



Slovakian Chairmanship

334th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 19 September 2001

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 10.55 a.m.
Resumed: 3.25 p.m.
Closed: 4.50 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ms. M. Keimova

Wednesday, 12 September 2001:

The Chairperson expressed the condolences of the Forum to the Delegation of the United States of America at the tragic loss of lives in the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

United States of America (FSC.DEL/420/01), Belgium-European Union (FSC.DEL/421/01), Ukraine, Turkey (FSC.DEL/423/01), Russian Federation, United Kingdom, Armenia, Canada, Norway, Lithuania (FSC.DEL/422/01), Azerbaijan, Poland, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Greece, Yugoslavia, Belarus, Estonia, France, Slovenia, Slovakia (FSC.DEL/424/01), Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Italy, Czech Republic, Austria, Spain, Georgia, Ireland, Turkmenistan, Croatia, Portugal, Albania, Malta, Sweden, Holy See, Iceland, Denmark

Owing to the tragic incidents, the plenary meeting was postponed until the following week, Wednesday, 19 September 2001, at 10 a.m.

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Switzerland, Russian Federation (proposal, see Annex)

Agenda item 2: SECURITY DIALOGUE

Germany, Russian Federation (FSC.DEL/434/01 Restr.), Greece, France, Finland, Italy, United States of America, Switzerland (FSC.DEL/431/01 Restr.), Sweden, United Kingdom, Turkey, Ukraine, Canada, Poland, Chairperson.

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *OSCE Communications Network*: Russian Federation, Conflict Prevention Centre, Netherlands
- (b) *Meeting of the Group of Experts on the Open Skies Consultative Commission on 3 October 2001*: France
- (c) *Visit to an air base*: Romania

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 26 September 2001, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/340
19 September 2001
Annex

ENGLISH
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334th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 340, Agenda item 1

PROPOSAL

ON THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE WORK OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING A COMMON RESPONSE TO COMMON SECURITY PROBLEMS IN THE OSCE AREA

Submitted by the Delegation of the Russian Federation

The Russian Federation attaches key importance to the politico-military dimension of the OSCE as affecting vital interests of participating States, and regards the Forum for Security Co-operation as the leading OSCE authority in the field of military security.

The discussions at the meetings of the Forum as well as the results of the recently held seminar on military doctrines make it quite clear that, at the present stage, participating States must focus close attention on the politico-military aspects of European security.

At a time when there is a need, on the one hand, to ensure the effective functioning of the arms control and confidence-building measures regime created by the Forum and, on the other, to seek the best possible ways and means of countering fresh threats and challenges, any reform of the Forum that leads to its weakening would also result in a weakening of the OSCE as a whole, with the associated consequences for European security.

While not denying the need to improve the work of the Forum, the Russian Federation is convinced that the main way to enhance its effectiveness is by making fuller use of the potential of this body, which is to be found in its basic documents.

Accordingly, the Russian delegation proposes that the principal effort to improve the work of the Forum should be focused on the following major areas.

I. Increasing the effectiveness of joint actions

(A) Development of the Forum's potential in the area of early warning, conflict prevention and crisis management

1. OSCE participating States attach priority importance to co-operation in conflict prevention and resolution and to the use of all OSCE tools for these purposes.
2. A number of OSCE documents and international treaties provide for peacekeeping operations to be conducted under an OSCE mandate. Participating States are guided by their understanding that OSCE peacekeeping activities will be carried out with due consideration for the functions of the United Nations in that area, particularly, within the terms of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and will always be conducted in accordance with the goals and principles of the United Nations. In the planning and execution of peacekeeping operations, the OSCE may draw upon the experience and expertise of the United Nations.

The Forum will co-ordinate the actions of participating States in carrying out peacekeeping operations under an OSCE mandate. The Forum's co-ordinating role will consist in organizing the military aspects of the peacekeeping operation mandate, including such things as the composition of the forces and equipment planned for use during the operation, their command structures and the ratio between the military and civilian components of the operation.

3. Within the Forum, OSCE participating States will devise, depending on the tasks and character of the peacekeeping operation, general criteria with respect to the arming and equipping of the peacekeeping forces including rear area and logistics support.
4. With a view to enhancing the OSCE's ability to set norms and standards in the field of conflict prevention and crisis management, the Forum will prepare a document entitled "A General Concept for Peacekeeping Activities under an OSCE Mandate".
5. The Forum will examine the possibility of devising a concept for setting up a contingent of OSCE peacekeeping forces.

(B) Implementation issues

1. The Forum will take further steps to improve the practical implementation of the Vienna Document 1999 (VD 99), the Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security, and the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and also to develop a regime covering the global exchange of military information and stabilization measures for use in localized crisis situations.

The Forum will continue to assess the implementation of the agreed measures, using established procedures, including seminars on specific issues held with the participation of high-level political and military representatives.

2. The Forum will continue the practice of holding regular seminars on military doctrines and defence policies with a view to using their conclusions and recommendations as a means of enriching the dialogue on security issues in the OSCE area.

3. Participating States of the Forum will seek to ensure, by means of regular reviews, that arms control agreements continue to meet security requirements in the OSCE area. The Forum will examine the question of the procedure for compliance with VD 99 commitments in crisis situations.

(C) Regional co-operation

1. At a time when there are still a number of unresolved local conflicts in the OSCE area, subregional arms control measures take on added importance.

2. Chapter X of the VD 99 provides a good basis for strengthening subregional instruments. Where necessary, the Forum will assist in drawing up and implementing regional agreements of a politico-military nature that are to be carried out with the participation of the OSCE or under its auspices.

3. Where necessary, the Forum will assist in drawing up agreements regarding additional bilateral confidence-building measures in the military area above and beyond those provided for in the Vienna Document 1999 (additional exchanges of information on military forces, additional inspections and/or evaluation visits, etc.).

4. The Forum will assist in expanding naval co-operation at the regional level.

5. The Forum will seek to increase transparency by making available to all OSCE participating States information on the implementation of regional and other agreements of a politico-military nature concluded between individual OSCE participating States, subject to their consent.

II. Common response to threats and challenges

1. The Forum will seek to increase transparency in matters pertaining to the establishment and evolution of international politico-military institutions in the OSCE area, as well as to develop contacts and set up a "co-operation network" among them.

2. The Forum will examine the question of establishing regular contacts to discuss the problem of international terrorism and to exchange experience in combating it (taking into account the activities in this area of participating States and international organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union, NATO, the Treaty on Collective Security, and others).

With a view to discussing co-operation issues in this area, the Forum will examine the possibility of establishing a special working group of experts, which will operate on a regular basis and in which, among other things, meetings of concerned specialists might take place.

3. For the purpose of maintaining the effectiveness of confidence- and security-building measures at a proper level, participating States will consistently expand the areas of

application of these measures and, as a first step, will examine the following issues at the Forum:

- Politico-military aspects in the work of OSCE field missions and offices;
- Co-operation between the naval forces of OSCE participating States in carrying out tasks of a humanitarian nature (search and rescue operations, mine clearing, etc.);
- Information exchanges on multinational rapid reaction forces.

III. Organizational issues

1. While retaining its autonomous status, the Forum will co-ordinate its activities more closely with the OSCE Permanent Council and will participate in the discussion of questions of a politico-military nature at the request of the Permanent Council or the Chairman-in-Office.
2. For the purpose of improving co-ordination, a mechanism of consultation will be put into place involving the “troika” of the Forum and the “troika” of the Permanent Council. Consultations will be held on a monthly basis or more frequently, as required.
3. The Forum will examine the question of extending the chairmanship’s term of office to two or three months, while retaining its current rotation arrangement.