

Chairmanship: Portugal

836th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 23 November 2016

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.35 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador M. da Graça Mira Gomes

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

(a) *Situation in and around Ukraine*: Ukraine (Annex 1) (FSC.DEL/217/16), Slovakia-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 and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/216/16), Canada, United States of America, Russian Federation (Annex 2), Croatia, Italy, Poland, Lithuania

Point of order: Canada

(b) *Large-scale military exercise in Azerbaijan, conducted from 12 to 18 November 2016*: Armenia (Annex 3), Azerbaijan

(c) *Twentieth anniversary of the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Belarus, marked on 26 November 2016*: Belarus (Annex 4)

(d) *Financial contributions to the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM) and to the Capacity Development Programme for Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management for the Republic of Serbia (CASM)*: Luxembourg (Annex 5), Montenegro, Serbia

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Briefing on the seventy-second meeting of the OSCE Communications Group, held on 21 September 2016 (FSC.GAL/129/16):* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (b) *Informal meeting on the joint OSCE-UNDP Capacity Development Programme for Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management for the Republic of Serbia (CASM), to be held on 29 November 2016 (FSC.INF/41/16 Restr.):* FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary), Chairperson
- (c) *Informal meeting on enhancing the capacity of Kyrgyzstan for physical security and stockpile management of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition, to be held on 29 November 2016 (FSC.INF/40/16 Restr.):* FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary), Chairperson
- (d) *Matters of protocol:* Russian Federation, Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 30 November 2016, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/842
23 November 2016
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

836th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 842, Agenda item 1(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Madam Chairperson,

In connection with today's statement by the Russian delegation on the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC), the delegation of Ukraine wishes to emphasize the following.

International law prohibits the acquisition of part or all of another State's territory through coercion or force. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which remains an integral part of Ukraine, was illegally occupied by military force and annexed by the Russian Federation in violation of OSCE principles and commitments and norms of international law. Illegitimate actions on the part of the Russian Federation do not have any legal consequences with regard to the status of the ARC as an integral part of Ukraine. The territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders is safeguarded by international law and UN General Assembly resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014, "Territorial integrity of Ukraine".

We call on the Russian Federation to return to the tenets of international law and reverse the illegal occupation and annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this statement be registered in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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FSC.JOUR/842
23 November 2016
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

836th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 842, Agenda item 1(a)

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

Dear Madam 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, Madam Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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

FSC.JOUR/842
23 November 2016
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

836th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 842, Agenda item 1(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to invite the attention of the FSC to the large-scale military exercise of the armed forces of Azerbaijan started on 12–18 November 2016, in Azerbaijan. This issue has been already raised during the PC session on 10 November 2016.

The press service of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan confirmed that 60,000 troops of the armed forces of Azerbaijan took part at the large-scale military exercise with involvement of more than 50 aircraft and helicopters, more than 150 tanks and armoured combat vehicles, as well as 700 systems of rocket and artillery troops.

Recalling paragraph 40.1.1 Chapter V of the Vienna Document 2011 (V. Prior Notification of Certain Military Activities (CMA)), the military activity will be subject to notification at least 42 days advance notice for CMA exceeding one of the following thresholds: 9,000 troops, 250 tanks, 500 ACVs, or 250 pieces of artillery.

In this regard, we would like to express our concern, that the exercise was yet another time not properly notified despite the fact, that it falls under the category of notifiable military activities.

We request Azerbaijani delegation to provide clarifications on this matter and pose a question whether the exercise was a planned military activity.

Thank you.



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

FSC.JOUR/842
23 November 2016
Annex 4

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

836th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 842, Agenda item 1(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELARUS

Madam Chairperson,

I should like to read out the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the withdrawal of nuclear weapons by the Republic of Belarus.

Twenty years ago, on 26 November 1996, Belarus completed the withdrawal from its territory of the nuclear weapons that remained after the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

Without any kind of preconditions or reservations, Belarus renounced its military nuclear capability, signalling its commitment to peace and security and, indeed, setting the tone for subsequent nuclear disarmament processes in the post-Soviet space.

Nuclear disarmament is a complex process that entails political and economic consequences and requires significant financial and human resources. Nonetheless, under the complex conditions that prevailed after the collapse of the USSR, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine demonstrated their resolve and firm commitment to the objectives of nuclear disarmament. After signing the Lisbon Protocol to the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms in 1992, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine undertook to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as non-nuclear-weapon States, and also became full parties to the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms until the end of its period of operation in December 2009.

As a non-nuclear-weapon State, Belarus concluded an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency on the application of comprehensive safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. All remaining nuclear material was placed under Agency safeguards.

The withdrawal of nuclear weapons from the territory of Belarus was completed shortly after the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Twenty years ago, with our practical steps for nuclear disarmament, we believed that we were supporting the momentum of disarmament processes, which gave rise in the 1990s to the hope for a safer world. Today, expectations for progress in nuclear disarmament are much

more subdued, and hopes are more cautious. A consistent and realistic approach to nuclear disarmament issues remains, in our view, the only possible way to achieve, step by step, tangible progress in building a safer world.

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



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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FSC.JOUR/842
23 November 2016
Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

836th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 842, Agenda item 1(d)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF LUXEMBOURG

The Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM), a joint programme of the Government of Montenegro, the UNDP and the OSCE, was established in April 2007 following the Republic of Montenegro's request for a capacity-building programme for the demilitarization of and provision of safe storage capacities for small arms and light weapons (SALW). After having continuously supported the MONDEM project from its initiation with donations amounting to 150,000 euros, Luxembourg is now to donate a further 20,000 euros in 2016.

Furthermore, since 2012 Luxembourg has supported the Capacity Development Programme for Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management for the Republic of Serbia (CASM) with contributions amounting to 95,000 euros. This project was initiated by the Ministry of Defence of Serbia in co-operation with the UNDP and the OSCE and is aimed at supporting the Serbian authorities in the destruction of conventional ammunition and renovation of ammunition storage facilities. As an expression of our commitment to this joint endeavour, Luxembourg will now donate an additional 15,000 euros in 2016.

We encourage all other participating States to take similar steps in support of the OSCE's projects on SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA).