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**Chairmanship: Netherlands**

## **809th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 27 January 2016

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 1 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. H. Klijn

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: SUBREGIONAL CO-OPERATION

- *Bilateral co-operation between the Netherlands and Germany, by Major General M. Wijnen, Deputy Commander of the Land Forces, Ministry of Defence, the Netherlands, and*
- *Benelux Defence Co-operation: “Subregional co-operation of armed forces”, by Colonel (GS) A. Desfossés – Section Co-ordination, Defence Development Division, Strategy Department, Ministry of Defence, Belgium*

Chairperson, Major General M. Wijnen (FSC.DEL/12/16 OSCE+), Colonel A. Desfossés (FSC.DEL/10/16 OSCE+), Netherlands-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/13/16), Germany, United States of America, Canada, Armenia

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

*Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/15/16) (FSC.DEL/15/16/Add.1), Netherlands-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and*

Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/14/16), United States of America, Russian Federation (Annex)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar, to be held on 16 and 17 February 2016*: Chairperson, Switzerland, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Greece
- (b) *Forthcoming visit of the Commanding General of the United States Army in Europe, Lieutenant General B. Hodges, to Ukraine*: United States of America
- (c) *Completion of the demilitarization project on surplus ammunition in Albania*: Albania
- (d) *Matters of protocol*: Hungary, Chairperson, Croatia
- (e) *Requests for assistance from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on supporting the increased physical security of armouries in several stations of the border police; and from Ukraine on supporting the work of their explosive ordnance disposal units*: FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (United States of America)

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 3 February 2016, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/815  
27 January 2016  
Annex

ENGLISH  
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**809th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 815, Agenda item 2

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

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the reference to Crimea in the statements by a number of delegations today, the delegation of the Russian Federation feels obliged to make the following observations.

The proclamation of independence of the Republic of Crimea and its incorporation into the Russian Federation was a legal expression of the right of the people of Crimea to self-determination at a time when Ukraine, with outside support, was in the throes of a *coup d'état*, with radical nationalist elements exerting a forceful influence on the decisions adopted in the country, which in turn resulted in the interests of the Ukrainian regions and Russian-speaking population being ignored.

The multi-ethnic population of Crimea took the corresponding decisions by a huge majority in a free and fair expression of its will. The status of the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as constituent entities of the Russian Federation is not open to reconsideration or discussion. Crimea is and will remain Russian. This is a fact that our partners will have to come to terms with.

This position is based on and fully complies with international law.

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