

FSC.DEL/133/11  
28 July 2011

ENGLISH  
Original: ITALIAN

Delegation of Italy

**CLOSING STATEMENT BY  
THE ITALIAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY  
CO-OPERATION DELIVERED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE  
FORUM, AMBASSADOR GIULIO TONINI, AT THE  
653rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

27 July 2011

Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to say a few words on the occasion of the conclusion of the four-month term of the Italian Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

It has not always been an easy task to guide the work of the Forum throughout the period of our Chairmanship, because when I arrived in Vienna I had to “jump onto a moving train”, as it were. I am therefore particularly appreciative of the help given us by the Icelandic Chairmanship, which preceded ours. We have tried to follow in the footsteps of the Icelandic Chairmanship and of the Irish Chairmanship, in leading the FSC to the point at which we find ourselves today.

Continuing along the path traced by our predecessors has meant, above all, concentrating our main efforts on the updating of the Vienna Document (VD), in line with the mandate given us in Astana by our Heads of State or Government. Thanks to a new spirit of openness and a clearly increased willingness among delegations, we have been able to advance appreciably in two directions:

- Above all, through the adoption, among the four decisions that have been taken during our Chairmanship, of three relating to the updating of the Vienna Document, of varying content but in any case indicative of the determination of the participating States to make progress in the work entrusted to us by the Summit;
- Secondly, with the establishment of a solid foundation for the adoption, under the Kazakh Chairmanship, of other updating proposals – and I refer particularly to the adoption of the new introduction to the Document – that should open up the way for beginning on further, more far-reaching adaptations of the basic provisions on confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), in order to respond effectively to the changed Eurasian and Euro-Mediterranean geopolitical situation.

In the same spirit, we have also thought it useful to circulate, in the name of the “FSC Chairmanship” and in full agreement with the future Kazakh Chairmanship, a “Vienna Document” containing all the proposals for updating made so far. Thus we now have available a complete, structured working document that is easy to consult and that should be of assistance to future chairmanships in their work.

I have spoken of “beginning on” changes to the CSBMs, and not of their completion, precisely because the updating of the VD, as has often been repeated in this Forum, is a process necessarily reflecting the need for continual adaptation to changes in the international context. It needs to be borne in mind, however, that the adjustment of norms specifically directed towards regulating the peaceful development of relations among our States constitutes not just an option but a necessity, and one that presupposes the existence of a resolute political will, in the absence of which the CSBMs would be doomed to remain a mere formula, devoid of any content.

The fact that we are in the midst of this process means that Vilnius will probably not be the watershed that we would have wished, but rather a stage in a laborious continuing exercise to which we are all called upon to contribute with willingness, sincerity and transparent intentions.

Our work has not, however, been limited to the Vienna Document, whatever priority this deserves. During the weekly events within the framework of our “security dialogue”, we have tried to make a contribution to other important facets of our co-operation in the OSCE.

I would recall here the meeting concerned with the Code of Conduct, which led to the adoption of the long-awaited Decision No. 5/11 on the updating of the Reference Guide and to the preparation of the ground for another important decision concerning the organization, on an annual basis, of a special conference to evaluate and monitor the implementation of the Code, which we hope can be quickly approved under the Kazakh Chairmanship when the Forum resumes its work after the summer break.

I should like also to recall the security dialogue on the follow-up to the workshop organized here at the beginning of the year, under the Icelandic Chairmanship, to identify more precisely the role to be played by the OSCE in facilitating the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540. A contribution by our Chairmanship on this issue led in recent days to the circulation of a special draft decision in the name of the Chairmanship on the drawing up of a list of OSCE contact points responsible in each participating State for the implementation of the decision in question.

Finally, I would recall the other topics dealt with in our “dialogues”, perhaps less regularly recurring but no less important, such as the Ottawa Convention and the challenges that still have to be taken up to promote its general application, the problem posed by the need for standardization as far as information exchange on military expenditures is concerned, the projects in Montenegro under the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM), the project for the destruction of the enormous quantities of *mélange* in Ukraine and the demining projects in Central Asia, all subjects that we have tried to deal with in order to remind us all of the huge mass of work that this Organization needs to tackle. This work represents the *raison d’être* of the OSCE and, above all, it does not end when we leave the meeting rooms in the Hofburg but also involves the constant, day-to-day, laborious and,

unfortunately, sometimes dangerous activities of all the personnel in the field whom we, here at Headquarters, have an obligation to support in the best way we can.

The southern shore of Europe has been a subject of particular attention during our term of office and has reminded us of the indivisible nature of European security – this not only for the reason that our country, immersed as it is in the Mediterranean Sea, has in some way naturally felt called upon to take up this task but also because what is happening in the Arab world, the uprisings of populations determined to make heard their aspirations for liberty, affect the entire OSCE area, which is called upon to reaffirm its three dimensions, namely the politico-military, the economic and the dimension having to do with the defence of human rights.

The Deputy Secretary General of NATO, Ambassador Claudio Bisogniero, along with the former Chief of the General Staff of the Italian Armed Forces, General Camporini, have honoured us with their participation in our dialogues and have underscored the role of the OSCE, their own priorities and the potential capability for the international management of the current crisis situations, obviously in concert with other international and regional organizations with full respect for the Organization's institutional mandate. This, however, will not happen automatically but will again require – we all know this – constant, close and not infrequently demanding engagement on the part of all concerned.

Finally, I should like to recall two important events that took place over the last four months. The first of these was the High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine, which enabled our top military officials or their representatives along with figures from the academic and diplomatic world to exchange ideas in what turned out to be a rich, stimulating and at times positively provocative experience, which we hope has not ended with the Seminar but will have provided the basis for further positive results in the months and years to come. This is one of the reasons why it has been proposed that the Seminar be held more frequently. It will be our task to determine whether and in what form the preconditions for meeting this goal exist, and it will be up to future chairmanships to possibly put it into practice, in concert with the Secretariat.

I shall conclude this review by mentioning the Annual Security Review Conference, which thanks to the co-ordinating role played by its *chef de file*, Dr. Berenice Gare, was another important event during our four-month period. As a result of her long, highly qualified and balanced involvement in that event, the Conference has created the essential preconditions to ensure that the future work of the Forum is increasingly characterized by a spirit of open, businesslike and effective collaboration.

I cannot bring to an end the Italian Chairmanship of the Forum without expressing my gratitude to all those persons whose contribution has been decisive in carrying out this work. Where should I begin?

The list is long because we all know that the results of a Forum chairmanship are the fruit of a complex negotiating process. The first person to whom I should like to turn is our Co-ordinator for the Vienna Document, Dr. Pierre Von Arx. His constant, tenacious and enormous capacity for work has never deserted him and he has never lost his courage or motivation even at the most difficult moments – and there were no few of them – in the ongoing process, but was able to inspire in us as well the positive attitude that has led to the achievement of the progress that is today obvious to everyone.

I should also like to pay special tribute to Colonel Anton Eischer, in his double capacity: first as Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on the Politico-Military Aspects of Security. As you all know, the organization of the important “dialogue” on 22 June of this year was the result of his tireless commitment. And if we were able to approve a decision on the Code of Conduct and start the process for a second decision in the autumn, this is also the fruit of Colonel Eischer’s continuous and unfailingly balanced commitment and of his patient and discreet mediation aimed at achieving consensus. I have, however, a second reason as well for thanking Colonel Eischer. I am referring here to the additional task he assumed in accepting the responsibility for all the logistic aspects of the High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine. Much of the credit for the success of that event is undoubtedly attributable to his efforts and to those of the authorities of Austria, the host State. I should like to take note of that fact here and to express to them, in my name and on behalf of the Italian authorities, our gratitude.

Our thanks go also to our other co-ordinators. I would mention here Lieutenant Colonel Laszlo Szatmari, who in addition to his work on the projects concerning stockpiles of conventional ammunition also assumed the responsibility for the small arms and light weapons projects, working with dedication and an attitude of great seriousness in performing this dual task, at all times with the helpfulness, professionalism and efficiency that distinguish his work. I also extend my sincere thanks to Colonel Anders Byren for his work as head of the Group of Friends for the updating of the rules regarding small arms and light weapons. We are certain that his constant involvement will be rewarded by the adoption of the decision for which he has worked with dedication and determination.

I have already mentioned the work carried out by the *chef de file* for the Annual Security Review Conference. Last but not least, I include in this list of thanks the Conflict Prevention Centre, its director, the entire FSC Support Section and Conference Services. I should also like to take note here of the helpfulness and high degree of professionalism of the entire Secretariat team and to express my thanks for this to the Secretary General, Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, who is honouring us with his presence, and to his predecessor, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut.

Allow me also to say a word of gratitude to Ambassador Renatas Norkus, to his team and to the entire Lithuanian Chairmanship for the excellent climate of collaborations between our delegations, thanks to which it has been possible to work in harmony and to organize jointly and successfully FSC and PC events during this four-month period. I want to wish the Lithuanian delegation every success with the Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius in December.

Permit me now to express particular gratitude to the team of the Italian Chairmanship that has supported me during these months:

- To Counsellor Loretta Loria and to Colonel Giovanni Palombo, who presided over working groups “A” and “B”;
- To the new Military Counsellor of the Italian delegation to the OSCE, General Roberto Azzolin, another person who since 1 July has been aboard the chairmanship “train”;

– To Alessandra Latini and to the entire staff of the Italian delegation.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks to the interpretation service and to the interpreters for the professionalism, patience and helpfulness they have demonstrated.

The time has now come to welcome to our troika the delegation of Kyrgyzstan and to express our best wishes to Kazakhstan as the incoming chairmanship of the Forum.

I thank you all and wish you pleasant holidays.