



Chairmanship: Estonia

552nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 9 July 2008

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.50 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ms. T. Parts

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Forum for Security Co-operation, expressed condolences on the death of Mr. Alexander Ivanov, Executive Secretary of the Delegation on Military Security and Arms Control of the Russian Federation to the OSCE. The Forum for Security Co-operation then observed a minute of silence.

Chairperson, Russian Federation

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Signing of the agreement between the United States of America and the Czech Republic on deployment of elements of the United States global missile defence system on the territory of the Czech Republic: Russian Federation (Annex)

Agenda item 2: SECURITY DIALOGUE

(a) *Presentation on homeland defense and civil support by Mr. Paul McHale, Assistant Secretary for Homeland Security, Department of Defense of the United States of America: Chairperson, Mr. P. McHale, Spain (FSC.DEL/122/08), Canada, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom, Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Switzerland*

(b) *Presentation on landmines by Ms. Dijana Pleština, Expert and Adviser to the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Croatia: Chairperson, Ms. D. Pleština, Germany, France, Austria, Ireland, Turkey*

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Annual Security Review Conference, held in Vienna on 1 and 2 July 2008:* Chairperson, Spain (FSC.DEL/123/08)
- (b) *Side-event with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation, held on the margins of the Annual Security Review Conference on 1 July 2008:* Chairperson
- (c) *Contribution to the finalization of the second phase of the OSCE small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition programme in Tajikistan:* Norway
- (d) *Commemoration event to mark the 500th Open Skies observation flight, to be held in Vienna on 14 July 2008:* United States of America
- (e) *Workshop on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) held at the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC), Croatia, on 5 and 6 June 2008:* Croatia (FSC.DEL/124/08 OSCE+)
- (f) *Matters of protocol:* Netherlands, Chairperson, Spain

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 16 July 2008, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/558

9 July 2008

Annex

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

552nd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 558, Agenda item 1

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

**Regarding the signing of the agreement between the
United States of America and the Czech Republic**

The actual signing of the agreement had been announced in advance and came as no surprise to us. Under the pretext of an imaginary Iranian missile threat, the current administration of the United States of America has been stubbornly pursuing a policy aimed at establishing in Europe a third site for its global anti-missile defence system. It is noteworthy that all of this is taking place against a background of serious controversy within Czech society and clearly cannot enhance the security of either the Czech Republic or Europe as a whole.

Russia's position on this issue is well known. We are against this United States project for a third missile defence site, which has the potential to undermine stability and security not only on a pan-European but also on a global scale.

It is disappointing that our alternative, namely the establishment of a truly collective security system against missile threats, has in effect been ignored. All of our arguments have been merely listened to but by no means taken into account.

If the understandings with the United States, which are subject to ratification by the Czech Parliament, do after all acquire legally binding force and if a United States strategic missile defence system actually begins to be deployed near our borders, we shall be forced to respond not by diplomatic methods but through military means of a technical nature. There is no doubt that the placing of elements of the United States strategic arsenal close to Russian territory can be used to weaken the potential of our deterrent. It is understandable that in such circumstances the Russian Government will take appropriate measures to compensate for the emerging potential threats to its own national security. But this is not our choice.

In addition, it is regrettable that, despite a number of contacts that have taken place, including some at the highest level, during which there have been discussions on the ideas of the United States side as regards guarantees that the third missile defence site will not in fact be used against Russia, we are forced to note that no real progress has been observed. On the

contrary, the transparency and control measures that were earlier proposed to us and that might to some degree have allayed Russian fears have been withdrawn by the United States side, thereby undermining the understanding along those lines reached by the presidents of Russia and the United States of America and announced in the declaration they adopted in Sochi on 6 April 2008.

We shall closely follow the unfolding of events while continuing to remain open to constructive discussions both on anti-missile defence and on a whole range of strategic stability issues, but only on a basis of parity.

It goes without saying that, however the situation develops, we shall be guided by the need to ensure the proper security of our own country.