Department of Defense] don't want to admit that they were wrong, that they've run a tremendous disinformation campaign. They don't want to admit that they've brought the world, particularly Africa by the way, to the brink of famine because they've stopped the export of wheat. They don't want to talk about any of the things that really matter. They want to focus as much attention as possible on anything that promises to harm Russia. And in the final analysis, Russia is going to come out of this looking pretty good. Ukraine on the other hand is destroyed and is effectively a failed State."

And, finally, allow me to respond to the attempts by Western delegations to issue ultimatums to Russia by citing some remarks by Lieutenant General Stephen Twitty, who served as Deputy Commander of United States European Command from 2018 to 2020: "The longer the conflict continues, the weaker Kyiv's position will become in the next negotiations ... We are sorely lacking in the diplomatic component. If you notice, there is not even an attempt to agree on any negotiations, there is no diplomacy. And I don't think we can do that, given what Putin thinks of us."

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.