
Chairmanship: Austria**988th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 13 October 2021 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 3.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador F. Raunig
Mr. R. Lassmann

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: “MIL-TO-MIL CONTACTS ON DOCTRINES”

– *Presentation by Brigadier General N. Gentile, Deputy Director for Partnering, Security Cooperation and Weapons of Mass Destruction, United States European Command*

– *Presentation by Colonel (General Staff) M. Ghilardi, Head of Military Doctrine, Swiss Armed Forces*

– *Presentation by Colonel M. Bastin, Motorized Capabilities programme, Belgian Armed Forces; seconded to the French Army Staff*

Chairperson, Brigadier General N. Gentile (FSC.DEL/367/21 OSCE+), Colonel (General Staff) M. Ghilardi (FSC.DEL/371/21 OSCE+), Colonel M. Bastin, Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/364/21), Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Turkey, Canada, Belarus

(FSC.DEL/369/21 OSCE+), Austria (Annex 1), Russian Federation
(FSC.DEL/370/21), United States of America

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Situation in and around Ukraine*: Ukraine, Slovenia-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/365/21), United States of America (FSC.DEL/366/21 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Canada, Russian Federation
- (b) *Update on the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control in accordance with Article IV of Annex 1-B to the Dayton Peace Agreement*: Montenegro (also on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia) (Annex 2), Chairperson

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Request for assistance in the management of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition in Kyrgyzstan*: Kyrgyzstan (Annex 3), Chairperson
- (b) *Briefing on the military exercise “Zapad-2021”, conducted from 10 to 16 September 2021*: Russian Federation (FSC.DEL/372/21), Sweden, Canada
- (c) *Joint proposal for a Vienna Document Plus draft decision (FSC.DEL/213/19/Rev.2)*: Sweden, United States of America, Canada, Montenegro
- (d) *Matters of protocol*: Poland

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 20 October 2021, 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/994
13 October 2021
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

988th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 994, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AUSTRIA

Mr. Chairperson,

Austria fully supports the statement made by the European Union and would like to add its national contribution to today's discussion on military-to-military contacts on doctrines within the OSCE.

First of all, I should like to express my sincere thanks to the panellists for their interesting remarks on the subject matter. The necessity of addressing this topic has thus been confirmed once again.

In Austria's view, this year's High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar demonstrated the usefulness of this confidence- and security-building measure (CSBM), especially in the light of ongoing tensions and new risks to security in and for Europe. Austria is and will remain a staunch supporter of CSBMs in general and of intensified military contacts in particular.

Austria's proposal in 2016 to convene so-called intersessional meetings between the High-Level Military Doctrine Seminars, held every five years, was due to the fundamental security changes in Europe, especially the crisis in and around Ukraine. On the one hand, military threats and risks are steadily increasing; on the other hand, institutionalized multilateral platforms as a framework for regular dialogue among high-ranking military officers are largely lacking.

Against this backdrop, Austria issued invitations to "intersessional" dialogues on military doctrines in 2017 and 2019 outside existing formats. The focus on military doctrines provided an ideal basis for discussions on a wide range of security-related topics. At these two meetings, it was noted, among other things, that inter-State tensions had risen enormously, potential conventional military conflicts were of particular significance in existing threat perceptions, the increase in military activities was a cause for great concern and the persistently confrontational approach carried with it a far-reaching potential for escalation. To this end, it was concluded that the armed forces had responded to these changes by adapting their national and collective defence measures to counter perceived threats.

These outcomes of the intersessional dialogues outline a security situation in the OSCE area that is characterized by rapid changes, uncertainties, complexity, tensions and even outright conflict, and it can be assumed that the trends in this regard will most likely continue in the future.

Austria considers the results of the intersessional meetings to be invaluable and sees a particular added value in them. It was encouraging to see that, despite strained inter-State relations, constructive exchange among military participants is possible. From an Austrian perspective, the goal of contributing to a better understanding among armed forces regarding different threat perceptions, operational trends, common security challenges and possible approaches to addressing them, was achieved. It was essential to use the time between the High-Level Military Doctrine Seminars to continue the discussion and maintain the dialogue.

I should like to return the floor to you, Mr. Chairperson, and 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/994
13 October 2021
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

988th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 994, Agenda item 2(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF MONTENEGRO (ALSO ON BEHALF OF
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA AND SERBIA)**

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Ambassadors,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honour and privilege to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Parties to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control – Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia.

At the very beginning, let me express gratitude to the Austrian Chairmanship for including this item on the agenda of today's meeting. Also, we fully appreciate the participating States expressing interest in paying attention to the follow-up activities regarding the implementation of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control.

As you all probably know, the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control is a part of the much broader Dayton Peace Accords, the agreement which contributed to rebuilding peace and stability in the aftermath of a long and devastating war in the Balkans. By signing the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, known as Article IV, in 1996, the Parties committed themselves to transparent, timely and consistent implementation of this legal document. What is particularly important, the Parties, after they accomplished all their commitments arising from the agreement, have continued to voluntarily execute the reduction of armaments. And this voluntary dedication in the best way describes the spirit in which the agreement process has been implemented over the years, in an atmosphere of mutual trust, confidence and co-operation.

Hence, this year a central event was the celebration in June of the 25th anniversary of the successful implementation of the Article IV, which was an important occasion that reflected the full dedication and consistent commitment of its signatories to the goals and tasks of the Agreement. This was the opportunity for the political and military representatives of the Parties, as well as international organizations, to reflect and perceive the lessons learned and outcomes of the mutual co-operation within the quarter-century-long process of implementation of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control.

Additionally, between two reports to the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation, the Parties maintained close and very frequent co-operation and communication in spite of the global COVID-19 pandemic. There were organized two regular meetings of permanent working groups, two meetings of subregional consultative commissions and a number of extraordinary meetings. Furthermore, the 12th Review Conference was organized in December 2020. At all meetings it was mutually underscored and agreed by the Parties that:

- The Agreement has met the specific conditions and needs of the time in which it was created and during its implementation it has made a significant contribution to establishing a military balance, improving the security and stability of this part of Europe. In this respect it remains a very effective and sustainable instrument for improving transparency and maintaining lasting and stable peace in the region.
- The Parties confirmed the existence of capacities for further quality implementation and responsible access to all segments of the implementation of the Agreement after taking ownership of it. Thanks to the political will and the high level of professionalism of the institutions of the Parties responsible for the implementation of the obligations defined by the Agreement, it is confirmed that unique and extremely valuable experience and knowledge have been gained to design and implement an effective post-conflict recovery model.
- The continued maintenance of the numerical size of weapons limited by the Agreement has been confirmed, significantly below the agreed upper values in accordance with the Agreement. Moreover, the Parties continue to reduce the number of personnel on a voluntary basis. It was, also, confirmed that the results achieved through the application of regional co-operation mechanisms in the field of arms control and military-civilian co-operation have significantly contributed to the current progress of the Parties on their path to European and Euro-Atlantic integration.
- The Parties assessed that the successful implementation of the Agreement is the result of their readiness to find a sustainable solution even in the changed circumstances. The Parties therefore agree that delay in the implementation of inspection activities, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, is extraordinary and temporary and will in no way affect the further implementation of the Agreement or the fulfilment of other obligations arising from it.

Although 14 inspection missions were planned in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the unfavourable epidemiological situation on the ground, the Parties to the Agreement decided by consensus to temporarily suspend all inspection activities in order to protect the health of the participants. However, due to somewhat better epidemic circumstances in September 2021 the inspection regime has started again and three inspections have been carried out so far.

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to express gratitude to the OSCE community for the longstanding support provided to the Parties in their efforts in implementing the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, which is reflected in the presence of the 168 guest observers from about 29 different OSCE participating States in the inspection activities. With the great support that countries of the Contact Group gave to the whole process, we wish to express gratitude also to the noteworthy contribution of the OSCE Secretariat and Conflict Prevention Centre, which

confirms continuously that OSCE support is guaranteed. Additionally, we want to reiterate the important role of the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre in promoting the value of the agreement by organizing numerous workshops that addressed the practical part of the exercises.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me once again point out that the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security is more relevant than ever. Arms control and confidence- and security-building measures are important to create a climate for peace building and conflict prevention. We hope that certain mechanisms and principles of the Article IV will have broader value to the OSCE community and could find a way to be incorporated into the arms control policies. The Parties will continue, through constructive bilateral and multilateral co-operation, to contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the region, Europe and the world. The expertise and concept of Article IV is available to be considered and applied in other parts of the world where conflicts and tensions still prevail.

Thank you for your attention.



988th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 994, Agenda item 3(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF KYRGYZSTAN**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

In accordance with the provisions of the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) and with reference to the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) decisions (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1 and FSC.DOC/1/03/Rev.1), the Kyrgyz Republic would like to ask the FSC Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretariat for assistance and support in the following areas:

- Increasing the capacity of the Ministry of Defence of the Kyrgyz Republic in ensuring the physical security and stockpile management of SALW and conventional ammunition;
- Disposing of surplus conventional ammunition;
- Strengthening the capacity of the Border Guard Service of the Kyrgyz Republic in combating illicit trafficking in SALW and SCA.

This request by the Kyrgyz Republic is motivated by the following circumstances.

At present, the formations and units of the armed forces of the Kyrgyz Republic have storage facilities for SALW and SCA that, owing to their technical condition, are unable to ensure the safe storage of weapons.

Missile and artillery systems and engineering explosives and equipment stored in dilapidated facilities (in some places in metal containers) are, if exposed to certain effects, prone to self-decomposition, which can lead to the risk of ignition and explosions with subsequent contamination of the environment.

In that regard, with a view to increasing the physical security of the storage of SALW and SCA, the construction of new storage facilities and the overhaul and improvement of existing infrastructure for stockpile management of SALW and conventional ammunition are needed.

The Kyrgyz Republic has also identified risks associated with the uncontrolled spread of SALW and SCA across borders in the light of the unpredictable situation in Afghanistan. The illegal supply of SALW and conventional ammunition, even in limited quantities, combined with other transnational threats, could seriously undermine security and stability in the Kyrgyz Republic and the entire Central Asian region.

At the same time, we should like to inform you that the questionnaire completed by the competent authorities of our country will be made available to the Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretariat in the near future through official channels.

We request that this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.

Thank you for your attention.