

**Chairmanship: Germany****954th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 16 September 2020 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.  
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.  
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.  
Closed: 4.30 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 FSC.GAL/83/20.

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS (SALW) AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION (SCA): “TWENTY YEARS OF THE OSCE DOCUMENTS ON SALW AND SCA – TWENTY YEARS OF ASSISTANCE PROJECTS, SEEN FROM A DONOR’S AND A RECIPIENT’S PERSPECTIVE”

- *Presentation by Ms. J. Balfoort, Director for Security and Defence Policy, European External Action Service*
- *Presentation by Ms. L. Mojsavska Petrova, Head of Department for Weapons, Explosives and Dangerous Substances, National Focal Point, National Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ministry of Interior of the Republic of North Macedonia*
- *Presentation by the Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje*

- *Presentation by Mr. M. Bleinroth, Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE, until August 2020 Head of the Division for Conventional Disarmament, Arms Control and CSBM in the German Federal Foreign Office*

Chairperson, Ms. J. Balfourt, Ms. L. Mojsovska Petrova (FSC.DEL/186/20 OSCE+), Head of the OSCE Mission to Skopje, Germany (FSC.DEL/194/20 OSCE+), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/196/20), United States of America (FSC.DEL/195/20), Belarus (FSC.DEL/187/20 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Switzerland (FSC.DEL/188/20 OSCE+), Turkey (FSC.DEL/199/20 OSCE+), Azerbaijan (Annex 1), Armenia (Annex 2), Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Hungary (Annex 3), Bosnia and Herzegovina (also on behalf of Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) (FSC.DEL/193/20 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro (Annex 4), Russian Federation (Annex 5), North Macedonia, Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW and SCA (Latvia) (Annex 6), FSC Co-ordinator for Assistance Projects on SALW and SCA (Austria) (Annex 7), Serbia (Annex 8)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

*Situation in and around Ukraine:* Ukraine (FSC.DEL/191/20) (FSC.DEL/191/20/Add.1), 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) (FSC.DEL/197/20), United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada, Russian Federation (Annex 9), Germany-European Union

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Military exercise “Zebra Sword”, to be conducted from 25 October to 11 November 2020:* Germany, Netherlands
- (b) *Military exercise “Baccarat 2020”, being conducted from 14 to 25 September 2020:* France
- (c) *Military exercise “Silver Arrow 2020”, to be conducted from 18 September to 2 October 2020:* Latvia
- (d) *Temporary suspension by Serbia of its military activities with all partners for the next 6 months:* Serbia (Annex 10)

(e) *Matters of protocol: Greece*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 23 September 2020, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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**954th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 960, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of Azerbaijan warmly welcomes our keynote speakers to today's FSC meeting and thanks them for their interesting and insightful presentations. We commend the German FSC Chairmanship for attaching high importance to the field of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA). The dedicated Security Dialogue convened on this topic today has 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, as has the second Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA, which will take place in October. For this potential to be realized, we need frank discussions and constructive engagement by all participating States.

As a regional security arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the OSCE is well placed to take effective action in countering threats related to SALW and SCA in its geographical area. This should complement United Nations-led international efforts in this sphere, including through full implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Since the adoption of the OSCE Documents on SALW in 2000 and on SCA in 2003, the Organization has done a lot to streamline norms and best practices in the field of SALW and SCA, and also to expand and consolidate the normative framework in this sphere. Practical assistance projects are one of the important areas where the OSCE has developed a strong *acquis*. Nevertheless, persistent threats posed by the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and proliferation of SALW and SCA continue to degrade security in the OSCE area. Full implementation – in letter and spirit – of the commitments contained in relevant OSCE documents and decisions as well as practical steps taken to this end are necessary to tackle these threats and address our regional gaps in line with global standards.

One of the essential areas in which the OSCE has yet to realize its potential and make a tangible contribution to international efforts is action against the illicit transfer and diversion of SALW and SCA. This is a particularly pressing issue for the participating States suffering from unresolved armed conflicts that have arisen as a result of egregious violations of fundamental norms and principles of international law and the Helsinki Final Act

principles. The illegal accumulation and proliferation of SALW and SCA through illicit transfer and diversion to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan continues to be a serious security concern and threat to stability in our region. It helps to sustain the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan, prolong the conflict and undermine efforts towards its peaceful resolution, exacerbate violence, and threaten the lives of civilians.

The OSCE must take all appropriate measures to prevent and combat the illicit transfer and diversion of SALW and SCA. Before authorizing transfers of weapons, participating States should consider risks and threats that these transfers pose in conflict settings and assess how they contribute to the occupation of the internationally recognized territories of States. The fact that SALW and conventional ammunition manufactured in OSCE participating States are finding their way into the territory of another participating State without the consent of the latter should alarm both producing and transit countries.

We strongly believe that dealing with these threats is of fundamental importance for the entire OSCE region. This task should, therefore, remain high on the OSCE's agenda and result-oriented efforts should be continued to integrate it into the normative body of the OSCE and its programmatic activities, in line with global standards.

Furthermore, last week at the opening FSC session under the Chairmanship of Germany, we raised the issue of the increased supply to Armenia of arms and military equipment, which contributes to its policy of aggression and occupation of territories of Azerbaijan. In this regard, we reiterate our call to participating States to reconsider exports of arms and military equipment to Armenia until it withdraws its armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and puts an end to its policy of aggression.

In a similar vein, last week we communicated our position regarding a request by Armenia for an assistance project in the field of SALW and SCA. Let me reiterate that Azerbaijan is strongly against increasing or strengthening the military capabilities of this aggressor State in any way and is thus not in a position to support any assistance project requested to this end.

In closing, we once again thank our speakers for their valuable contributions to today's Security Dialogue and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



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**954th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 960, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of Armenia would like to join others in thanking the speakers for their thought-provoking presentations. We also extend our appreciation to the German FSC Chairmanship for including issues related to small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) in the agenda of the Security Dialogue and for preparing the concept note with some guiding questions. This meeting is a good opportunity to exchange ideas and views on the current status of implementation of our commitments ahead of the Tirana Ministerial Council meeting and to take account of the fact that we are marking the twentieth anniversary of the OSCE Document on SALW this year.

Armenia has always advocated the importance of control of SALW and SCA on the understanding that it can contribute to indivisible and comprehensive security in the OSCE area. Our delegation has always engaged constructively in the elaboration of SALW- and SCA-related commitments and activities. In this regard, it is of particular importance that over the last two decades in the OSCE we have elaborated a large amount of documents for tackling issues related to SALW and SCA and have accumulated relevant expertise in providing assistance to participating States.

Despite the achievements in this field, we continue to face some worrying trends as well. In this regard, we would like to particularly emphasize the challenges posed by the excessive and destabilizing accumulation of SALW, which continues to exacerbate the security situation and to threaten the lives of people, most notably those residing in conflict-affected or border areas.

In this particular context, the excessive and destabilizing accumulation of SALW by Azerbaijan continues to be a serious source of security concern for my country. The ceasefire violations by Azerbaijan along the State border with the Republic of Armenia and along the line of contact with the Republic of Artsakh were mainly perpetrated through the use of SALW. The most recent outrageous violation was registered right after the re-establishment of the ceasefire regime in the post-July Azerbaijani aggression period, when an Armenian soldier was shot by sniper fire. In this context it is noteworthy that the Azerbaijani side has for many years rejected proposals to withdraw snipers from front-line positions.

Madam Chairperson,

Coming back to the concept note distributed by the German FSC Chairmanship, we would like to refer to some of the guiding questions and share our experience on the implementation of assistance projects.

Back in 2015, the Republic of Armenia, in line with the OSCE Document on SCA, submitted a request to the OSCE for assistance in the implementation of a project in the field of SALW and SCA, with the aim of improving the safety standards of two SALW/SCA storage sites of the Republic of Armenia in line with the OSCE best practices.

To our deep regret, the process has been put on hold on account of the politicized and unsubstantiated position of Azerbaijan. In this regard, we would like to remind the Forum that the point of reference for the FSC Chairmanship, the OSCE Secretariat and within it the FSC Support Section in dealing with the assistance requests by the participating States lies in the agreed commitments and in this particular case the OSCE Document on SCA, which states that any participating State that has identified a security risk may request the assistance of the international community through the OSCE. Furthermore, describing the procedure for dealing with a request for assistance, the Document states that the Chairperson of the FSC, in close co-operation with the FSC Troika and the Chairmanship-in-Office, shall begin consultations, informing the FSC as appropriate, and may seek additional information and/or clarification from the participating State making the request. This may include organizing an initial visit, which may include a pre-feasibility study.

As is well known, during recent years the Armenian side has provided clarifications to the participating States both in written form and during the consultation meetings. We have also submitted an invitation for a pre-feasibility study, the organization of which by no means requires a consensus. In saying this, Madam Chairperson, I would like to recall that our request to FSC Chairmanships to inform the Forum about the actions undertaken in the framework of the assistance request by Armenia has not yet been addressed and is still valid.

In this context we would like to add that there is no OSCE commitment which requires a consensus decision at any stage of SALW/SCA assistance projects. We are very pleased that at previous FSC meetings and at the current one Azerbaijan has finally revealed its position with regard to the assistance project of Armenia, thus confessing the truth of the facts that our delegation has been presenting for so many years. So, if the position of Azerbaijan continues to hinder the implementation of our request, then the OSCE participating States should be alerted to the fact that our commitments can easily be abandoned in favour of political manipulation.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, let me stress that our position with regard to any new activities in the field of SALW/SCA will be based on the practical implementation of our commitments in their letter and spirit despite the artificial obstacles placed in our way. This will also be a major and concrete improvement for the conception phase of projects.

In reaction to the statement just delivered by the delegation of Azerbaijan, we would like to stress that we addressed their repeated and groundless allegations at the last FSC

meeting and that our reply was distributed under the reference number FSC.DEL/174/20. For the sake of time I will refrain from repeating our statement and simply recommend the delegation of Azerbaijan to read it once again.

I would kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.





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**954th Plenary Meeting**  
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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF HUNGARY**

Madam Chairperson,

Hungary considers the implementation of the OSCE small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) projects as one of the flagships of our Organization. The achievements in this field are unquestionable: thousands of SALW and thousands of tonnes of conventional ammunition have been destroyed with the assistance of the OSCE, making the life of citizens of the OSCE area safer, creating favourable circumstances for economic growth, and promoting social and infrastructural development.

Our long-standing dedicated commitment in this area is also demonstrated by the fact that Hungary, at the request of 22 FSC Chairmanships, has provided the FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on SALW and SCA for six years.

Madam Chairperson,

The stability and security of the Western Balkans is one of Hungary's most important priorities. Hence, we consider the work of the OSCE in supporting the countries of the region as fundamental. This work and the OSCE assistance would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of the participating States.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to inform you that the Ministry of Defence of Hungary, as a strong supporter of this joint endeavour, has decided to donate the total amount of 250,000 euros to programmes earmarked for OSCE SALW and SCA assistance projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

Out of this sum, 165,000 euros is to be used in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the safety and security upgrade of ammunition and weapons storage sites, in particular for upgrading and equipping the guard and other facilities at the prospective storage sites in Krupa and Kula.

In Montenegro, 85,000 euros is earmarked for the mitigation of safety and security risks related to SALW and SCA, in particular for supporting the establishment of an SCA surveillance framework by furnishing and equipping training facilities of the Ministry of Defence/armed forces.

We wish all possible success to our colleagues responsible for the implementation of these projects at the FSC Support Section of the Conflict Prevention Centre, the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of today's meeting.



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**954th Plenary Meeting**  
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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MONTENEGRO**

Madam Chairperson,

We thank Hungary for its continued support and well-timed generous donation, which is even more valuable in this challenging time when the COVID-19 pandemic is so greatly affecting the health and economy of our countries. We also wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to all participating States who have supported Montenegro in previous projects, and to say how much we are looking forward to further project developments.

Ever since Montenegro regained its independence back in 2006, issues related to small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) have been high on the list of Montenegrin priorities. Montenegro has recognized and used the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition as essential guides for developing a national normative framework, and the complementary best practice guides to implement international commitments and achieve national goals.

Over the past 14 years, Montenegro – with the support of the OSCE, OSCE participating States, the UNDP, EU, NATO and other partners – has accomplished many tasks under the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme MONDEM and various complementary projects, all conducted with the aim of building and maintaining an even better security environment. The results of those activities are visible and tangible and they directly contribute to safety and security both in Montenegro and beyond its borders.

Montenegro, in co-operation with the OSCE and the UNDP, brought MONDEM to a successful conclusion in December 2018.

Within MONDEM, from its start back in 2007 to its conclusion, 3,300 tonnes of heavy weapons were destroyed, 1,800 tonnes of surplus, obsolete and dangerous ammunition were neutralized, and 128 tonnes of toxic materials were safely disposed of. Furthermore, infrastructure upgrades were completed at a number of ammunition depots.

On account of the results achieved, the international community has recognized the MONDEM programme as one of the most successful projects in this field.

A year ago, mindful of the fact that paying due attention to SALW and SCA is an ongoing process, Montenegro submitted an official request for a new assistance project. Moreover, in order to achieve even higher standards in this challenging field, Montenegro has set additional high-priority tasks for the upcoming period:

- Training of personnel in procedures for management, handling and safe storage of ammunition, with estimated costs for this activity at around 15,000 euros;
- Continuation of the reconstruction of the warehouse “Brezovik”, Nikšić, at an estimated cost of 1.665 million euros;
- Reconstruction of the warehouse “Nova Lokacija”, Pljevlja, at an estimated cost of 121,000 euros; and
- Destruction of about 100 tonnes of surplus ammunition at an estimated cost of 200,000 euros.

Madam Chairperson,

To conclude, I would like to express our willingness to share lessons learned from previous projects and to thank Hungary once again for announcing its donation, which we consider as confirmation of mutual trust and of its willingness to support Montenegrin efforts to achieve further progress in this field.

I kindly ask you to attach my statement to the journal of the day.

I thank you.



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

FSC.JOUR/960  
16 September 2020  
Annex 5

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

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**954th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 960, Agenda item 1

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

Madam Chairperson,

We should like to join in thanking the German Chairmanship for organizing this meeting to mark the 20th anniversary of the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA). We believe that this is a good occasion to reaffirm their importance and to think about ways of improving the effectiveness of their implementation. We are grateful to the distinguished keynote speakers for their highly insightful presentations.

The Russian Federation shares the concerns of the international community regarding the uncontrolled spread of SALW and advocates further consolidation of global efforts to counter this dangerous trend. Illegal arms trafficking remains the principal source of sustenance for terrorist and extremist groups and one of the main factors in the expansion and exacerbation of conflicts. Despite some progress in a number of areas, much effort is still required to fundamentally improve the situation in terms of putting an end to illicit trafficking in SALW worldwide.

Under these circumstances, implementation of the principles set out in the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA acquires particular relevance. The Organization's practical activities to assist participating States in the management of stockpiles of small arms and ammunition make a specific contribution to the fulfilment of United Nations global commitments to preventing the destabilizing accumulation of SALW and their uncontrolled spread.

We believe that today's discussion at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) is in line with the 2018 Milan Ministerial Council Declaration, given the importance of project activities in establishing norms and best practices in the field of SALW and SCA. In that regard, we welcome the continued work by interested participating States on updating the OSCE Best Practice Guides and are counting on effective collaboration in that regard. In the current conditions under which the FSC is operating, the need for this work has increased significantly, not least as a factor in shaping a positive agenda.

We note the continuation of the Franco-German initiative on donor co-ordination in combating illicit trafficking in SALW in the Western Balkans. The corresponding road map has yet to be fully implemented and is designed for use until 2024. At the same time, we should not forget that the problem of illicit trafficking in SALW is especially acute in those areas where control over the situation by law enforcement agencies has been slackened and where there are high levels of corruption, unemployment and organized crime. We would be grateful to the distinguished delegations of France and Germany if in future they could inform the Forum about the progress of their major project.

Speaking about the influence on European security of the illicit trade in SALW, mention should be made of the situation in Ukraine, where the presence among civilians of large quantities of unregistered weapons remains a major threat. There is a *de facto* black market for arms in the country. According to information from the Prosecutor-General's Office of Ukraine, this market involves up to 5 million units of weaponry. Moreover, the illegal trade is sustained to a large extent by some of the arsenal used by the Ukrainian military in the zone of the armed conflict in Donbas. According to official statistics of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, in 2019, just over 16,000 weapons were voluntarily surrendered to the State, and law enforcement officers themselves seized only about 2,000. These are highly significant figures. Local law enforcement agencies in Ukraine have so far failed to achieve tangible results in countering crimes related to illegal arms trafficking, not least on account of the chronic corruption. We also cannot ignore the fact that since the beginning of the Ukrainian Government's punitive operation against the population of Donbas in 2014, that is, for almost seven years now, the vast majority of casualties and injuries due to small arms fire have been citizens of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

The assurances by Ukraine of the Government's transparency in the implementation of conventional arms transfers are questionable. One typical example is the decision adopted in 2015 by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to withdraw from its agreement with the Government of the Russian Federation on the exchange of information about Igla and Strela man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) when exporting them to or importing them from third countries. We urge Ukraine not to tie the implementation of transparency measures in the military sphere to a narrow political agenda and to show an appropriate level of transparency, which is especially important in the context of the ongoing military operation in the south-east of the country.

The Russian Federation pays due attention to the tasks involved in ensuring effective State control over the circulation of SALW at the national level and pursues a responsible policy in the sphere of military and technical co-operation with foreign countries, guided by the strict requirements of its well-developed export control system. In accordance with the OSCE Document on SALW, Russia annually submits information to the OSCE Secretariat on its export of SALW to OSCE States and the corresponding import from these States for the previous calendar year, and also data on SALW within its national borders withdrawn from illegal circulation and destroyed.

We attach importance to the implementation of SALW and SCA assistance projects on a bilateral basis. Over the past few years, specialists from the Russian Ministry of Defence have provided practical assistance to the countries of Central Asia in managing the storage and disposal of ammunition and missiles. For example, work was carried out in Tajikistan on

the disposal of missiles belonging to Soviet-designed S-75 air defence systems. Assistance was provided to Turkmenistan in accounting and control of MANPADS use. In Kazakhstan, military experts have been working to improve the system for ammunition storage and use. And in Kyrgyzstan, specialists' efforts have focused on improving the management system for small arms.

In conclusion, I should like to emphasize that we support the main thrust of the discussion, namely that efforts to prevent the uncontrolled spread of SALW and SCA and to address the humanitarian aspects of this issue will contribute to the strengthening of security in the OSCE area and should be systematically continued. In that context, we look forward to substantive discussions during the forthcoming second Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA, to be held in October.

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/960  
16 September 2020  
Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

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**954th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 960, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF  
FRIENDS ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND  
STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION (LATVIA)**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Dear colleagues,  
Distinguished speakers,

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), I should like to start by thanking the speakers for their valuable contributions and thoughts on the topic of today's Security Dialogue.

This year we are marking the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which regulates all aspects of SALW, including the production, transfer, storage, collection and destruction of such weapons, and also covers export controls. The OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, adopted in 2003, commits the participating States to the safe and secure storage of their national stocks of conventional ammunition. It provides indicators that participating States can use to assess whether they have a surplus of conventional ammunition, explosive material and/or detonating devices, and if so, to initiate the process of destroying any such surpluses.

Accordingly, the FSC has adopted several SALW- and SCA-related decisions and approved a number of Best Practice Guides (BPGs) on those topics. As the Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW and SCA, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of the OSCE Best Practice Guides on SALW and conventional ammunition, endorsed and generally accepted by all OSCE participating States, in providing common understanding of the approaches, procedures, terminology used, and even in some cases technical specifications. I am pleased to note that work on updating the OSCE Best Practice Guides on SALW and conventional ammunition continues apace. Four of the OSCE BPG draft updates are being reviewed by the core group of experts. As a follow-on step, an expert meeting is planned, to be chaired by the United States of America – a lead State for the update of three BPGs. As you know, the draft decision on the updated Best Practice Guide on



Deactivation of SALW is currently on the FSC Working Group A agenda. I hope it will be adopted by the participating States in due course.

Once again, I wish to commend the participating States that are actively involved in this process, and invite others to join in these efforts.

In the context of the upcoming second OSCE Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA on 13 and 14 October 2020, I would like to recall that at the first OSCE Biennial Meeting on SALW and SCA, held in 2018, participants acknowledged the need for the OSCE to enhance its SALW- and SCA-related norms, best practices, and mechanisms to better address both present and emerging challenges, and to prevent, combat, and eradicate the diversion of SALW and conventional ammunition. I would like to emphasize that this can be best achieved by strengthening the link between the best practices and practical assistance projects.

Work on the review and update of the BPGs goes hand-in-hand with, and is complementary to, the important work being carried out by our SALW and SCA assistance projects. And here I would like to use this opportunity to extend my warm welcome to Colonel Hans Lampalzer, the new FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator for Assistance Projects on SALW and SCA. I would like to remind you that two meetings of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW and SCA were held jointly with the previous FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator for Assistance Projects on SALW and SCA, Colonel László Szatmári, with the aim of bringing new focus and mutual reinforcement to the normative and practical aspects of OSCE efforts in the field of SALW and SCA. As you will recall, these joint meetings were very well received by the participating States. This joint manner of working allows us to tackle SALW and SCA issues more effectively, with stronger linkages between norms and standards and the practical implementation of assistance projects.

I have therefore been pleased to hear in today's speeches and presentations by Ambassador Koja of the OSCE Mission to Skopje and Ms. Petrova from the National Commission on SALW from North Macedonia about how the OSCE BPGs on SALW have been actually utilized to further develop regulatory framework, Standard Operating Procedures as well as training curricula on SALW security and management for the Ministry of Internal Affairs of North Macedonia.

Moreover, I'm also delighted to report that at our latest Informal Group of Friends meeting the OSCE executive structures already presented their lessons learned in implementing selected BPGs on SALW and conventional ammunition through their practical work on specific assistance projects. These provide direct feedback on their practical value as well as recommendations for further improvement. The ultimate purpose of such exercises is to improve the efficiency and outcomes of OSCE SALW and SCA projects and to ensure the maximum possible value in dealing with the challenges associated with SALW and SCA. Obviously, it is up to the participating States to consider the recommendations in support of the regular BPGs update process.

With regard to the proposed agenda of the Biennial Meeting, I see great value in placing a focus on the assistance mechanism under the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA, and hearing the donors' perspectives, as well as discussing the practical application of the OSCE Best Practice Guides on SALW and conventional ammunition, and applying other

relevant international standards to the assistance projects. The outcomes of the OSCE Biennial Meeting on SALW and SCA will constitute a key guideline for possible deliverables for the Tirana Ministerial Council.

In conclusion, dear colleagues, I would like to thank you, once again, for supporting the work of the Informal Group of Friends and to encourage you to stay actively involved.

Thank you for your attention. I kindly ask 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/960  
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Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

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**954th Plenary Meeting**  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE FSC CO-ORDINATOR FOR ASSISTANCE PROJECTS ON  
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF  
CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION (AUSTRIA)**

Madam Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,

Please allow me to take the floor in my capacity as the new Co-ordinator for Assistance Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA).

At the outset, let me extend my gratitude to the German FSC Chairmanship and the FSC Troika for appointing me as Co-ordinator. It is an honour for me to support the FSC Chairmanship in the preparation and execution of its programme/activities regarding the implementation of SALW and SCA projects and to work with the OSCE delegations and representatives of the OSCE participating States on behalf of the FSC Chair.

The fact that this first security dialogue is devoted to small arms and light weapons underlines the importance the FSC Chairmanship attaches to this topic. One of the duties and responsibilities of the Co-ordinator is to keep the FSC plenary and its working groups informed on the progress of discussions and implementation, as appropriate. In this light, let me inform you that in the second quarter of 2020, despite the challenges faced by the pandemics, participating States sponsored and assisted with in-kind contributions the implementation of 17 SALW and SCA assistance projects at the national and regional levels with a total project budget of more than 30 million euros. In addition to in-kind contributions, 60 per cent of the funds needed have already been pledged by participating States.

Please allow me to extend my gratitude to all donors for showing their strong commitment. In view of outstanding projects and the risks stemming from outdated stockpiles of conventional ammunition as well as SALW, I encourage all participating States to fully support and to allow the making of further progress. I would also use this opportunity to thank the following participating States for their valuable contributions for OSCE SALW/SCA projects in the third quarter of 2020:

- United States of America, 3,885,000 euros for project activities in Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan;
- Germany, 1,206,010 euros for project activities in Albania, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan and Serbia;
- Hungary, 250,000 euros for project activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro;
- Norway, 18,372 euros for project activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the context of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, transparency serves as a confidence-building measure. In this regard, allow me to draw your attention to a new brochure issued by the FSC Support Section (FSC.DEL/185/20 of 16 September 2020) focusing on the OSCE portfolio of projects in South-Eastern Europe and thank them for their efforts.

Madam Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished colleagues,  
Dear Ilona,

I am looking forward to working with you!

Thank you for your attention. May I ask 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/960  
16 September 2020  
Annex 8

Original: ENGLISH

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**954th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 960, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA**

Madam Chairperson,  
Your Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,

It was not my intention to take the floor but, having listened to and carefully read certain statements today, I am obliged to remind all participating States of the OSCE's status of neutrality in relation to Kosovo and Metohija.

I would like to recall once again that Kosovo and Metohija is under the interim administration of the United Nations, subject to the legally binding United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Therefore, I call upon all delegations to respect the status of neutrality of the organization in which we are participants.

I thank you for your attention and kindly ask 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/960  
16 September 2020  
Annex 9

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

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**954th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 960, Agenda item 2

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

Madam Chairperson,

Before turning to the main part of our statement, we feel it necessary once more to remind the delegations of Ukraine, the United States of America, Canada, the European Union and the United Kingdom 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”. Any attempts to call into question the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation are absolutely unacceptable. The choice made by the inhabitants of Crimea and Sevastopol to unite with Russia is completely legitimate and simply has to be accepted.

We urge our partners to stop their attempts to demonize Russia’s military activity in the Black Sea. Since the time when Crimea was part of Ukraine, the quality of our military presence in the region has effectively remained unchanged. Of course, we are modernizing our forces and capabilities, given the fact that the NATO infrastructure is being brought closer to Russia’s borders. But our efforts are totally commensurate with our real needs as regards strengthening defence and security. Furthermore, Russia attaches particular importance to confidence-building measures in the region and displays maximum transparency when conducting exercises by inviting foreign observers to events. It is up to our partners whether they decide to exercise this right or not.

The politicized statement by a Ukrainian representative about Russia’s allegedly “deliberate steps aimed at escalation” in the Black Sea was made against the backdrop of a real intensification of military activity by Ukraine in the region. For example, the Ukrainian Government is conducting exercises involving aggressive scenarios and the participation of forces from NATO States, and is also actively modernizing its military infrastructure facilities, building up its military capabilities and testing new weapons systems. What is more, the authorities in Kyiv make little secret of the fact that these systems are intended to be used against Russia. Such military activity by Ukraine with external support is clearly destabilizing the situation.

The Russian Federation advocates maintaining peace and stability in the Black Sea region. We believe that the littoral countries have everything they need to independently resolve common security issues, relying on the existing mechanisms for co-operation. We urge all the Black Sea States to return to full-scale co-operation within the framework of the Black Sea Naval Cooperation Task Group (BLACKSEAFOR), Operation Black Sea Harmony and the Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea.

Today's statement by the delegation of Ukraine was another example of stirring up confrontational rhetoric. It is merely a further attempt to hide the fact that Ukraine is continuing to wage a war against its own people in Donbas in violation of the Minsk Package of Measures (endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 2202), while trying to blame a neighbouring State for all its misfortunes.

The delegation of the Russian Federation does not consider it necessary to continue listening to the propaganda exercises of the Ukrainian delegation or to hold discussions on topics imposed by the latter, especially since at this stage Ukraine is in fact being steered from outside and is not an independent actor in international relations.

At the same time, I should like to stress that we are not refusing to exchange views with the OSCE participating States on the politico-military aspects of the situation in Ukraine. We are prepared to engage in professional and depoliticized discussion based on objective facts.

Madam Chairperson,

Our position on the internal Ukrainian conflict remains unchanged – there needs to be full implementation of the Minsk Package of Measures of 12 February 2015 through direct dialogue between the Ukrainian Government and the authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk. The Russian Federation, as a mediator alongside the OSCE, Germany and France, is prepared to facilitate this in every possible way.

The agreement reached by the parties to the Ukrainian internal conflict on 22 July within the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) on additional measures for enhancing the ceasefire regime was an important step towards the implementation of the Minsk agreements and the instructions issued at the “Normandy format” summit held in Paris in December 2019. According to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), following the entry into effect of the measures on 27 July in the zone of armed confrontation no civilian casualties or destruction of civilian infrastructure as result of shelling have been recorded in Donbas.

Unfortunately, against this background, the SMM regularly reports violations of the agreements reached. In particular, it has recorded instances of weapons being fired and of the fortification of combat positions and the deployment of military equipment in settlements. Since the start of September alone, according to the Mission, military equipment belonging to the Ukrainian armed forces has been spotted near residential buildings on 17 occasions, but there has been only one such instance in the case of the militia.

As a co-mediator in the peace process, Russia is deeply concerned about the breakdown of the agreement reached on 9 September at an extraordinary meeting of the TCG via videoconference on the joint inspection by representatives of the Ukrainian Government and of Donbas, with the participation of the OSCE, of the situation near the settlement of Shumy close to the line of contact, where engineering work at Ukrainian military positions had been reported. Under far-fetched pretexts, the inspectors were refused admittance to the area and attempts were made to prevent the Donbas representatives from taking part in the visit.

We call on the Ukrainian Government to take a responsible approach to the implementation of these agreements, which once again confirmed that progress can be made in the settlement process if there is the political will to do so.

Madam Chairperson,

The armed confrontation in Donbas has claimed the lives of over 13,000 people. This is the price that the inhabitants of Donbas have had to pay for disagreeing with the course of the politicians who came to power almost seven years ago after the anti-constitutional coup d'état in Ukraine. The massive loss of civilian lives, continuing violations of human rights and instances of victimization and torture by the Ukrainian military have all been recorded in reports by authoritative international organizations. Further prolongation of the violence in Donbas is unacceptable.

The Ukrainian Government should put an immediate stop to the punitive operation against the civilian population of Donbas, move its weapons to the designated storage sites, disband all illegal groups and pull foreign military equipment and mercenaries out of Ukraine. The inhumane socio-economic blockade of the region should be lifted and the region itself granted special status without delay. All of Ukraine's obligations under the Minsk agreements must be fulfilled. Political and security measures are closely interlinked and should be implemented simultaneously. Without resolving the political issues, a comprehensive settlement of the crisis in Ukraine is impossible. We emphasize the direct responsibility of the Ukrainian Government for the practical implementation of all aspects of the Minsk Package of Measures and the instructions issued at the "Normandy format" summit held in Paris.

Ukraine's contemptuous approach to fulfilment of its commitments under OSCE politico-military instruments is cause for great concern. There is considerable evidence of violations by the Ukrainian Government of provisions of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. In the south-east of the country, military activities are being conducted, which at various times reached a threshold of some 70,000 troops and involved large quantities of heavy equipment. What is more, the Ukrainian Government does not provide the notifications required by the Vienna Document 2011 and does not invite observers to that area. We would recall that voluntary transparency measures cannot replace the implementation of mandatory Vienna Document provisions.

The continuing crisis in Ukraine is the result of the February 2014 coup d'état, which was orchestrated, funded and organized from abroad and has led to the armed confrontation in Donbas and the suffering of millions of Ukrainian civilians. For more than six years, the Ukrainian Government's Western partners have not really sought to promote a real cessation



of hostilities and a political settlement of the crisis. On the contrary, they are in fact giving the Ukrainian Government the green light to commit war crimes in eastern Ukraine, instigating further armed violence, training the Ukrainian army, and pumping weapons and equipment into Ukraine, which then find their way into the zone of armed confrontation. This is not conducive to reducing military tensions, as the Western partners regularly call for – rather, it is giving a fillip to the “war party” in Kyiv and its belligerent aspirations regarding Donbas.

We would emphasize that participating States that provide military-technical assistance in any form to the Ukrainian Government share responsibility with the Ukrainian military for the casualties among the civilian population and for further destruction in Donbas. What is more, their actions contravene the letter and the spirit of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the CSCE Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers. We call on our partners to fulfil their obligations fully and responsibly, something they themselves regularly advocate.

Our position on holding a meeting of ministers for foreign affairs or a summit in the “Normandy format” is well known: first, the agreements reached by the leaders of our countries in Paris in December of last year must be implemented. So far, no serious progress has been observed. We merely see ever more problems arising in connection with the constant changes (and moreover for the worse) in the position of the Ukrainian authorities in terms of their commitment to the implementation of the Minsk agreements.

We call on the OSCE, our international partners and Ukraine’s external “minders” to bring their influence to bear on the Ukrainian leadership in order to encourage it to take practical steps in the interests of peace and civil accord with a view to achieving swift implementation of the provisions of the Package of Measures (endorsed by the United Nations Security Council) in a full and co-ordinated manner on the basis of direct and sustainable dialogue between the Ukrainian Government and the authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk.

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**

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16 September 2020  
Annex 10

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**954th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 960, Agenda item 3(d)

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA**

Madam Chairperson,  
Your Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,

On 9 September 2020, the Government of the Republic of Serbia decided to suspend all military exercises and military activities with all partners for the next six months, without exception.

However, the Republic of Serbia will continue to fulfil all its previously undertaken international obligations in the field of arms control.

The Republic of Serbia certainly remains open for communication with all its partners, but temporarily without taking on new obligations in defence co-operation.

I thank you for your attention and kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.