



**Report by the Chairperson  
of the Forum for Security Co-operation  
Ambassador Vladimir Matek  
to the Annual Security Review Conference 2007**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished guests,

It is my distinct pleasure as a Chairperson of the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) to address the participants of the fifth Annual Security Review Conference. As a regular contribution of the FSC to the ASRC, I will offer you a brief outline of our activities since last year's Conference.

Last year's ASRC provided once again a forum for exchanging the views on security related issues as well as reviewing OSCE contributions in the field of early warning, conflict prevention/resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation with due regard to confidence- and security building measures and other security-related issues such as emergence of new threats.

Participants shared their perceptions of the current security situation, with the common understanding that the OSCE should continue to act as a regional security arrangement given its comprehensive, indivisible and co-operative approach to security. Multidimensional approach to security was generally recognized as being well suited to addressing present and future challenges and a common view was expressed that conflict prevention and resolution should remain a core task for the OSCE.

The 17 suggestions stemming from the second session related to the politico-military dimension gave certain direction in enhancing co-operation with the business community on security related issues and greater involvement in the fight against illicit trafficking of the SALW by air.

Mr. Chairman, our work in the Forum is structured around a wide range of politico-military issues pertaining to the first dimension of our Organization. At the beginning of each calendar year, a working program is laid down as a result of joint consultations of the three successive FSC chairmanships, CiO, CPC and our co-coordinators. This year's priorities reflect the forward-looking nature of our agenda while at the same time ensuring synergy and coherence of our work. Since the last ASRC, the Forum continued to lead the OSCE's work in politico-military aspects of security and remained seized with a wide range of arms control and confidence and security-building measures (CSBMs). In addition to our daily routine activities, we have been engaged in workshops, in special meetings, and conferences on specific topics.

On 27 September last year, the FSC held a special Meeting on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. The meeting was attended by numerous experts from capitals and resulted in 46 proposals regarding better streamlining of our work and improving the implementation of the Code. As follow-up, it was felt that in order to focus more on implementation, another -this time an internal special meeting -was needed to take stock of existing proposals.

The Meeting was held under our Chairmanship on 23 May 2007 as a special meeting of the WG"A" and was marked by constructive and open debate. A number of proposals were put forward with regard to strengthening the Code's implementation, among others regarding possibilities to further improve its information exchange mechanisms and to raise awareness about the Code among general public and the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and in relation to supplementary measures. Views expressed at the meeting advocate a more structured and frequent debate at the FSC. The Chair is currently engaged in consulting delegations to determine the appropriate follow up mechanism.

In the days leading up to the Brussels Ministerial Council Meeting the FSC adopted decisions on further efforts to implement the OSCE Documents on SALW and CA; on combating the illicit trafficking of SALW by air and on supporting national implementation of UNSCR 1540.

The last decision stemmed from discussion at the FSC about non-proliferation of WMD and from an FSC Workshop on the Implementation of UN SC Resolution 1540 organized on 8 November 2006. The Workshop provided an opportunity for experts to discuss the implementation of the Resolution in the OSCE area and ways in which the OSCE can contribute to assisting pS in fulfilling their obligations under the Resolution. In the beginning of this month an initiative was launched in the WG"B" to start preparations for drafting the Best Practice Guides on the Implementation of UNSCR 1540. This initiative enjoys wide support and we look forward into how the FSC could further assist in the implementation of the UN Resolution 1540 without duplicating existing work and expertise of other relevant international bodies.

Since the last Ministerial Council, our work has also been marked by the decision on committee structure, which established the Security Committee to discuss non-military and political aspects of security. In light of our Organization's comprehensive approach to security it is important to strike the right balance between both soft and hard aspects of our politico-military activities. In this respect, the focus of the Spanish Chairmanship on improving the synergy between the FSC and PC is noteworthy. In this regard, and following a proposal by Spain, the FSC is discussing the possibility of organizing a special meeting on Civil-Military Emergency Preparedness later this year.

Mr. Chairman,

Speaking of this year's activities and achievements, the Seventeenth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting took place on 6-7 March 2007 and tested a number of important innovations. For the first time the Meeting's agenda included meeting of the Heads of Verifications Centers which afforded military representatives of the opportunity to have an in depth discussion on practical aspects of implementation on VD 1999 and the Global Exchange of Military Information. The other new element was the Working session devoted to suggestions aimed at improving the implementation of CSBMs. The open and substantive debate helped to clarify differences in understanding the way in which agreed CSBMs could be implemented. An appropriate follow up to the many suggestions could facilitate the process of improving implementation of CSBMs.

Pursuant to OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 9/06 and related FSC Decision No. 7/06, a special FSC meeting on combating the illicit trafficking of SALW by air took place on 21 March this year, building on the fact that SALW and related ammunition comprise the main military supplies in most conflicts today, where illicit trade in SALW is often related to the spread of terrorism, regional conflicts, failing States and organized crime. The idea behind the meeting was to provide an opportunity for experts and delegates from OSCE participating States, as well as representatives of the air transportation sector and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations to discuss ways of improving controls over the air-cargo sector. Meeting resulted in several proposals aiming at the increase of dialogue and synergy between governments, private business actors and competent international organizations, through development of an information exchange mechanism, a best practice guide and extension of discussions focusing on the implementation of expressed ideas and proposals within the appropriate structures of the FSC.

As part of the FSC's ongoing work on the existing commitments and new CSBMs, pS were actively engaged in a constructive dialogue regarding proposals introduced by Russian Federation on prior notification of large-scale military transit and on the deployment of foreign military forces on the territory of an OSCE pS in the zone of application of CSBMs. Discussion was complemented by a third joint Russian-Belarusian proposal concerning the exchange of information on rapid reaction forces.

This Chairmanship welcomes the proposal put forward by the delegation of Russian Federation, France and Germany on organizing a special FSC meeting on prospects for arms control and CSBMs in the OSCE area. This meeting would be an important opportunity for the FSC to discuss current developments in the pol-mil area given the multifaceted nature of the threats in the 21 century and our obligation to develop appropriate response to these new risks and challenges as well as to improve a dialogue on security matters. Our Chairmanship stands ready to facilitate the process of preparing for this timely event but would like to underline the importance of holding of this Conference

Mr. Chairman,

During past few months, the Security Dialogue- a standing point on the agenda of our regular meetings expanded its role as a platform to connect the Forum with other organizations and relevant actors. Substantial discussion on one of the most critical security issues in Euro-Atlantic space - missile defense - took place. The issue was addressed by the distinguished Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Mr. Lavrov during his address to the delegations at the Special Joint FSC-PC Meeting on 23 May, which once again underlined the OSCEs indispensable role in discussing military aspects of security, arms control and confidence building in the Euro-Atlantic region.

This report would not be complete if I omitted to mention the commitments of the pS in the field of SALW and CA and respective achievements in implementing the numerous projects currently underway in Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Ukraine and Tajikistan. During the past year, the FSC continued to follow and support developments of projects with the aim of reducing dangers emanating from surplus stockpiles of small arms, conventional ammunition and explosive materials. The FSC has been regularly briefed on these projects and the Secretary General addressed - on two instances – the joint FSC-PC meetings providing an update on projects to dispose of rocket fuel component *melange*. The FSC continues its active involvement in both practical project activities and normative work.

Finally, I trust that this report will serve as a testimony of the sustained efforts within the first dimension of security. The FSC will remain active on wide range of issues, at the same time being conscious that all its achievements contribute to the overall success of the OSCE in

increasing its ability to address new challenges and better advocate pan-European interests. I hope that the ensuing discussion will lead to gaining momentum in efficiently addressing current needs.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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