

Chairmanship: Iceland

642nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 6 April 2011

Opened: 10.15 a.m.

Closed: 11.25 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador S. Skjaldarson

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Request for assistance in improving stockpile management and security at the small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition storage sites of the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Hungary-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Serbia; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/84/11), Bosnia and Herzegovina (FSC.DEL/82/11 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: SECURITY DIALOGUE

Presentation on human rights and crisis management, including the relevance of UNSCR 1325, by Ms. Nina Nordberg, Project Researcher: Chairperson, Ms. N. Nordberg (FSC.NGO/5/11) (FSC.NGO/5/11/Add.1), Hungary-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Moldova, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/83/11), Austria, Czech Republic, Holy See, Finland, Russian Federation

Agenda item 3: VIENNA DOCUMENT PLUS DECISION ON ACCURACY OF CO-ORDINATES OF FORMATIONS, COMBAT UNITS, AIR FORMATIONS AND AIR COMBAT UNITS (not adopted)

Chairperson, Azerbaijan, Russian Federation

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *UK Government National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 Women, Peace and Security, launched in November 2010: United Kingdom (Annex 1)*
- (b) *Publication of the third annual report by the independent Service Complaints Commissioner on 31 March 2011: United Kingdom (Annex 2)*
- (c) *Meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons, held on 5 April 2011: Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (Sweden)*
- (d) *Event highlighting Hungarian destruction of cluster munitions stockpiles, held in Erdőkertes, Hungary, on 24 March 2011: Chairperson, Hungary*
- (e) *Vienna City Marathon charity event, to be held on 17 April 2011: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 13 April 2011, at 12 noon, in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/648
6 April 2011
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

642nd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 648, Agenda item 4(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. Chairperson,

On 31 March the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Right Honourable William Hague, launched the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) 2010 human rights report. This is now available online on the FCO's website. Of particular relevance today, given the subject over which we have just had such interesting discussion in our Security Dialogue, is the section of that report that concentrates on UNSCR 1325.

Mr. Chairperson,

The year 2010 marked the 10-year anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. In October, we led negotiations at the Security Council to agree a set of indicators that will, for the first time, monitor the status of women in conflict-affected States and measure the progress by the UN and member States to improve women's protection and participation. In December we worked closely with our partners in the Security Council to agree a strengthened accountability mechanism to combat sexual violence in armed conflict. This will inform the Security Council of those parties to conflict responsible for committing sexual violence and allow the Council to take further action.

As part of our domestic commitment to protecting women during conflict and promoting their participation in conflict resolution, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Henry Bellingham, along with colleagues from Department for International Development (DFID) and Ministry of Defence (MOD), launched the new United Kingdom National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in November. Mr. Chairperson, distinguished colleagues, you will doubtless recall that we brought this to the FSC's attention on 8 December 2010. This plan sets out how the Government will adapt its policies and programmes to empower and protect women in all of our conflict-related work and is available on the FCO website. The plan, developed in consultation with civil society and international partners, includes measureable commitments to ensure gender considerations are incorporated into our work, including conflict training delivered by the Stabilisation Unit of the FCO, DFID and MOD and the deployment of female engagement officers to Afghanistan, so that the needs of Afghan women are better reflected in our operations. The plan also includes three country strategies, which includes one for Afghanistan.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/648

6 April 2011

Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

642nd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 648, Agenda item 4(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. Chairperson,

In the context of our obligations in respect of the OSCE's Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, in particular paragraphs 32 and 33 concerning the fundamental freedoms of members of our armed forces and their legal and administrative protection, I would like to draw participating States' attention to the recent report of the United Kingdom's Service Complaints Commissioner.

We have previously briefed the Forum on the role of the post of Service Complaints Commissioner: it was created in the United Kingdom by the Armed Forces Act 2006, with a remit to cover any complaint made by any Service personnel. Dr. Susan Atkins was appointed as the United Kingdom's first Service Complaints Commissioner on 1 December 2007 to provide independent oversight of the new Service complaints process. One of the roles of the Service Complaints Commissioner is to report annually on the fairness, effectiveness and efficiency of the Service complaints process to the Secretary of State for Defence.

The third annual report by the independent Service Complaints Commissioner was published on 31 March 2011. The report highlights the significant improvements made to the complaints system by the Ministry of Defence and the Services over the last twelve months, and during the Commissioner's first three years in post. Timeliness in the handling of complaints remains a particular area of concern for the Service Complaints Commissioner, especially in cases of bullying, harassment and discrimination. The Ministry of Defence welcomes the report and will consider in full with the Services, the findings and recommendations made. The Secretary of State for Defence will provide the Service Complaints Commissioner with a formal response in due course.

A copy of the full report is available on the Internet on the Service Complaints Commissioner's website at <http://armedforcescomplaints.independent.gov.uk/>.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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