

191st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 197, Agenda item 5

DECISION No. 13/97

The Forum for Security Co-operation,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/36 L on Transparency in Armaments, by which Member States were invited, *inter alia*, “to take measures on a national, regional and global basis, including within the appropriate forums, to promote openness and transparency in armaments”,

Reaffirming the commitment of OSCE participating States to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, to which all participating States should submit returns,

Taking into account paragraphs 8 and 11 of its Decision No. 14/95 (FSC.DEC/14/95) of 19 July 1995 on follow-up to the Seminar on Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers as well as paragraphs 3 and 4 of its decision of 24 February 1993 on Conventional Arms Transfers,

Decides that:

1. Beginning in 1998, the participating States will exchange information within the FSC, on an annual basis and not later than 15 May each year, on their transfers of weapon and equipment systems for the previous calendar year in the categories and formats set out in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms as annexed.
2. The information exchanged will also be provided to the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC). The CPC will introduce this information in its periodical reviews and surveys.
3. This information exchange will be reviewed at special meetings of Working Group A of the FSC, to be held annually soon after the deadline set in paragraph 1.

This decision supersedes paragraph 11 of FSC Decision No. 14/95 and paragraph 4 of the FSC decision of 24 February 1993.

This decision enters into force on 16 July 1997 and will be annexed to the Document on Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers.

Categories of weapon and equipment systems subject to information exchange
on conventional arms transfers

1. Battle Tanks

Tracked or wheeled self-propelled armoured fighting vehicles with high cross-country mobility and a high level of self-protection, weighing at least 16.5 metric tonnes unladen weight, with a high muzzle velocity direct fire main gun of at least 75 millimetres calibre.

2. Armoured Combat Vehicles

Tracked, semi-tracked or wheeled self-propelled vehicles, with armoured protection and cross-country capability, either: (a) designed and equipped to transport a squad of four or more infantrymen, or (b) armed with an integral or organic weapon of at least 12.5 millimetres calibre or a missile launcher.

3. Artillery Systems

Guns, howitzers, artillery pieces, combining the characteristics of a gun or a howitzer, mortars or multiple-launch rocket systems, capable of engaging surface targets by delivering primarily indirect fire, with a calibre of 100 millimetres and above.

4. Combat Aircraft

Fixed-wing or variable-geometry wing aircraft designed, equipped or modified to engage targets by employing guided missiles, unguided rockets, bombs, guns, cannons, or other weapons of destruction, including versions of these aircraft which perform specialized electronic warfare, suppression of air defence or reconnaissance missions. The term "combat aircraft" does not include primary training aircraft, unless designed, equipped or modified as described above.

5. Attack Helicopters

Rotary-wing aircraft designed, equipped or modified to engage targets by employing guided or unguided anti-armour, air-to-surface, air-to-subsurface, or air-to-air weapons and equipped with an integrated fire-control and aiming system for these weapons, including versions of these aircraft which perform specialized reconnaissance or electronic warfare missions.

6. Warships

Vessels or submarines armed and equipped for military use with a standard displacement of 750 metric tonnes or above, and those with a standard displacement of less than 750 metric tonnes, equipped for launching missiles with a range of at least 25 kilometres or torpedoes with similar range.

7. Missiles and missile launchers

Guided or unguided rockets, ballistic or cruise missiles capable of delivering a warhead or weapon of destruction to a range of at least 25 kilometres, and means designed or modified specifically for launching such missiles or rockets, if not covered by categories 1 through 6. For the purpose of this information exchange, this category:

- (a) Also includes remotely-piloted vehicles with the characteristics for missiles as defined above;
- (b) Does not include ground-to-air missiles.

