

**Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting**  
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 7/11  
ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE FORUM FOR SECURITY  
CO-OPERATION**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling Decision V of the CSCE Helsinki Document 1992, which established the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), and reaffirming that the participating States will ensure that the efforts they make in the Forum to advance arms control, disarmament, confidence- and security-building, security co-operation and conflict prevention are coherent, interrelated and complementary,

Recalling Bucharest Ministerial Council Decision No. 3 of 2001 on fostering the role of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue, which, *inter alia*, enjoined the FSC to be more closely connected with the overall OSCE work on current security issues,

Desirous of further building upon the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, adopted in 2003 by the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council,

Recalling the Astana Commemorative Declaration (2010), which acknowledges the Organization's significant role in establishing effective confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), reaffirms the commitment of the participating States to their full implementation and determination to ensure that they continue to make a substantial contribution to common and indivisible security, and states that conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes remain major instruments for ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency, and should be revitalized, updated and modernized,

Welcoming intensified negotiations to update and modernize the Vienna Document and the decision to reissue the Vienna Document, adopted at the special FSC meeting in 2011,

Taking note of Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/11 adopted in Vilnius in 2011 on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition,

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1 Incorporates corrections to the attachment to the decision.

Also determined to continue promoting and enhancing the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, including through an annual implementation discussion,

Welcoming the initiative to update the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994 and the OSCE contribution to facilitating the implementation in the OSCE area of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in close co-ordination with the United Nations' 1540 Committee to complement its efforts.

1. Welcomes and takes note, within the Forum for Security Co-operation:
  - The Vienna Document 2011, which has been issued under the “Vienna Document Plus” procedure, as well as ongoing negotiations on further adaptation of the Vienna Document;
  - The FSC decisions adopted in 2011 on the Vienna Document, on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, and on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition;
  - The progress report on Efforts in the Field of Arms Control Agreements and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Accordance with its Mandate as submitted to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council pursuant to Decision No. 16/09 adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;
  - The progress report on Efforts to Further Improve the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security as submitted to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council pursuant to Decision No. 16/09 adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;
  - The progress report on the Efforts to Support Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in the OSCE region as submitted to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council pursuant to Decision No. 16/09, adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;
  - The focused discussions in the Security Dialogue in 2011 on topical security issues. Noting that these discussions and exchange of views were on armed conflict of August 2008; the Dayton Peace Accords; the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the private military and security companies; the defence system reform in Serbia; the human rights and crisis management; the Montenegro demilitarization project; the OSCE melange project in Ukraine; the OSCE-UNDP capacity-building project in Belarus; the Central Asian programme for regional co-operation on mine action; perspectives for a new European security system; the general status of the Ottawa Convention; the modified UN reporting instrument on military expenditures; promoting co-operative security by NATO; NATO's role in security and stability in the Mediterranean area; and the security agenda of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the OSCE context;
  - The special FSC meetings on the Vienna Document 1999, CSBMs and conventional arms control, and on SALW brokering and export controls;

- The joint FSC-PC meeting on non-proliferation and the joint FSC-PC meetings with the participation of the United States Department of Homeland Security and the United Nations Office at Geneva;
  - The OSCE High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine conducted in 2011, which examined changes in military doctrine deriving from evolving threats, changing forms of conflict and the emergence of new technologies;
  - The OSCE Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, which provided a comprehensive platform for exchanging views on the policy issues, implementation practices and need for further dialogue, co-operation and assistance;
2. Tasks the Forum for Security Co-operation, in accordance with its mandate, in 2012, to:
- Further promote the discussion in the Security Dialogue on current security issues;
  - Give further impetus to negotiations on updating and modernizing the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures with the aim of increasing military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States;
  - Intensify the discussion on the annual information exchange on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and examine its application in the context of existing political and military situation, in particular through a focused review during the first annual discussion on its implementation;
  - Explore ways to update the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994;
  - Support the ongoing activities in assisting in the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 by, *inter alia*, maintaining the information sharing on national progress and lessons learned in this regard;
  - Examine ways that it can assist in the implementation in the OSCE region of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions on the issue of gender and security;
  - Submit, through its Chairperson, progress reports to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2012 on its work. These reports should include efforts to improve further the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, efforts in the field of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures, efforts to support non-proliferation and implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 in the OSCE region, and efforts in other areas, as appropriate.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Germany (also on behalf of Albania, the United States of America, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, the Czech Republic and Ukraine):

“On behalf of Albania, the United States of America, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Czech Republic, and Ukraine, Germany would like to make the following interpretative statement under Paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure. The statement is made with respect to the Ministerial Council Decision on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation, adopted by this 18th Ministerial Council of the OSCE.

We would, first of all, like to express our grateful thanks to the Lithuanian Chairmanship-in-Office, and the Kazakh FSC Chairmanship for their tireless efforts to bring the work of this Ministerial Council to a successful conclusion. We fully support the consensus that led to the adoption of this Decision, and the taskings that Ministers have endorsed in it. However, it is our view that the Decision falls short of what is necessary in terms of direction to the Forum for Security Co-operation.

In MC.DEC/16/09 the Forum was tasked with strengthening the Vienna Document. This decision led to a plethora of proposals being put forward by participating States to amend the text of the Vienna Document. A few decisions were taken – and these have been incorporated into Vienna Document 2011 adopted by the Forum on 30 November 2011. The technical and procedural nature of those proposals incorporated into VD2011, in contrast to the strategic update of the Vienna Document on Confidence and Security-Building Measures that we believed was required, is clearly less ambitious than we expected. We had hoped that at this Ministerial Council we would be able to find an agreement in the Forum to take a more strategic and forward-leaning attitude to the continuing work on Vienna Document.

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1 Incorporates corrections to the text.

We find ourselves in a position where even the subject of the documents under discussion in the Forum cannot be mentioned in today's Decision. We believe that the FSC should aim for concrete results in areas such as lowering the thresholds at which we are obliged to inform other participating States of our military exercises, increasing opportunities for verification activity, expanding the range of military activities on which we notify our partners, modernising and updating our exchange of military information, informing our partners of at least one below threshold military exercise every year, strengthening our risk reduction mechanisms as well as exploring ways in which we can enlarge the scope of CSBMs. We should do this with full regard to resource restraints and with the further aim of improving our overall level of implementation.

We had hoped for strategic direction that could lead to successful work on Vienna Document, to bring it into line with the realities of the political and military situation that pertains in Europe and across the OSCE space. These hopes remain unfulfilled.

We would like to register our concern at a time when arms control and CSBMs in Europe are under strain as never before, that we are unable to look up from our national agendas to engage on work that would benefit us all. We believe that with resolute commitment and focus this aim can be achieved soon and significant work completed to modernise the Vienna Document, so that it can make its proper contribution to peace and security for all participating States.

I ask for this interpretative statement to be duly registered by the Secretariat.

Other participating States are invited to adhere to this interpretative statement.”