
Chairmanship: Germany**953rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 9 September 2020 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 11.05 a.m.

Closed: 1.15 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador G. Bräutigam

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson reminded the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) of the modalities for that blended FSC meeting during the COVID-19 pandemic, conducted in accordance with CIO.GAL/73/20/Rev.1 OSCE+.

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

Agenda item 1: OPENING REMARKS BY H.E. Mr. NIELS ANNEN,
MINISTER OF STATE, GERMAN FEDERAL FOREIGN
OFFICE

Chairperson, Minister of State of Germany (FSC.DEL/178/20 OSCE+), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment), Albania (FSC.DEL/170/20 OSCE+), Switzerland (FSC.DEL/179/20 OSCE+), United States of America (Annex 1), Turkey (FSC.DEL/176/20 OSCE+), Canada, Belarus (FSC.DEL/169/20 OSCE+), Armenia (FSC.DEL/173/20) (FSC.DEL/174/20), Georgia (FSC.DEL/180/20 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina, United Kingdom, Azerbaijan (Annex 2) (FSC.DEL/184/20 OSCE+), Ukraine, Russian Federation (Annex 3), FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Switzerland)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Matters of protocol: Spain, Italy, Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 16 September 2020, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

FSC.JOUR/959
9 September 2020
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

953rd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 959, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Good morning, Madam Chairperson and fellow representatives in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), and thank you for the opportunity to address all assembled here today.

On behalf of the United States, I would like to congratulate Germany on its FSC Chairmanship and warmly welcome Minister of State Annen to the Forum for Security Co-operation. We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the former Ukrainian Chairmanship for its leadership during a challenging time for the work of this Forum. Madam Chairperson, I look forward to working closely with you and with Ambassador Tsymbaliuk in the FSC Troika this trimester and as the United States prepares for its Chairmanship in January 2021.

The German Chairmanship comes at a critical juncture as the Euro-Atlantic area continues to face serious security challenges, including ongoing threats to the territorial integrity of Ukraine and increasing militarization of Crimea. To this we add the concerning situation in Belarus, which Deputy Secretary of State Biegun addressed in the Permanent Council on 28 August, and the reprehensible poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexandr Navalny with a chemical nerve agent of the Novichok group. Our understanding is that this was a military grade agent and it would be useful to know how it came to be used. We call on Russia, as a matter of urgency, to bring those responsible to justice, and bearing in mind Russia's commitments under the Chemical Weapons Convention, to disclose pertinent information to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Madam Chairperson,

We welcome the Chairmanship's comprehensive work plan on topics directly relevant to the security of all OSCE participating States, among them: reflecting on 20 years of OSCE efforts on the non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons; the Vienna Document; women, peace, and security; and the joint FSC and Permanent Council meeting on the Structured Dialogue. We also look forward to our weekly discussions on the Ukraine conflict with the aim of promoting a resolution. We were encouraged by Special Monitoring Mission reports since July of significantly reduced ceasefire violations. We do take note of violations in recent days relayed in Ambassador Tsymbaliuk's letter. We hope that a ceasefire will hold this time, that Russia will use its influence to restrain its proxy forces, and that the sides will

reach agreement on an updated de-mining plan, new disengagement areas, mutual releases of detainees, and further steps toward full implementation of the Minsk agreements.

This Forum has the responsibility to address pressing challenges to European security and rebuild confidence and trust by taking concrete steps to enhance military transparency, in a region that was once a beacon of transparency. Updating the Vienna Document to reflect present day realities and address gaps in it the document itself and limits on its application (we might note Russian snap exercises as a case in point) is a critical task for this Forum. A genuine, collective effort to reach consensus on the Vienna Document modernization proposal, now co-sponsored by 34 participating States, would be a historic achievement and a sign of our commitment to take meaningful steps to improve the security environment in Europe.

Madam Chairperson,

We applaud your stewardship of FSC deliberations leading into the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Tirana in December. Please be assured of our full support. With regard to the upcoming US Chairmanship of the FSC, we will work closely with the German Chairmanship and all participating States on preparations for the High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine, which we would like to hold during our Chairmanship. We encourage the full participation of all States in this important initiative.

In conclusion, the United States wishes every success to the German Chairmanship. We look forward to collaborating with you as the newest member of the FSC Troika and we continue to assure our FSC partners of our co-operation and support in the coming session. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you for the opportunity to address these important issues.



953rd Plenary Meeting
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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes Mr. Niels Annen, Minister of State at the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the opening meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) under the German Chairmanship. We thank you, Your Excellency, for laying out your country's Chairmanship priorities in a lucid and comprehensive manner and we wish Germany every success in leading the Forum's work in the coming trimester. We also wish to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Ukrainian Chairmanship and to express our hope that Ukraine will continue to contribute to the work of the Forum as a member of the FSC Troika. We also thank Turkey as an outgoing Troika member and warmly welcome the United States of America as the new member.

The German FSC Chairmanship will be taking place against the backdrop of a continuing systemic crisis marked by tensions and unresolved conflicts in the OSCE area. These conflicts have emerged as the result of egregious violations of norms and principles of international law and the Helsinki Final Act related to respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the inviolability of the borders of States. Deliberate disregard for these fundamental norms and principles remains the primary source of threat to regional peace, security and stability. Furthermore, it undermines the full utilization of the OSCE's politico-military toolbox. This having been said, we will support the German FSC Chairmanship's efforts to strengthen the Organization's politico-military dimension, while upholding the values and foundational principles that the OSCE is built upon.

The Chairmanship programme presented by Germany covers a spectrum of issues of high importance and relevance to the work of the OSCE in general and of the FSC in particular. The discussions within the Security Dialogue format promise to be engaging and thought-provoking. We are looking forward to deliberating on such conventional topics chosen by the Chairmanship as small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), the Vienna Document, United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, and the Structured Dialogue. At the same time, we take positive note of new topics included in the programme, such as that of new military technologies.

It is important that the Chairmanship will devote special attention to the topic of SALW and SCA. Not only will the Security Dialogue on this issue take place during the German Chairmanship but also the second Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of

the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA. These meetings have the potential to give further impetus to our efforts in combating threats related to the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and spread of SALW and SCA. We should also demonstrate our collective resolve to tackle the issue of the illicit transfer and diversion of SALW and SCA and should undertake result-oriented efforts to integrate it into the Organization's body of norms and range of programmatic activities, in line with global standards set by the UN in this field.

Practical assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA constitute an important area and one in which the OSCE has developed a strong acquis. Throughout the past years, Azerbaijan has demonstrated constructive engagement in solidifying this acquis. At the same time, Armenia's continuing illegal occupation of internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan has been intensified by the recent armed attack by Armenia along the international border between the two countries and by an increased supply of arms to Armenia by other participating States. In these circumstances, Azerbaijan is strongly against increasing or strengthening the military capabilities of the occupying State in any way and is thus not in position to support any assistance project requested by Armenia to this end. We also call upon OSCE participating States to reconsider exports of arms and military equipment to Armenia until the latter withdraws its armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and puts an end to its policy of aggression.

Furthermore, the decision of Armenia not to accept verification activities conducted by Turkey under the Vienna Document and the CFE Treaty is a clear violation by Armenia of its commitments under these documents. This is also a manifestation of this country's discriminative approach to its commitments in the politico-military dimension and of its consistent policy of aggravating the fragile security environment in the region. It does not come as a surprise that this decision of Armenia was announced in the wake of the recent attack by its armed forces along the international border with Azerbaijan.

We are also looking forward to a joint FSC and Permanent Council meeting on the Structured Dialogue. This meeting will offer a timely and relevant opportunity to reflect on the outcomes of two meetings of the Informal Working Group on Structured Dialogue in 2020 and to take stock of the overall process. The Structured Dialogue process was initiated under the German OSCE Chairmanship back in 2016 and the Hamburg mandate remains the yardstick for any activities within the Structured Dialogue. We therefore believe that Germany, as the country that initiated the process, is well placed to play a greater role in ensuring the compliance of the Structured Dialogue with its mandate, particularly with regard to the interrelationship between confidence- and security-building measures and the broader politico-military environment.

We commend the German Chairmanship for keeping the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 high on its agenda, particularly in the light of the approaching 20th anniversary of this landmark resolution. We believe that a dedicated Security Dialogue on this matter will help to further enhance the role of women in the maintenance of international peace and security within the OSCE.

Germany will also have the important task of leading our discussions in the follow up to the Tirana Ministerial Council. We trust that Germany will demonstrate its leadership and commitment in guiding our discussions in the relevant FSC working group.

To conclude, we once again congratulate Germany on its assumption of the FSC Chairmanship. We thank Minister Niels Annen for his appearance at the Forum and wish him every success in his future endeavours. We are looking forward to working closely with his able team in Vienna led by Ambassador Bräutigam.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/959
9 September 2020
Annex 3

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

953rd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 959, Agenda item 1

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

Madam Chairperson,

I should like, first of all, to introduce myself. My name is Konstantin Gavrilov, and I am the new head of the Russian delegation. I am informing you of this so as, among other things, to make it easier for my colleagues to write up reports summarizing the plenary meetings for their national governments.

I feel it necessary to respond to the comments made by the German Minister, Mr. Niels Annen, and a number of delegations, and also to draw the German Chairmanship's attention to the fact that the Republic of Crimea and the federal city of Sevastopol have full status as constituent entities of the Russian Federation. This is not up for discussion. They were incorporated into our country in accordance with the will of their multi-ethnic peoples and with the norms of international law. This decision is fully in keeping with Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations, which proclaims "respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples". We consider any attempts to call into question the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation to be absolutely unacceptable. We would suggest not wasting time on futile discussions. As a well-known oriental proverb puts it, "saying 'halva' one hundred times won't make the taste in your mouth any sweeter" (in other words, you can say whatever you want about something, but that doesn't change what it is). The choice made by the Crimean people to unite with Russia is completely legitimate. We urge you to take this on board.

In the light of the comments by the delegation of the United States of America on the "Alexei Navalny issue", I should like to express my regret that at this formal opening of the autumn/winter session of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) that delegation has chosen the path of artificially stoking up accusatory rhetoric and levelling unfounded accusations. Representatives of the Presidential Executive Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation have made a number of public statements on the issue in question. It has also been discussed at the recent meeting of the other OSCE decision-making body – the Permanent Council. We have no intention of commenting on it afresh or of being dragged into futile, dilettantish discussions about chemical substances, the properties of which the participants in these discussions have no idea about. This is not a topic for the FSC.

I should now like to turn to the main part of my statement on the subject of today's meeting.

Let me warmly congratulate the German delegation on the launching of its Chairmanship of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation. We extend a sincere welcome to Mr. Annen, Minister of State of the German Federal Foreign Office, and thank him for outlining the Chairmanship's priorities for the current session.

Collective efforts aimed at developing mutually respectful dialogue in the OSCE on military security issues are becoming increasingly necessary in the present times. There is now a clear need to work together to ensure that our negotiating body can move away from confrontation towards restoring interaction and co-operation. The outcomes of the previous Chairmanship during the FSC's summer session confirm this. We consider it unacceptable to use the high and responsible position of the FSC Chairperson to promote an opportunistic national agenda as opposed to a unifying one. We deeply regret that, as a result, the Chairmanship that has just ended will go down as a sorry chapter in the annals of the Forum. We trust that our forthcoming discussions will take place in line with the current FSC mandate and will help to strengthen its role as a valuable platform for constructive dialogue and exchange of positive national experiences.

We welcome the US delegation as the incoming member of the FSC Troika, and also express our gratitude to Turkey as the outgoing member.

We listened very carefully to the statement by the Minister of State about the main areas of the Forum's work on which the German delegation proposes to concentrate during its Chairmanship, which coincides with the most intensive session of the year. We note the balanced and multifaceted nature of the programme presented.

We look forward to having the topic of new military technologies examined at the Forum. Significantly, during the Russian FSC Chairmanship in 2017, we too proposed this topic as one of the Security Dialogue themes and noted that it attracted considerable interest on the part of many delegations. Its various aspects were set out in detail in the statements of several very interesting keynote speakers. We are confident that the examination of questions relating to new technologies that the German Chairmanship intends to bring about will help in addressing emerging issues of relevance to European security.

When drawing up the programme for our joint work, our German colleagues devoted considerable attention to traditional FSC topics, including the topic of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA). We believe that the proposed meeting on that topic will help in preparing a contribution for the forthcoming Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA.

We also have ahead of us an FSC meeting to mark the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325.

We have taken note of the German Chairmanship's plans to discuss the modernization of the Vienna Document 2011. Our position on this matter is well known. We believe that in the interests of making the wording used for the proposed topic more balanced and having a

fruitful discussion, it would be advisable to also mention practical aspects of the implementation of confidence- and security-building measures.

Discussions of the politico-military aspects of the crisis in Ukraine will continue during the FSC session ahead of us. We expect these discussions to be based on real, objective facts, rather than on conjecture, politicization and attempts at provoking tensions without reason. This is particularly relevant in view of certain positive developments that have emerged in the work of the Trilateral Contact Group. On 22 July, the Ukrainian Government and the authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk, with mediation by the OSCE and Russia, agreed on additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire regime in Donbas; those measures came into effect on 27 July. This is an important step in the stage-by-stage implementation of the Minsk agreements and the decisions of the Paris summit of the leaders of the Normandy Four countries held in December 2019. We trust that the sides will take a responsible approach to the implementation of these additional measures, and that the silence regime will be consistently respected, as this would make it possible to resolve with greater effectiveness other issues within the framework of the settlement process for the internal Ukrainian conflict.

We note that the Chairmanship's programme provides for a joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council on the Structured Dialogue. We believe that the Structured Dialogue process should be aimed at achieving concrete results in the politico-military sphere and at de-escalating the situation in Europe, and not on futile polemics. We should like to emphasize once more that, in our opinion, using the Structured Dialogue platform to discuss "hybrid threats" is pointless. For that reason, it remains our intention not to participate in meetings where "hybrid threats" are to be discussed.

The current autumn/winter session is a crucial period in terms of the preparations for the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Tirana. We appreciate that the task lying ahead of our esteemed German colleagues in that regard is a very challenging one, and we wish to express our confidence that they will master it successfully and effectively.

We, for our part, are ready to make the necessary efforts in facilitating a substantive, open and inclusive dialogue on current security issues in the OSCE area. We shall endeavour to share our country's experience in those areas where we have built up a considerable body of positive work.

In conclusion, allow me to express my sincere thanks once again to the Minister of State for his detailed outline of the German Chairmanship's priorities, and to wholeheartedly wish the distinguished delegation of the Germany every possible success in the very responsible function of chairing the Forum. We stand ready to provide all the assistance that may be required from us. We look forward to working closely and productively with you, Madam Chairperson, and with the distinguished members of the Troika.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.