



**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT
TO THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING
OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

**EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS
AND CONFIDENCE –AND –SECURITY – BUILDING MEASURES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS MANDATE**



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1. Introduction and objective

This report is submitted in accordance with Decision No. 13/08 of Sixteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Helsinki, on Issues Relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation. It provides an overview of efforts made in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) in the field of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), in accordance with its mandate, during the period from December 2008 until November 2009.¹

It also addresses the information exchanged in the FSC between participating States on the implementation of agreed CSBMs, normative initiatives and developments in the Forum, and other related activities carried out in the Organization. The report reflects the discussions and decisions adopted in the Forum. Detailed information on implementation may be found in the *Conflict Prevention Centre Summary Report on Recent Trends in the Implementation of the Vienna Document 1999 and Other Measures Addressed during the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting*².

2. Overview of arms control and CSBM implementation in 2009

During 2009, the OSCE participating States continued to implement their joint commitments under the Vienna Document 1999 (VD99)³. The OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) maintains records of exchanges of information that take place

as part of these commitments. They are regularly reflected in the *CPC Monthly Reports* and *CPC Quarterly and Annual Surveys on CSBM Information Exchanged*. In addition, the CPC produces annual summary report that reflects trends in the implementation of CSBMs.

The level of CSBM implementation in the OSCE region is relatively stable and high. Measured by the number of submissions under various information exchanges, such as the Annual Exchange of Military Information (AEMI) and the Global Exchange of Military Information (GEMI), the level of implementation has remained steady during the past six years.

As in 2008, 55 participating States provided information under the AEMI and 54 participating States submitted their reply under the GEMI in 2009. By 6 November 2009, 44 participating States had provided information on their defence planning in comparison with 47 submissions in 2007 and 41 submissions in 2008.

2009 was also an active year regarding inspections under the Vienna Document 1999. In the previous year a record of 109 inspections were conducted and by 6 November 2009 the number of conducted inspections was 102. By the same time, 65 evaluation visits were conducted (in 2008:75).

In 2009, 51 participating States were connected to the Communications Network. The reliability of the Network remained very high with the servers in Vienna available over 99.9% of the time. In addition, over half (32) of the end-user stations were connected to the network at least 99% of the time. The custom OSCE software packages used to process notifications and to prepare annual information exchanges were also upgraded and provided to participating States.

¹ The deadline for submitting input for this report was 6 November 2009

² FSC.GAL/17/09, 13 February 2009.

³ *Vienna Document 1999 of the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures*, adopted at the 269th Plenary Meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation in Istanbul on 16 November 1999, FSC.DOC/1/99.

3. Efforts by the FSC since the Helsinki Ministerial Council Meeting

During 2009, a number of proposals were made regarding the improvement of implementation of the VD99 provisions. 1 of these have so far resulted in a new FSC decision to adopt a Best Practice Guide on Implementation of Vienna Document Chapter IV Contacts.

The nineteenth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) was held on 3-4 March 2009. As in previous years, the meeting witnessed open and constructive discussions, exchanges of experience and a number of food-for-thought papers presented by delegations to strengthen the OSCE's CSBM regime.

Unlike in previous years, the 2009 meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres was not held as an adjunct to the AIAM. In line with the FSC Decision 4/09 it will be held on 14 December 2009 and its conclusions will be presented to the 2010 AIAM. The objective of separating the two meetings was to allow the issues raised at the HoVC meeting to be better developed in advance of the AIAM, with a view to more concrete proposals resulting.

The seventh OSCE Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), held on 23-24 June, was organised against the backdrop of the wider discussion on the future of European security. Regarding the politico-military field, it was noted that arms control, disarmament and confidence building constituted the key to an integrated security policy in the Euro-Atlantic area. Many delegations highlighted the crucial role of the CFE regime, the Open Skies Treaty and the Vienna Document 1999, but at same time called for their more effective implementation.

In October the FSC took a decision to adopt a Best Practice Guide on Vienna Document, Chapter IV Contacts. This document should provide invaluable assistance in planning the large and complex visits to airbases and military facilities the participating States are required to organise once every five years.

In addition, a number of specific proposals and initiatives were discussed in FSC working groups and plenary meetings between December 2008 and November 2009, including:

- A proposal for a draft FSC decision on a single deadline for submission of information on defence planning, FSC.DEL/494/07/Rev.4/Corr1;
- A proposal for a draft decision on guidelines for briefings by military representatives during evaluations and inspections under the provisions of the Vienna Document 1999, FSC.DD/5/09;
- A proposal for a draft decision on possible FSC action toward improving the application of Vienna Document 1999 compliance and verification measures by extending usage of digital cameras, FSC.DEL/124/09/Rev1;
- A proposal for a draft decision on confidence- and security-building measures in the naval area, FSC.DEL/120/08/Rev.2.

In conclusion, 2009 has seen further development of CSBMs in the Forum and steps taken to improve implementation of existing CSBM commitments. Not all proposals have been successful, but active engagement by participating States in producing new ideas and proposals usefully continue.