

Chairmanship: Malta

749th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 19 March 2014

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.35 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador K. Azzopardi

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE

Presentation on the UNODC's Global Firearms Programme and Possible Areas of Co-operation by Ms. S. Grassi, Team Leader/Legal Officer of the Firearms Team, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): Chairperson, Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (FSC.DEL/51/14 OSCE+), Greece-European Union (with the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/53/14), United Kingdom, Belarus, Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/52/14 OSCE+), Hungary, Greece-European Union (with the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/54/14), Switzerland, Turkey (FSC.DEL/55/14), United States of America, Germany, Canada, United Kingdom, France, Russian Federation (Annex 1), Austria, Cyprus

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Workshop on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, to be held in Belgrade from 26 to 28 March 2014: Serbia (Annex 2)*
- (b) *Appeal for support for the Vienna City Marathon charity event on 13 April 2014, in which military advisers of delegations of OSCE participating States are taking part: United Kingdom*
- (c) *Briefing on the 63rd meeting of the Communications Group, held on 12 March 2014: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre*

The FSC agreed to hold the Annual Exchange of Military Information (AEMI) on 15 December 2014.

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 26 March 2014, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/755
19 March 2014
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

749th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 755, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with several statements heard in this room at the preceding and current meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation, I should like to make the following statement.

First, with regard to the questions concerning the airborne troop exercises, I can report that during the period from 11 to 14 March, under the direction of the commander of the airborne troops, exercises were conducted with units and subunits of the 98th parachute division involving around 4,000 military personnel, 10 armoured combat vehicles and 36 military transport aircraft.

The main purpose of these operations was to assess the readiness of the troops for action to resolve crisis situations that pose a threat to the military security of the country.

During the planned exercises, the troop units and subunits to be inspected were gradually deployed in unfamiliar training grounds in the Central, Southern and Eastern Military Districts, where they engaged in firing using standard-issue weapons and paratrooper landings.

For example, the largest parachute assault was carried out on 13 March at the Kuzminki training ground in the Taganrog district of Rostov oblast. It involved around 1,500 military personnel and 6 armoured combat vehicles. Other landing drills took place thousands of kilometres away from Russia's western borders.

As you are aware, combat training operations of this scale are not subject to notification under the Vienna Document 2011. This being the case, we would advise some of our esteemed colleagues to consult the primary sources a little more often.

Second point. The "acting minister of defence of Ukraine", Mr. Ihor Tenyukh, alleged on 11 March that a group of 220,000 Russian troops, 1,800 tanks and more than 400 helicopters had been deployed near the eastern border of Ukraine and in Crimea.

Today is hardly a good time to escalate the situation affecting Russian-Ukrainian relations in an attempt to “impress” certain nervous parliamentarians and the “broad international community”. But this is what Mr. Tenyukh is doing. He himself revealed the goals and objectives being pursued here, having urged the deputies of the Verkhovna Rada to immediately provide the Ukrainian armed forces with “the necessary resources and means”.

In this same connection, the Ukrainian military is well aware that the Russian Southern and Western Military Districts put together would not account for the number of tanks and combat helicopters mentioned by Mr. Tenyukh. As for the number of personnel allegedly deployed in the area bordering Ukraine, it looks as though the families of the military personnel were included in the figure.

At the same time, I should like to point out that the attempt by the Ukrainian armed forces themselves to conduct major exercises in the east and south of Ukraine near regions where there are large protests taking place against the *coup d'état* that has occurred in Kyiv is a highly risky course of action that could further exacerbate the political situation in Ukraine.

Third point. Ten days ago or so, some of our esteemed colleagues were concerned by media reports that the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation was exploring the possibility of suspending verification activities under the Vienna Document 2011 in response to the winding down of military co-operation by certain Western countries.

Today, in view of their appeals, let us once again reiterate: not all media reports should be taken at face value. As our partners are already aware, the leadership of the Russian Ministry of Defence has clearly stated that the Russian Federation is implementing in full its commitments regarding disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control set out in international agreements.

These are not just words. I should like to make the point that, despite the difficult politico-military situation in connection with the events in Ukraine and increased activity by NATO countries near Russia's borders, there are currently no problems in Russia as regards organizing the work of inspection teams.

For example, from 1 to 3 March, in line with the Vienna Document 2011, inspectors from Latvia and Germany were in the vicinity of Pskov. Inspectors from Switzerland and Finland were working in Moscow oblast on 2 and 3 March. These inspections coincided with an active phase of a surprise inspection of Western Military District troops.

Similar exercises are also taking place this week. For example, representatives of Estonia, France and Belgium are conducting an evaluation visit to a parachute regiment of the 76th Pskov airborne division, and from 17 to 23 March we are receiving an Open Skies mission from Germany and the United States of America.

In keeping with our adherence to international commitments under the Vienna Document 2011, we also provided Ukraine with an opportunity to inspect districts in the Belgorod and Kursk oblasts adjacent to our common border. Operations are taking place during the period from 18 to 20 March. Representatives of the neighbouring State will be able (including by means of a helicopter provided by Russia) to see for themselves that no military

activities posing a threat to Ukraine – about which there has been much talk of late in the Ukrainian and Western media – are taking place.

Furthermore, guided by the principle of ensuring transparency in military activities at a time when certain public figures in Kyiv are whipping up hysteria in the media as regards the alleged massive concentration of Russian armed forces on the Ukrainian border and their “readiness to invade” the territory of that country, we agreed to the Ukrainian request for an “extraordinary flight” under the terms of the Treaty on Open Skies (although we were not in fact obliged to do this). The questions of a financial nature that arose in this connection, about which the Ukrainian representative wrote so graphically a few days ago, proved to be entirely resolvable, and the mission will begin on 20 March.

Let me repeat: we are implementing our commitments and, at times, to show goodwill, we are doing even more than is required under international agreements. We expect the same from those who regularly come to us with such requests.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. 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/755
19 March 2014
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

749th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 755, Agenda item 3(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA

Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Permanent Mission of Serbia in Vienna, I would like to inform you about the OSCE-wide workshop on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, to be held from 26 to 28 March in Belgrade.

The three-day workshop is being organized by the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia. Its aim is to enhance the OSCE's internal coherence in promoting the Code of Conduct of Politico-Military Aspects of Security and supporting its effective implementation.

The workshop will bring together representatives of the OSCE field operations, institutions and Secretariat in order to exchange best practices in supporting the implementation of the Code of Conduct. In addition, the workshop has the potential to contribute to the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation. It is important to say that it is the first workshop of its kind and will serve as a unique opportunity for members of the OSCE family to learn from each other and increase their expertise in this field.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Conflict Prevention Centre and FSC Support Section for their support in the organization and co-ordination of this workshop.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.