

Chairmanship: Ukraine

947th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 27 May 2020 (via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.

Suspended: 12.55 p.m.

Resumed: 3.05 p.m.

Closed: 6.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador Y. Tsymbaliuk

Point of order: Russian Federation, Chairperson

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson reminded the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) of the technical modalities for the conduct of meetings via video teleconferencing technology during the COVID-19 pandemic (FSC.GAL/37/20 OSCE+).

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE ON REGIONAL SECURITY: THE BLACK SEA AND THE SEA OF AZOV REGION

– *Presentation by Mr. J. Sherr, Senior Fellow of the Estonian Foreign Policy Institute at the International Centre for Defence and Security, and Associate Fellow of the Russia and Eurasia Programme at Chatham House*

– *Presentation by Mr. A. Korynevych, Permanent Representative of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea*

Chairperson, Mr. J. Sherr (FSC.DEL/115/20 OSCE+), Mr. A. Korynevych (FSC.DEL/108/20/Corr.1), Croatia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and

1 Includes corrections to the speaker list of agenda item 1.

Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 1), United States of America (Annex 2), Canada (FSC.DEL/110/20 OSCE+), Turkey, United Kingdom (Annex 3), Georgia (FSC.DEL/106/20 OSCE+), Bulgaria (Annex 4), Romania (Annex 5), Russian Federation (Annex 6), Croatia-European Union, Ukraine

Point of order: Russian Federation (Annex 7), Chairperson, Canada, United States of America

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND MODALITIES FOR THE NINTH ANNUAL DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY

Chairperson

Decision: The FSC adopted Decision No. 2/20 (FSC.DEC/2/20) on the agenda, timetable and modalities for the ninth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Point of order: Russian Federation, Chairperson

Agenda item 3: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Point of order: Russian Federation (Annex 8), Chairperson

- (a) *On the subject of Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea:* Ukraine (FSC.DEL/117/20) (FSC.DEL/117/20/Add.1), Chairperson, Croatia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/104/20/Rev.1), United States of America, Canada (FSC.DEL/109/20 OSCE+), United Kingdom (FSC.DEL/103/20 OSCE+)
- (b) *On the subject of the situation in and around Ukraine:* Russian Federation, Ukraine, United States of America, Canada
- (c) *On the subject of the violation by Azerbaijan of commitments undertaken under the Vienna Document:* Armenia (Annex 9) (FSC.DEL/107/20), Azerbaijan (Annex 10)
- (d) *On the subject of concerns regarding the work of the Ukrainian FSC Chairmanship:* Russian Federation (Annex 11), Chairperson, United States of America, Canada

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), to be held on 28 May 2020 via video conferencing: Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW and SCA (Latvia)*
- (b) *Request for assistance in the control of SALW and the management of SCA: Serbia (Annex 12), FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on SALW and SCA (Hungary)*
- (c) *Briefing on the military exercise “Etelä 20”, to be conducted in Finland from 1 to 4 June 2020: Finland*
- (d) *Letter by the Chairperson of the FSC on the draft Best Practice Guides on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (FSC.DEL/102/20 Restr.): FSC Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues (Belarus)*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 3 June 2020, at 10 a.m., via video teleconference



947th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 953, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The delegation of Croatia, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

The European Union and its Member States warmly welcome the speakers to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thank them for their thought-provoking presentations on challenges and opportunities in the context of regional co-operation in the Black Sea region. We commend the Ukrainian FSC Chairmanship for continuing the tradition of devoting our security dialogues to regional security issues. Given the current security environment, persisting conventional threats as well as negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, today's topic is especially timely and relevant.

Mr. Chairperson,

Today, we were again reminded of the multifaceted security environment we are all facing. Taking this into account, the European Union is determined to pursue a united and responsible external engagement in co-operation with our partners to advance our common values and interests, in line with the principles of the EU Global Strategy and the revised European Neighbourhood Policy. Our main priorities will remain the same: strengthening resilience of States and societies in the EU Neighbourhood, promoting and supporting co-operative regional arrangements, as well as reinforcing global governance and multilateralism based on international law, including the principles of the UN Charter, and the Helsinki Final Act.

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union remains deeply concerned about the situation in the wider Black Sea region, where protracted conflicts have challenged the core of the European security order. We reiterate that respect for international law, including the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, including freedom of navigation, remain a cornerstone of our approach to regional co-operation in the Black Sea region. We call on all participating States to uphold international law, democracy, human rights, co-operation, and each country's right to choose its future freely. Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea, which we do not and will not recognize, and its destabilizing actions in eastern Ukraine have negatively influenced the

security situation and the level of regional co-operation in the Black Sea region. The European Union remains steadfast in its support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova.

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union has been consistent in expressing its deep concern about the ongoing large-scale militarization of the Crimean peninsula by Russia, which impacts the security situation in the Black Sea region and beyond. We also condemn the construction of the Kerch bridge without the consent of Ukraine, and we call on Russia to ensure unhindered and free passage of all ships through the Kerch Strait, in accordance with international law. The illegal restrictions to such passage have negative economic consequences for Ukraine's ports in the Azov Sea and the whole region.

Despite the security challenges, the European Union is committed to proceed with regional co-operation in the Black Sea. This region is of strategic importance to all of us and presents opportunities for economic development and connectivity that should be harnessed for the prosperity, stability and resilience in the region and beyond. In this context the Black Sea Synergy Initiative remains the main policy framework for the European Union's actions regarding regional co-operation in the Black Sea. This initiative aims to focus political attention on the region and foster co-operation within the region, and between the region as a whole and the European Union. It is flexible and inclusive, sector-oriented and pragmatic, aiming at the participation of all States in the region. Its focus is on building confidence, fostering regional dialogue and delivering tangible results to the benefit of both the region and the European Union. We remain committed to co-operation and engagement with the main regional and international actors active in the region, such as the Black Sea Commission and Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization.

Mr. Chairperson,

Building trust and confidence through co-operation is at the heart of basic OSCE principles and commitments, including in the politico-military sphere. Full implementation of agreed confidence- and security-building measures in good faith, in letter and in spirit, is crucial for increasing predictability, military security and stability in the region. We call on all participating States to demonstrate maximum openness and transparency, and provide relevant information, also to ensure international observation of their significant military exercises. The Vienna Document plays a key role in this regard with its transparency measures aimed at enhancing trust and ensuring predictability. We reiterate our call on all participating States to implement it and constructively engage in the efforts to modernize it.

Finally, we once again thank the Chairmanship for providing us with the opportunity to exchange views on this interesting topic and request this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia¹ Montenegro^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}, Albania^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}, the European Free Trade Association countries

1 The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and San Marino align themselves with this statement.



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**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson and thank you to the distinguished speakers for their informed perspectives.

Today's topic, "Regional Security: The Black Sea and the Sea of Azov Region," is a welcome addition to the FSC agenda under the Ukrainian Chairmanship. Russia's ongoing militarization of the Crimean Peninsula and its interference with navigational rights and freedoms in the adjacent maritime areas, including in the Black Sea, the Kerch Strait, and the Sea of Azov, continues to threaten our common security.

The idea that in the twenty-first century one State could invoke "spheres of influence" to invade, occupy, and attempt to annex portions of another State is antithetical to the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity set forth in the Helsinki Final Act.

And yet twice already in this young century, one country has done just that – invade and occupy portions of territory of not one neighbouring State, but two. This amounted to the largest attempted land grab in Europe since the Second World War.

Russia's militarization of occupied Crimea and its military presence in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and the Black Sea region continues to this day. In November 2018, Russia launched an unjustified attack on Ukrainian naval vessels near the Kerch Strait. That attack reinforced a pattern of interference with commercial shipping destined for Ukrainian ports in the Sea of Azov and Russia's extensive militarization of the Black Sea region. Russia has also threatened Ukraine's Black Sea ports and restricted freedom of movement with strategically timed naval exercises.

It is not incidental that the United States and our allies and partners have expanded military activities in the Black Sea region in recent years, including military exercises. Our presence and commitment to the defence of our allies and support for our partners are important symbols of assurance and provide deterrence against potential adversaries. This security and defence co-operation is focused on improving allies and partners' ability to defend their territorial integrity and enhance interoperability. These modest activities do not pose a threat to any country.

For its part, Russia's malign actions in and near the Black Sea are most evident in the politico-military realm, but we must not forget that Russia has, in fact, undermined regional security across all three dimensions as we regularly highlight in the Permanent Council. I will not expand on issues beyond the mandate of this Forum, but note that in occupied Crimea, the Russian Government continues to conscript residents into Russia's armed forces. Compelling persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention to serve in the forces of a hostile power is a grave breach of that Convention. The United States calls upon Russia to end its campaign of repression against those who oppose its occupation, including Crimean Tatars, stop conscripting residents of occupied Crimea in violation of international humanitarian law, and return full control of the peninsula to Ukraine.

Allow me to reiterate the United States' unwavering support for the sovereignty, self-determination, and territorial integrity of both Ukraine and Georgia in the face of Russia's continued occupation of their territory. As a friend of Georgia, we recall the message in our December 2019 OSCE ministerial statement calling on Russia to fulfil its obligations under the 2008 ceasefire agreement including withdrawing forces to pre-conflict positions. We also call on Moscow to reverse its so-called recognition of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent States. We remain concerned by ongoing "borderization" activities, which destabilize the situation on the ground and severely impact the security, safety, well-being, and humanitarian conditions of people in conflict-affected areas; we call on Russia to cease such activities. We reiterate our deep concerns over the increased Russian military exercises in, and militarization of, Georgia's Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions.

Mr. Chairperson,

We also remain concerned by Russia's unsafe and unprofessional behaviour in other maritime theatres outside of the Black Sea, including an incident in April, when a Russian SU-35 in the Eastern Mediterranean conducted a high-speed, high-powered manoeuvre 25 feet directly in front of a US P-8, exposing the US aircraft to wake turbulence and jet exhaust. These actions were inconsistent with good airmanship standards, and they seriously jeopardized the safety of flight of both aircraft. Unfortunately, this was not an isolated occurrence. It fits a pattern of unnecessary and dangerous Russian behaviour.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. We request this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

I would like to thank the Ukrainian FSC Chairmanship for dedicating today's Security Dialogue to the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov region. I'd also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the distinguished speakers for their invaluable time and insights today.

Today's dialogue is very timely given the current security environment in the Black Sea region. The Black Sea region is of strategic importance to the United Kingdom, NATO, our partners and Russia. It is and has long been a major crossroads and critical intersection of east-west and south-north corridors. The Black Sea itself is an important artery for global maritime trade as well as a critical economic resource for countries in the region.

However, the sovereignty of nations and international law within the region are being consistently challenged. Following its illegal annexation of Crimea, Russia has significantly upgraded its military capability in the Black Sea, Sea of Azov, and on the Crimean peninsula, and with it, engaged in provocative military activity which both violates international law and threatens regional stability.

This was most vividly seen when Russia used military force against three Ukrainian naval vessels and their crew in the Kerch Strait and Black Sea in November 2018. This attack and seizure of the vessels was not in conformity with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The eventual release of the 24 detained servicemen on 7 September last year was long overdue, as was the return of the Ukrainian vessels almost exactly a year after they were seized.

The adoption of sanctions against those involved in the Black Sea attack are another example of the international community standing up to Russia as it persistently violates international law. We will continue to take necessary action together in response to Russia's efforts to destabilize Ukraine and Georgia.

Mr. Chairperson,

We strongly object to Russia's continued restriction of access to the Sea of Azov for Ukrainian and international shipping. We are concerned at the economic impact this is having on the region, and particularly Ukrainian ports in the Sea of Azov. In particular, the bridges

built over the Kerch Strait limit the size of vessels able to transit and were constructed without Ukraine's consent and in contravention of international law.

More widely, and as described by our distinguished speaker earlier, last year Russia held a month-long exercise which cut off over 25 per cent of the Black Sea and disrupted transit of shipping, without filing any requests to do so. This type of activity is having a significant economic impact on the region.

Mr. Chairperson,

Black Sea security is an issue that concerns us all and the United Kingdom's contribution to Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 is one way we provide a tangible demonstration of that commitment.

We have also demonstrated our commitment through participation in the exercise "Sea Breeze", the United States of America and Ukrainian-led multinational exercise in the Black Sea. It combined a variety of maritime assets from several nations, demonstrating the strength of solidarity between Ukraine and its international partners. Unlike the aforementioned Russian exercise in July 2019, exercises such as these are proportional in nature and comply with international law. However, they are often subject to aggressive Russian behaviour.

The security of the Black Sea region is of paramount importance to both the United Kingdom and the Alliance. We remain concerned about Russia's interference and aggression in the Black Sea region. Our increased support, with other NATO allies, to Ukraine and Georgia has sent a powerful and positive message to Black Sea States. By showing continued resolve and building capacity with allies and partners, including the Eastern Partnership, we are supporting their resilience and ability to defend themselves against aggression, as well as enabling us to learn from their experiences. This contributes to countering malign influences in the region and supports the security and prosperity of partner nations.

Accordingly, it is in our interest to support Ukraine in developing their maritime security capability. In that vein, in 2018 we announced the extension of our training mission, "Operation Orbital", to support the Ukrainian navy as well as land forces. We are working alongside the international community to maintain freedom of navigation in the Black Sea and help Ukraine and Georgia increase their interoperability with NATO.

The United Kingdom remains fully committed to maintaining the freedom of navigation and implementing the package of measures agreed by NATO foreign ministers in April 2019 to increase Black Sea security.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson, this concludes our statement and I request that it be attached to the journal of the day.



947th Plenary Meeting

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BULGARIA

Mr. Chairperson,
Dear colleagues,

I would like to extend our appreciation to the Ukrainian FSC Chairmanship for organizing today's Security Dialogue on this very important topic. I should also like to thank the distinguished speakers for their valuable contributions.

Bulgaria fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity being a representative to the OSCE of a Black Sea littoral State.

Mr. Chairperson,

I hope nobody is going to object that the security situation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov directly affects the wider European and Euro-Atlantic security. There are areas in the wider Black Sea region characterized by negative dynamics of the security environment and ongoing destabilizing processes. The major challenge remains the erosion of the commitment to the principles of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and respect for the internationally recognized borders. These principles have been breached against our Black Sea regional neighbours Ukraine and Georgia. They have our unwavering support for their sovereignty and territorial integrity within their internationally recognized borders.

I believe nobody is going to also object that as a follow-up the Black Sea region has become less stable and unpredictable. The illegal annexation and militarization of the Crimean peninsula and the asserting of a wider Russian zone of control in the Black Sea, the Kerch Strait and the Sea of Azov is influencing negatively the security in the region and beyond.

It is not a secret that the hovering over the Black Sea region security threats have thrown shadows on all established forms of regional naval security co-operation and confidence-building measures. Regardless of their potential, they have ceased to function properly.

However, the Black Sea region needs security-building measures. They should not be intended against the security interest of any State, nor should they affect in any way the freedom of navigation, economic or naval activities in the Black Sea in accordance with the international law. The suggested Vienna Document modernization can also be instrumental to this end.

It is also in this sense, along with the confined context of the six littoral States, that the Black Sea security is in clear need for wider European and Euro-Atlantic ownership. The strengthened NATO and EU commitment has been more than ever welcomed and appreciated.

Mr. Chairperson,

Not many people will remember that the logo of the Bulgarian BSEC Presidency in 2019 was “Black Sea – a Sea of Opportunities”. Was it possible at all to tap the potential of this regional organization to the benefit of its members? The lessons learned have justly confirmed the obvious need of a prior resolution of the security crisis. It may seem premature but be as it may, it should be followed by genuine reconciliation. Our experience with the EU policies and development instruments, Eastern Partnership, Black Sea Synergy, Western Balkans Stabilisation and Association Agreement, among others, proves the same. There are the keys to turn the opportunities of the region into tangible achievements.

Bulgaria remains fully committed to promote peace and security in the wider Black Sea region in accordance with the principles of international law and the OSCE principles. It is our conviction that this should serve to the benefit of a stable and democratic environment and long-term economic development.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.

Thank you for the attention.



947th Plenary Meeting
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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ROMANIA

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

While we fully align ourselves with the statement by the European Union, we should like to contribute to this discussion by making a few remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,

As many of the previous speakers have already pointed out, the large-scale militarization of the Crimean peninsula by Russia continues to have a negative impact on the security situation in the wider Black Sea region.

The COVID-19 pandemic has added a new vulnerability to the already long list of existing challenges.

In such circumstances, it is imperative to grant international organizations and humanitarian missions access to conflict zones.

The negative security context in recent years, caused by Russia's violation of international law, has had a direct impact also on implementation of the Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs) in the Naval Field in the Black Sea.

At the beginning of the year, Romania assumed the rotating chairmanship of the group of States signatories to the Document.

Even if the co-operation elements of the Document cannot function properly in the current security environment, the mechanisms for military transparency provided for therein continue to be highly relevant.

Romania has consistently promoted the enhancement of predictability and military transparency in the region. In that respect, the Document on CSBMs in the Naval Field in the Black Sea remains an important regional instrument.

We intend to fulfil our mandate in relation to the Document.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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



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

FSC.JOUR/953/Corr.1
27 May 2020
Annex 6

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

947th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 953, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The plenary meeting devoted to regional aspects of security in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov organized by the Ukrainian Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) has left a discouraging impression. The report by Mr. James Sherr, Senior Fellow of the Estonian Foreign Policy Institute, was an example of unprofessionalism and anti-Russian rhetoric, and the responsibility for this rests with you, Mr. Chairperson. As for the presentation by Mr. Anton Korynevych, we very much regret that in terms of form and content the material provided by him was not in keeping with his responsible position as a representative of the President of Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

At the opening of the current session of the Forum, we were surprised to note the Ukrainian Chairmanship's plans to hold a discussion on this topic from the perspective of "militarization" and various "impediments" to the freedom of navigation. As you will remember, the delegation of the Russian Federation expressed its disagreement in principle with such an approach, because it represents a departure from the agreed OSCE principles and the concept of co-operative security. We regret that the Ukrainian colleagues did not heed our words and instead of a unifying agenda opted for a narrowly nationalistic and opportunistic approach. That decision has predetermined the course of today's discussion.

We are obliged to point out that an unprecedented situation has been created under the Ukrainian Chairmanship. For the fourth Forum meeting in a row, the traditionally constructive Security Dialogue aimed at an exchange of positive experience is being replaced by aggressive politicized rhetoric. One has the impression that some participating States are forgetting that our autonomous OSCE decision-making body is called the Forum for Security Co-operation and not the forum for confrontation and mutual recriminations. In that connection, we once again express our concern at how the discussion of the politico-military aspects of security is going to unfold under the Ukrainian Chairmanship. We consider it inappropriate for the country chairing the Forum to attempt to exploit its position in order to undermine the consensus-based principles underpinning the work of the OSCE.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation attaches great importance to the consideration of regional aspects of security at the FSC and with that in mind we should like to present our assessments of the situation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

Maintaining peace and stability is the basis of Russia's foreign and naval policy in the region. The Black Sea region unites different States that are closely interlinked historically, economically and in terms of ensuring security. We firmly believe that maintaining and strengthening security in the Black Sea region is the prerogative of its littoral States, while strictly observing the 1936 Montreux Convention. This can be done only through collective efforts, by abandoning "zero-sum games" and the ready-made solutions imposed by players from outside the region. This is altogether possible.

The Black Sea's six littoral States have gained considerable experience in multilateral naval co-operation. The unique mechanisms of multilateral co-operation – the Black Sea Naval Cooperation Task Group (BLACKSEAFOR) and Operation Black Sea Harmony, both aimed at effectively addressing a number of important non-military tasks – have made an indisputable contribution to the development of military contacts and to confidence-building. We regret to note that no practical naval activities have been carried out for some time now within the framework of BLACKSEAFOR and express our readiness to resume full-scale co-operation.

The Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs) in the Naval Field in the Black Sea also remains an important element of co-operation among the six littoral States. We recall that almost three decades ago it was Ukraine that initiated its development. Since 2003, when the agreement entered into force, naval confidence-building exercises and visits to naval bases have been conducted, which representatives of the littoral States were invited to attend, and procedures for an information exchange on naval activities and fleet composition have been improved. Conferences on the planning of annual confidence-building exercises and of visits to naval bases, as provided for in the agreement, facilitated the development of contacts between the naval forces. The Document on CSBMs certainly fulfils its potential and makes an important contribution to confidence-building in the Black Sea region.

We firmly believe that the littoral countries have the necessary capabilities to ensure security and stability in the Black Sea independently, without any "paternalistic" interference from outside and relying on the existing mechanisms for co-operation. We take the position that players from outside the region need to respect the interests of the Black Sea States and refrain from actions that are detrimental to regional security.

Thanks to this set of mechanisms for naval co-operation, the Black Sea region has long been an area of peace and stability.

Mr. Chairperson,

In recent years, we have noted a significant deterioration in the security situation owing to at times provocative attempts by countries from outside the region to include the Black Sea in their activities. We are closely monitoring the activity of the North Atlantic

Alliance to build up its military presence, deploy additional forces and step up military exercises in the region. With this in mind, steps are being taken to bring the seaports of those littoral countries that are not members of this politico-military bloc (Batumi, Poti and Odessa) into line with NATO standards. Such a development cannot but cause us concern.

Let us provide some specific statistics. In 2019, 25 NATO warships conducted tours of duty in rotation in the waters of the Black Sea. They remained in these waters for a total duration of 100 days (compared with 120 days in 2018 and 80 days in 2017). A third of the NATO warships had cruise missiles on board. The intensity of aerial reconnaissance has increased significantly. This year, NATO aircraft have performed at least 100 reconnaissance flights along Russian territory. Since the autumn of last year, the Black Sea zone has been patrolled daily by strategic electronic reconnaissance aircraft and base patrol aircraft, as well as unmanned aerial vehicles.

United States and NATO forces have upgraded the Aegis Ashore missile defence system equipped with ground-based SM-3 interceptor missiles, and a regional air defence system, which will consist, among other things, of US Patriot surface-to-air missile systems, is in effect being established.

It is clear to us that NATO's actions, whether it is installing military infrastructure close to Russia's borders or increasing its activities in the Black Sea, lead to a rise in tension and require an appropriate response. In that context, we regard it as significant that on 19 October 2019 two B-52H strategic bombers of the US Air Force conducted a training flight over the Black Sea, and one of them carried out a simulated bombing of Crimea. This glaring example is the best testimony to the intentions of the NATO strategists.

In our view, all the aforementioned actions run counter to NATO's calls for dialogue and transparency, and are also likely to give rise to dangerous military incidents. Under these circumstances, there is a real need to develop a regional mechanism to prevent dangerous military activities and incidents in the air and at sea. At the same time, we note that our proposal to move exercises away from the Russia-NATO line of contact, notably in the Black Sea region, has been effectively ignored by the Alliance's leadership.

Mr. Chairperson,

There has been a lot of talk today about the situation in Crimea. Once again, we have heard unsubstantiated statements that are at variance with the facts. We recall that in 2014 in a free expression of will the multi-ethnic people of Crimea decided by an overwhelming majority in a referendum to unite with Russia, thus realizing the right to self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. In addition to the arguments that our delegation has repeatedly stated, I should like to point out that 80 per cent of the military personnel serving in units of the armed forces of Ukraine on the territory of the Crimean peninsula decided to stay in Crimea and joined the armed forces of the Russian Federation. Any discussion about the peninsula's reunification with Russia is pointless: the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol have been fully integrated into the Russian political, legal and economic space.

On 21 May, an informal Arria-formula meeting of members of the United Nations Security Council was held on the situation in Crimea. For the first time, representatives of

Crimea took part in the meeting and outlined the real state of affairs on the peninsula and the reasons why the inhabitants of Crimea decided to reunite with Russia after the anti-constitutional coup d'état in Kyiv in February 2014. Among the most acute problems that the people of Crimea had to face, they mentioned the Ukrainian Government turning off the water and electricity supply, as well as the denial of Schengen visas to the peninsula's residents. The United States, the United Kingdom, Estonia and Ukraine chose to ignore the event, thus showing the international community their real attitude towards the inhabitants of Crimea, whose fate they so often mention at the Forum.

We call on our partners to abandon their attempts to demonize Russia's military activities in the Black Sea. The Russian Black Sea Fleet has been based there for 200 years, including the period when Crimea was Ukrainian, and it is still there now. The Fleet consists not only of ships (surface vessels and submarines), but also the marines, coastal defence and a powerful airborne component. In that sense, the quality of our military presence in the Black Sea has not changed. Of course, we are modernizing our forces and capabilities, given the fact that the NATO infrastructure is being brought closer to our shores. But our reinforcement is totally appropriate and commensurate with the real needs as regards strengthening security.

As for the statements by certain delegations about the alleged "militarization" of Crimea, it is worth recalling that, in accordance with the Russian-Ukrainian agreement on the presence of the Black Sea Fleet, until 2014 Russia had the right to station up to 25,000 military personnel on the peninsula, although the real figures were significantly lower, namely 12,000. In total, together with the Ukrainian contingent on the peninsula, there were 27,000 military personnel deployed at the time, whereas now the number in Crimea is much lower.

The "concern" of some countries over the measures taken in accordance with the Russian Constitution to strengthen the country's defence capability, including conscription, is, to put it mildly, baffling. Obviously, the Republic of Crimea cannot differ from other Russian regions in this respect.

The politicized argument about the alleged "militarization" of the Black Sea prevents our Western partners from seeing Ukraine's increased activity in this region. In early May alone, the Ukrainian Navy conducted tactical manoeuvres in accordance with NATO standards, and the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine reported on the tests carried out in the Odessa region of the Typhoon-1 multiple-launch rocket system and the Vilkha-M and Neptune missile systems. And in doing so, the authorities in Kyiv make little secret of the fact that these weapons systems are intended to be used against Russia.

Ukraine's military activities in the Black Sea are also carried out with the direct support of countries from outside the region. In July last year, the United States began modernizing the Ukrainian naval bases at Ochakiv and Mykolaiv, and also supplied Island-class military patrol boats. This year, at least five multinational exercises are scheduled on the territory of Ukraine with the involvement of Alliance forces. This kind of military activity by Ukraine with direct external support is destabilizing the situation in the region.

No military exercises are conducted in the waters of the Sea of Azov, which are internal waters or part of the sovereign territory of Russia and Ukraine, nor do we have any naval bases there. The Russian facilities there are used exclusively to protect the Kerch Strait Bridge and ensure the safety of navigation. At the same time, Ukraine is closing some areas for gun practice, periodically mining the bottom of the Sea of Azov and building up its military capabilities along the coastline near Mariupol. In early May, a task force of ships and patrol boats conducted offensive operation exercises and firing exercises in the Sea of Azov. There are plans to establish a new naval base called Vostok (East) in Berdyansk. One might ask what is the aim of the military preparations in the Sea of Azov by Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

With regard to the so-called “Kerch” incident of 25 November 2018, our previous statements on this subject still apply. We take the position that this issue relates exclusively to bilateral relations, concerns only Russia and Ukraine, and is not a subject for discussion at the Forum. As we know, it was an attempt to cross the Russian border in violation of the widely known procedures.

Mr. Chairperson,

As the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Mr. Dmytro Kuleba, said at the opening of the current session of the FSC, one of the tasks of today’s meeting is to discuss the so-called “impediments to freedom of navigation” in the Kerch Strait. We are surprised at this question being raised. Western delegations, traditionally concerned about the situation in Crimea, seem not to be aware that the decision to build the Kerch Strait Bridge was taken by Russia with a view to solving the problems that have arisen as a result of the water, food, transport and energy blockade of Crimea imposed by the Ukrainian Government. Ukraine was officially notified about the start of the practical implementation of the project. Incidentally, Ukraine had earlier agreed that a bridge needed to be constructed and even concluded an intergovernmental agreement with Russia in 2013, but later reneged on this agreement for political reasons.

The dimensions of the Kerch-Yenikale Canal, its maritime navigation aids and depth have not changed in any way as a result of the construction of the bridge. It was designed in such a way that it would not create impediments to navigation. The maximum height of the spans above sea level is 35 metres, which allows the passage of the vast majority of vessels with a draught of up to eight metres. The two main Ukrainian ports on the Sea of Azov – Berdyansk and Mariupol – are in principle not designed to accommodate vessels with a greater draught.

Unfortunately, since the start of construction work, statements have been made, notably by the Ukrainian authorities, about the need to “destroy the Crimean bridge”. Attempts by Ukraine to commit acts of sabotage against this infrastructure facility as well as other vital infrastructure in Crimea have been recorded on numerous occasions. This has resulted in the introduction of additional security measures in the vicinity of the Kerch Strait.

Within its internal waters, any State has the right to take measures to prevent the violation of national border and customs laws, which provide for the inspection of vessels by

the competent services. Our inspections of vessels are fully in line with international maritime law. Ukraine has the same rights too.

Allegations that vessels are delayed in the vicinity of the Kerch Strait for “many hours” or even “many days” owing to inspections are far-fetched. The average duration of an inspection is 45 minutes.

In 2019, over 22,700 vessels passed through the Kerch Strait. The Ukrainian authorities hardly used the Kerch Strait, and only six ships under the flag of Ukraine passed through it. In the Sea of Azov 49 vessels were inspected. On average, only 10 per cent of the vessels passing through the canal were inspected each month.

This year, shipping traffic through the canal remains consistently high. Despite this, the number of vessel inspections has decreased significantly to 2 to 3 per cent. Vessels under flags of third countries are inspected in most cases. There have been no complaints to the Border Service of the Federal Security Service from ships’ captains or vessel owners following the inspections. No violations of Russian legislation have been detected and no arrests made.

The accusations levelled against Russia that it is carrying out a blockade of Ukrainian ports are unsubstantiated. Back in December 2018, the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine confirmed that there was no sea blockade by Russia of the ports of Mariupol and Berdyansk on the Azov coast. We cannot agree either with the opinion that it is vessel inspections in the Kerch Strait that “undermine” the operations of these ports. According to the Mariupol port authority, its economic performance was affected by the fact that after the start of hostilities in Donbas it was no longer able to use the main railway line (Yasynuvata-Mariupol) for freight delivery, and now the rail connection between Mariupol and other regions of Ukraine is by a different line (Zaporizhia-Komish Zorya-Volnovakha), which can only handle 25 trains in each direction per day.

With regard to the inter-State arbitration processes between Russia and Ukraine mentioned today by the Ukrainian representatives and in which the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov feature, we believe that it is inappropriate to politicize these legal proceedings and to discuss them at the OSCE. There are specialized international platforms for that purpose.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, we should like to recall that determining the focus of discussion of a topic is the task of the FSC Chairmanship, which should be helping to strengthen our Forum’s role as a platform for mutually respectful dialogue in the interests of all participating States without exception. We regret that such a dialogue has again not been possible today.

We have doubts about the ability of the Ukrainian Chairmanship to provide neutral and impartial guidance to the Forum for Security Co-operation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/953/Corr.1
27 May 2020
Annex 7

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

947th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 953, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We are obliged to interrupt the statements by the keynote speakers Mr. James Sherr and Mr. Anton Korynevych.

We urgently request that you call upon these keynote speakers to adhere strictly to the agreed agenda of today's plenary meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and to avoid confrontational anti-Russian rhetoric. We emphasize that responsibility for inviting these keynote speakers lies with the Ukrainian FSC Chairmanship.

We would remind you that statements by keynote speakers should contribute to finding compromises and to constructive and balanced discussion of Security Dialogue issues in the interests of all OSCE participating States without exception, rather than promoting questionable personal views and controversial confrontational messages.

We trust that in future the Ukrainian FSC Chairmanship will show more care and responsibility in choosing keynote speakers, guided by its task of strengthening the FSC's role as a platform for mutually respectful dialogue.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/953/Corr.1
27 May 2020
Annex 8

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

947th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 953, Agenda item 3

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of the Russian Federation voices a vigorous protest in connection with the intention by the Ukrainian Chairmanship announced by you today, 27 May 2020, at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) meeting to make a change to the FSC journal (Agenda item 3 “General statements”), in particular to the wording of the item discussed, replacing “Situation in and around Ukraine” by “Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea”.

In that connection, the delegation of the Russian Federation makes the following statement.

First, you did not consult with the delegations of the participating States in the Forum in that regard. At all events, the Russian delegation did not take part and did not agree to this substitution.

Second, the renaming you intend to carry out indisputably exceeds your authority as FSC Chairperson.

Third, we see this step on your part, if taken, as a departure from the agreed principles of OSCE co-operation and a gross violation of the fundamental principle of consensus.

Fourth, we believe that such a decision by the Chairperson of the Forum is not conducive to constructive dialogue in our decision-making body and risks deepening the split among delegations.

Mr. Chairperson,

We would draw your attention to the fact that the wording of the discussed issue “Situation in and around Ukraine” first appeared by agreement of all OSCE participating States in the journal of the 763rd plenary meeting of the FSC on 17 September 2014 and remained unchanged for almost six years until the Ukrainian Chairmanship of the Forum.

A change in the wording requires the agreement of all OSCE participating States. The Russian delegation officially gives notice to you that it cannot give such agreement.

We would remind you that the powers of the Chairperson of the FSC are comprehensively defined in the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and would strongly recommend that the Ukrainian Chairmanship stay strictly within their limits.

It should be particularly emphasized that you are proposing to replace one formulation with another in your capacity as Chairperson of the FSC. This fact demonstrates conclusively that you are trying to use your position as Chairperson of the Forum to promote non-consensus national priorities, which is unacceptable.

In view of this and a number of other facts, the Russian delegation expresses serious doubts about Ukraine's ability to provide neutral and impartial guidance to the Forum.

We call upon you to refrain from carrying out your intention to make changes in the journals of the plenary meetings of the Forum that could undermine the consensus-based approach underpinning the work of the OSCE.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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



947th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 953, Agenda item 3(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to draw the attention of the Forum for Security Co-operation to our delegation's note verbale of 21 May 2020, circulated under the reference number SEC.DEL/173/20, regarding the unnotified military exercises conducted in Azerbaijan from 18 to 22 May.

As we informed the participating States in that note verbale, drawing on official information published by the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan, the exercises involved up to 10,000 military personnel, up to 120 tanks and armoured vehicles, up to 200 missiles and artillery systems of various calibres, multiple-launch rocket systems and mortars, up to 30 military aircraft, and unmanned aerial vehicles used for various purposes.

In this regard, we would remind you that, in accordance with Chapter V ("Prior notification of certain military activities"), paragraph 40.1.1, of the Vienna Document 2011, notification of these exercises should have been given at least 42 days before the start date, since the number of troops involved exceeded the threshold of 9,000.

It is important to emphasize that the exercises were of a clearly offensive nature, since they simulated the use of high-precision weapons against targets along the whole depth of the operational formation of enemy troops. Moreover, it is doubly deplorable that such provocative actions should come at a time when the international community is struggling to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and most of the OSCE participating States have voluntarily agreed to postpone or cancel their military activities, including exercises and verification activities.

The aforementioned exercises testify to Azerbaijan's flagrant violation of its commitments, including those contained in the Vienna Document 2011. They are a clear example of military posturing, which is even more alarming if one also takes into account the almost constant bellicose rhetoric of the Azerbaijani authorities. These concerns are confirmed by the subversive infiltration attempt carried out by the armed forces of Azerbaijan on the line of contact between Artsakh and Azerbaijan on the last day of the exercises.

Such actions are clearly at odds with the joint statement issued on 21 April 2020 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the Co-Chairs of the OSCE

Minsk Group, in which the Co-Chairs underlined “the importance of observing the ceasefire strictly and refraining from provocative actions in the current environment” and called on the sides “to take measures to reduce tensions further”.

Armenia strongly urges the OSCE and its participating States, including the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship, to publicly condemn Azerbaijan’s constant violations of its commitments and to exhort that country to abandon its warmongering and honour its international obligations.

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

Thank you.



947th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 953, Agenda item 3(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

Mr. Chairperson,

With regard to the statement delivered by the delegation of Armenia on the military exercise recently held by Azerbaijan, we should like to stress the following.

The military exercise conducted by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan from 18 to 22 May 2020 involved up to 10,000 personnel, including both military personnel (drawn from various branches, formations and units of the armed forces) and civil servants. Both the land and air defence forces were represented, as were reserve forces, internal troops, civil defence units and border troops. The exercise did not fall under the category of military activities requiring prior notification in accordance with Chapter V, paragraph 40.1.1, of the Vienna Document, neither in terms of the composition of military personnel nor in terms of the amount of military equipment involved. Nonetheless, the Ministry of Defence announced the exercise in advance and issued regular updates on its various stages.

It is regrettable that the delegation of Armenia prefers to continue the practice of making baseless allegations – a practice that testifies to their country's one-sided, non-co-operative and irresponsible approach towards our shared commitments and obligations in the politico-military dimension.

It must be reiterated once again that Armenia has for decades been illegally deploying its armed forces, conducting illegal military exercises and engaging in illegal military build-up in the sovereign internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan, without the consent of the latter and in gross violation of fundamental OSCE principles and commitments, including those that underpin the Vienna Document.

The latest example of such egregious violations occurred from 28 to 30 April of this year, when Armenia yet again conducted an illegal military exercise in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. It is worth recalling that Armenia held two illegal military exercises in these territories last year too, namely, from 17 to 20 June and from 24 September to 5 October 2019. The delegation of Azerbaijan voiced its concerns about both of these exercises at meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) (see FSC.JOUR/924, annex; FSC.JOUR/932, annex 2).

Moreover, as communicated by a spokesperson of the Ministry of Defence of Armenia, Armenia launched a large-scale military exercise on 19 May 2020. No information was given on the number of personnel or the amount of military equipment involved. Neither this exercise was announced in advance pursuant to Chapter V, paragraph 40.1.1, of the Vienna Document.

During the Security Dialogue on COVID-19 held at the 945th plenary meeting of the FSC on 6 May 2020, the delegation of Azerbaijan, like those of many other participating States, reaffirmed that the risks and challenges posed by COVID-19 should in no way distract our attention from ongoing gross violations of the fundamental norms and principles of international law and the principles of the Helsinki Final Act. It is essential to ensure that no participating State exploits the current crisis to advance its political objectives and consolidate its occupation of the internationally recognized territories of other States.

However, that is precisely what Armenia is currently pursuing in a brazen manner through continuing its occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan and conducting various kinds of illegal activities in these territories, including activities of a politico-military nature. Furthermore, despite expressing its support for the appeal for a global ceasefire recently made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, Armenia has continued to violate the ceasefire and undertake subversive actions on the front line. Apparently, the actions of this country and its leadership speak louder than its words.

It goes without saying that, in such circumstances, Azerbaijan has every right to take all necessary measures to defend its territory and population. The exercise recently held by Azerbaijan must be viewed against the backdrop of Armenia's ongoing military aggression and its attempts to preserve the status quo of the occupation, for which purpose that country does not even hesitate to misuse the COVID-19 pandemic.

We urge Armenia to cease diverting the OSCE community's attention from its continued blatant violations of our shared principles and commitments and, instead, to reconsider its policy of occupation and comply with its obligations. This must start with the complete, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of its armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, as demanded by the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

We call on the OSCE and its participating States – in particular the OSCE Minsk Group and its Co-Chairs and the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship – to condemn Armenia's actions, which are further aggravating the current OSCE-wide crisis of security and confidence.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/953/Corr.1
27 May 2020
Annex 11

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

947th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 953, Agenda item 3(d)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of the Russian Federation is seriously concerned about the work of the Ukrainian Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and expresses its fundamental disagreement with the following steps taken by the Chairperson during the plenary meeting of the FSC on 27 May 2020.

First, the Chairperson ignored the Russian delegation's statement regarding the absence of consensus on the NATO liaison officer's participation in the FSC and allowed him to attend the meeting.

Second, in his introduction to the agenda item "Security Dialogue", the Chairperson allowed himself to use non-consensus, politicized language incompatible with the neutral status of the FSC Chairperson.

Third, the Chairperson chose as one of the keynote speakers Mr. James Sherr, whose statement was an example of an unprofessional attitude and of anti-Russian rhetoric. Responsibility for his invitation to the FSC lies completely with the Chairperson of the Forum. We draw the Chairperson's attention to the need to be more careful in the selection of keynote speakers, whose statements should contribute to finding compromises rather than promoting controversial confrontational messages.

Fourth, the Chairperson announced his intention to change the wording "Situation in and around Ukraine" in the journals, which has remained unchanged for six years, without having received agreement from all OSCE participating States. The delegation of the Russian Federation voices a vigorous protest in connection with this intention by the Ukrainian FSC Chairmanship and calls on it to refrain from carrying it out.

The Russian delegation considers any attempt by the country holding the FSC Chairmanship to use its position to undermine the consensus-based approach underpinning the work of the OSCE to be improper. We call on the Ukrainian FSC Chairmanship to adhere to the approaches to our Organization's work agreed by all participating States and to strictly follow the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

Being seriously concerned about the situation in the Forum, Russia is forced to carefully analyse the work of the Ukrainian FSC Chairmanship and to take the appropriate steps.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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



947th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 953, Agenda item 4(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

I wish to inform you that the Minister of the Interior and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, H.E. Mr. Nebojša Stefanović, has sent a letter to OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger, requesting the Organization's assistance for the Republic of Serbia in the fields of control of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and management of stockpiles of conventional ammunition.

In line with the SALW strategy of the Republic of Serbia and the accompanying action plan, H.E. Mr. Stefanović identified the following three areas of improvement in relation to the prevention and control of SALW in which the OSCE's practical assistance would be welcome:

- Establishment of the legislative framework for the deactivation of SALW and implementation of that framework;
- Capacity-building within the Serbian police by strengthening its capabilities to use sniffer dogs for the detection of weapons and explosives;
- Planning, designing and conducting awareness-raising campaigns on the dangers of SALW and on the enhancement of SALW control.

The Republic of Serbia is open to discussions with all interested participating States on each of the aforementioned areas.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.DEC/2/20
27 May 2020

Original: ENGLISH

947th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 953, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 2/20
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND MODALITIES FOR THE NINTH
ANNUAL DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY
ASPECTS OF SECURITY**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Recalling FSC Decision No. 12/11 on an annual discussion on the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security,

Recalling the importance of the Code of Conduct and taking into account the provision of paragraph 38 of the Code of Conduct stating that appropriate bodies, mechanisms and procedures will be used to assess, review and improve if necessary the implementation of the Code of Conduct,

Taking into account the deliberations of the Annual Discussions on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct held since 2012,

Decides to organize the ninth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct, which is to take place remotely via video conference on 10 June 2020, in accordance with the agenda and organizational modalities contained in the annex to this decision.

ANNUAL DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY

I. Agenda and indicative timetable

Wednesday, 10 June 2020

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 10–10.30 a.m. | Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Opening and introduction by the FSC Chairperson– Remarks by the OSCE Secretariat representative– General statements |
| 10.30 a.m.–1 p.m. | Working session 1: Sharing of views on the implementation of the Code of Conduct in the context of the existing political and military situation <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Introduction by session moderator– Keynote speakers– Discussion– Moderator’s closing remarks |
| 3–5 p.m. | Working session 2: Evaluation discussion on the implementation and effectiveness of the Code of Conduct including the 2020 annual exchange of information pursuant to the Questionnaire <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Introduction by session moderator– Keynote speaker– Discussion– Moderator’s closing remarks |
| 5–5.15 p.m. | Closing session <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Discussion– Concluding remarks– Closure |

II. Organizational modalities

Background

In FSC Decision No. 12/11 it was decided, *inter alia*, to “regularize a focused discussion on implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security by devoting an annual special one-day meeting to the Code of Conduct” and to “invite, as appropriate, representatives of think tanks of international standing and security-related scientific institutes to a morning session of this meeting to share views on implementation, while the following evaluation discussion of the afternoon session of the meeting is to be restricted to participating States.”

The ninth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct will therefore provide opportunities to discuss how to promote and improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct, including its annual information exchange, and to undertake an evaluation discussion and examine the application of the Code of Conduct in the context of the existing political and military situation.

Organization

The Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct will take place remotely via video conference on 10 June 2020.

The OSCE Rules of Procedure and standard working methods will be followed, *mutatis mutandis*, at the annual discussion on the implementation of the Code of Conduct. Participants are strongly encouraged to read the procedural and technical guidelines for remote meetings (SEC.GAL/45/20) and the addendum on naming conventions (SEC.GAL/45/20/Add.1/Rev.1).

A representative of the FSC Chairmanship (Ukraine) will chair the opening and closing sessions. Each session will have a moderator and a rapporteur.

Simultaneous interpretation between all six working languages of the OSCE will be provided at all sessions.

The FSC Chair will provide a report on the Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct within one month, including a survey of suggestions and recommendations made during the meeting.

Participation

The participating States are encouraged to ensure that they are represented at policy and expert level at the Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct.

The OSCE Secretariat, the ODIHR, field operations, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the OSCE Partners for Co-operation are invited to participate in the Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct.

Only the morning session will be open for the invited representatives of think tanks of international standing and security-related scientific institutes.

General guidelines for participants

In accordance with FSC Decision No. 12/11, a report on the implementation of the Code of Conduct prepared by the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE Secretariat will be made available to participating States not later than 3 June 2020.

The Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct will be conducted in two sessions.

The working sessions will concentrate on major topics, which will be introduced by keynote speakers. The introductions shall be followed by discussions of any number of relevant subtopics that delegates may wish to raise. The aim is an interactive and free-flowing discussion.

All written statements have to be submitted one day prior to the virtual meeting date to facilitate their interpretation under remote conditions. Speakers are requested to speak slowly. Delegations could also be encouraged to take the floor just to announce the circulation of their statements via Documents Distribution.

Delegations are welcome to distribute written contributions in advance of the meeting, both on agenda items and on related matters for possible discussion, by 3 June 2020. In order to ensure the most productive discussion when the participating States are considering suggestions made during the meeting, the recommended approach is for delegations to bring forward suggestions or topics of interest by means of food-for-thought papers. Discussions on initial papers could lead to further work in the FSC.

Guidelines for keynote speakers

The introductions given by the keynote speakers should set the scene for the discussion in the sessions and stimulate debate among delegations by raising appropriate questions and suggesting potential recommendations based on OSCE realities. The keynote speakers' contributions should set the stage for substantive, focused and interactive discussions. The available speaking time is approximately 15 minutes per keynote speaker.

Keynote speakers should be present during the entire session they are speaking at and be ready to engage in the debate following their presentation.

Guidelines for moderators and rapporteurs

The moderator chairs the session and should facilitate and focus the dialogue among delegations. The moderator should stimulate the debate by introducing items related to the subject of the opening and working session, as appropriate, in order to broaden or focus the scope of the discussion.

The rapporteurs' reports should deal with issues raised during the respective sessions; they should cover lessons learned, best practices, challenges, improvements, and suggestions made at the session, and any other relevant information.

Personal views shall not be advanced.