
Chairmanship: Austria**987th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 29 September 2021 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1.05 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 3.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador F. Raunig

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: “THE FUTURE OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL”

- *Presentation by Ambassador S. Baumann, Federal Government Commissioner for Disarmament and Arms Control and Head of the Directorate-General for International Order, the United Nations and Arms Control at the Federal Foreign Office, Germany*
- *Presentation by Ambassador I. Sánchez de Lerín García-Ovies, Permanent Representative of Spain to the Conference on Disarmament and Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations Office at Geneva*
- *Presentation by Mr. A. Yu. Mazur, Deputy Director of the Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation*
- *Presentation by Colonel (ret.) W. Richter, Fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP) in Berlin, Germany*

Chairperson, Ms. S. Baumann (FSC.DEL/348/21 OSCE+),
Mr. I. Sánchez de Lerín García-Ovies, Mr. A. Yu. Mazur (FSC.DEL/346/21 OSCE+), Colonel W. Richter, Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate

countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; 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 as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/349/21), United Kingdom, Canada, Switzerland (FSC.DEL/344/21 OSCE+), United States of America (FSC.DEL/351/21/Rev.1 OSCE+), Belarus (FSC.DEL/347/21 OSCE+), Turkey (FSC.DEL/354/21 OSCE+), Armenia (Annex 1) (Annex 2), Azerbaijan, Russian Federation (FSC.DEL/345/21)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (Annex 3), 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/350/21), Canada, United Kingdom, United States of America (FSC.DEL/352/21/Rev.1 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Invitation to join the Women in the First Dimension Network's mentoring programme:* Switzerland
- (b) *Distribution of a proposal for a reference guide on combating the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition in the OSCE area (FSC.DEL/353/21 OSCE+):* Austria
- (c) *Matters of protocol:* Ukraine

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 13 October 2021, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



987th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 993, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Armenia thanks the keynote speakers for their interesting and thought-provoking presentations.

As we have approached the end of our three weeks of discussions on conventional arms control, allow me to share with you some thoughts on its future, based on past and present experiences and the discussions we have had here in the last three weeks.

In so doing, I will focus on two key documents of the conventional arms control regime, namely, the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) and the Vienna Document.

First, the CFE Treaty. In 1990, the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe was signed to ensure parity between the Warsaw Pact and NATO through arms reduction, with the aim of preventing military conflicts in Europe. Although the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and Soviet Union and other security developments have brought new circumstances and raised many questions regarding the application of the Treaty, the Treaty continues to remain particularly relevant in certain OSCE participating States that have not yet undergone the required military transformation in terms of arms limitation and reduction.

In 1992, eight former Soviet countries signed the Tashkent Agreement, which established the maximum levels for holdings of conventional armaments and equipment for each contracting party. For the South Caucasian countries, the Treaty established the following maximum ceilings: 220 units of battle tanks, 220 units of armoured combat vehicles, 285 units of artillery, 100 units of combat aircraft and 50 units of attack helicopters. Nevertheless, for many years Azerbaijan has been significantly exceeding its ceilings in four out of the five categories of major conventional arms established by the CFE Treaty. As of 1 January 2020, according to the official information provided by Azerbaijan, it had 525 units of battle tanks, 428 units of armoured combat vehicles, 972 units of artillery and 59 units of attack helicopters.

During last year's war of aggression against Artsakh, Azerbaijan used its whole arsenal of conventional weapons accumulated over the years in open defiance of CFE

obligations. The war of aggression against Artsakh clearly demonstrated that the conventional arms control system should be further strictly regulated and controlled.

Second, the Vienna Document. The Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures is a key component of the conventional arms control regime. The set of confidence- and security-building measures established by the Vienna Document – for example, prior notification of military exercises, exchange of military information, or verification of military information through military inspections – is specifically designed to help prevent misperceptions and miscalculations and thus in turn to reduce risks of escalation. In recent years, the provisions of the Vienna Document have consistently been violated in our region, with the violations being “justified” by the existence of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Namely, ten units of the Azerbaijani armed forces were completely excluded from the inspection and verification regime. Azerbaijan was demanding that requests for inspections in Nakhijevan be sent ten days in advance, which was not only a clear violation of the Vienna Document but also ran contrary to the very logic of verification. For years Azerbaijan conducted unnotified large-scale military exercises with clear offensive scenarios while refusing to provide information on the parameters of those exercises.

In adopting the CFE Treaty and the Vienna Document, the OSCE participating States assumed a common responsibility for stability and security in Europe. Unfortunately, our constant calls regarding these persistent flagrant violations of the CFE Treaty and the Vienna Document fell on deaf ears, which led to an atmosphere of impunity with regard to adhering to the provisions of the CFE Treaty and Vienna Document. Furthermore, the above-mentioned violations were not considered as a security threat to the OSCE area by any participating State except Armenia and thus created an environment conducive to the use of force.

Mr. Chairperson,

The current crisis in the field of arms control mirrors the state of affairs in world politics – state-centric concept of security, competing self-interests, and strategic rivalry. The concept of common and indivisible security continues to give way to hierarchical management of security issues, which enables certain participating States to take advantage of the weaknesses of the existing regimes to pursue their malign activities. As a result, new security challenges have been emerging that pose even greater threats to security and stability.

So, in conclusion, what is and what will be the future of conventional arms control regime under the current conditions? Our future derives from our present. As long as certain security issues are prioritized over others, and geopolitical interests – rather than our principles and commitments – serve as a baseline against which to judge State actions, we are doomed to fail in our efforts to reinvigorate the conventional arms control regime.

Thank you and I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



987th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 993, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to exercise my right of reply and inform the delegation of Azerbaijan about the basic requirements for achieving peace and stability in our region – a goal to which the Azerbaijani delegation keeps referring in its statements here and there.

The facts on the ground clearly suggest that Azerbaijan's pronouncements or declarations in this regard are not sincere but, rather, manipulative in nature.

Firstly, after almost a year since the ceasefire, Armenian prisoners of war and civilian hostages are still being kept in Azerbaijani captivity, in a clear violation of international humanitarian law and Article 8 of the trilateral ceasefire statement of 9 November 2020.

Secondly, since the incursion into the sovereign territory of Armenia on 12 May, Azerbaijani armed forces have periodically opened indiscriminate fire, including in the direction of Armenian border towns and villages. Furthermore, ceasefire violations by Azerbaijan occur on the line of contact in Artsakh almost every day.

Thirdly, Azerbaijan continues to conduct unnotified large-scale military exercises.

Fourthly, Azerbaijan continues to destroy Armenian cultural heritage in the territories that are currently under its occupation.

I could go on and on listing the actions of Azerbaijan aimed at destabilizing the fragile peace in our region and maintaining the atmosphere of hostility. Peace cannot be achieved through the use or threat of use of force. The release of the Armenian prisoners of war and civilian captives, the comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the basis of the realization by the people of Artsakh of its inalienable right to self-determination, the ensuring of the safe and dignified return of the recently displaced population to their homes, the preservation of the region's cultural and religious heritage, and the renunciation of hate speech against Armenians, may create conducive environment for bringing peace and stability to the region.

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



987th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 993, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine let me deliver a statement on the subject of Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea.

As demonstrated during the last meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation, the Russian delegation keeps exercising in the dissemination of dubious information from Russian-controlled propagandistic media resources in the temporarily occupied territories of Donbas.

Instead of wasting efforts on this futile undertaking, we encourage the Russian side to engage in a constructive dialogue aimed at identifying the most practical ways of ending the conflict, which it began and continues to sustain. Full adherence to the ceasefire would be a positive first step in that regard.

Meanwhile, the trend of increasing armed violence in Donbas fuelled by Russia remains dominant, taking its toll on Ukrainian military personnel and bringing suffering to the civilian population.

Last week, Ukrainian positions were shelled on 55 occasions, including eight times with the use of 82 mm and 120 mm calibre mortars (near Katerynivka, Kamianka, Prychepylyivka, Novoluhanske, Verhniotoretske and Lebedynske) and 122 mm calibre artillery systems (near Verhniotoretske), all proscribed under the Minsk agreements. The Russian occupation forces extensively used other means of warfare – notably heavy machine guns, grenade launchers of various types and small arms – to uphold armed provocations and keep tensions high along the line of contact.

On five occasions, the Russian armed formations dropped VOG-17 grenade shells on the Ukrainian positions near the settlements of Pavlopil, Vodiane and Shyrokyne. Remote mining using POM-2 landmines was employed against Ukrainian defenders near the residential area of Niu-York, Donetsk region.

The armed forces of Ukraine remained on the defensive, suppressing provocative fire and holding their positions with the use of weapons that are not prohibited by the Minsk agreements.

As a result of the reckless acts of armed aggression by the Russian Federation last week, one Ukrainian serviceman was killed and five were wounded. These sad statistics include Ukrainian soldiers who perished from enemy explosive devices, which have been widely scattered on Ukrainian soil by Russia.

The Ukrainian side regards such actions by the Russian Federation as a blatant violation of the Minsk agreements and a flouting of the agreement reached within the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 on additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire. Such deliberate steps to destabilize the situation in the areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation and in adjacent territories can only result in further escalation of the conflict.

The Russian Federation continues to supply its forces in the temporarily occupied territories of Donbas extensively with weaponry, ammunition, fuel and lubricants. It also continues to transfer manpower through the segment of the Russian-Ukrainian State border that is not controlled by the Government of Ukraine.

In this connection, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that tomorrow is the last day of operations of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian checkpoints of Gukovo and Donetsk. The Russian Federation took a decision not to support the existing broad consensus within the OSCE on extending the Mission's mandate. We consider this decision to be yet another evidence of its plans to continue and increase such illicit supplies to the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which may lead to further escalation in the Russian-Ukrainian armed conflict.

This year, from 23 August to 16 September alone, 29 tank wagons with a total loading capacity of approximately 1,700 tons of fuel and lubricants and 12 trucks carrying provision were observed entering Ukraine from Russia and heading for the railway stations at Ilovaisk, Krasnodon, Rovenky and Chervona Mohyla and for the city of Luhansk. Through the Diakove checkpoint, Russia transferred four trucks with spare parts for cars and armoured vehicles and three Kamaz trucks with trailers loaded with "9K111-1 Konkurs" anti-tank missiles (they were headed for Miusynsk and Luhansk).

On 23 August, a group of 47 artillery servicemen of Russia's army entered Ukraine from Russia through the Dovzhanskyi checkpoint on a civilian bus with a Russian number plate from the temporarily occupied Crimea. On 28 August, a group of 37 servicemen of Russia's army, specifically intelligence officers and gunners, entered Ukraine from Russia through the same checkpoint on a civilian bus with a Russian number plate from the occupied territories of Georgia.

At present, military logistic and combat support units, military advisers, instructors, specialists and servicemen of the armed forces of the Russian Federation amounting to 3,000 personnel are deployed in the temporarily occupied areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.

These facts speak for themselves and undoubtedly testify to Russia's ongoing violation of international law, fundamental OSCE principles and commitments, enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act regarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the inviolability of their borders, and its commitments under OSCE politico-military instruments.

Mr. Chairperson,
Esteemed colleagues,

OSCE participating States carefully designed confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) to strengthen transparency and trust in our region. However, they have yet again been misused and undermined by one participating State in a blatant attempt to legitimize its illegal acts of occupation of part of another participating State's sovereign territory. The information distributed by the Russian Federation within the information exchange on participating States' policy for the export control of conventional arms (FSC.EMI/409/21) referred to the temporarily occupied Crimea as allegedly being part of Russia, which is not in accordance with international law.

Let me remind the Russian delegation that since 20 February 2014, the Russian Federation – in violation of fundamental OSCE norms and principles and imperative norms of international law, as well as of its obligations under multilateral and bilateral treaties – has been committing an act of armed aggression against Ukraine, which has resulted in the temporary occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine: the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, along with certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The violations committed by the Russian Federation have struck at the very heart of the OSCE, namely the fundamental principles laid down in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975.

The United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 "Territorial integrity of Ukraine" affirmed its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. It acknowledged that the sham "referendum" held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on 16 March 2014, having no validity, cannot serve as the basis for any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or of the city of Sevastopol. The General Assembly also called upon all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on the basis of the above-mentioned "referendum" and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status.

In numerous subsequent resolutions adopted since 2016, the United Nations General Assembly has repeatedly condemned the ongoing temporary occupation and militarization of Crimea by the Russian Federation and reaffirmed non-recognition of the annexation of that territory.

Accordingly, we urge the Russian Federation to stop undermining our CSBM instruments by inserting its false narratives into the exchanges of military information.

To return to the issue of Crimea, allow me to draw your attention to the ongoing restriction of freedom of navigation in the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea, which goes hand in hand with the provocative and destabilizing militarization of this region by Russia.

Open-source information indicates that Russia's actions in the Sea of Azov continue to take their toll on the social and economic situation in the coastal regions of Ukraine.

Notably, in July 2021, the average duration of the artificial delays inflicted by the Russian Federation on ships travelling from the Black Sea to the Ukrainian ports on the Sea of Azov, Mariupol and Berdiansk, was over 30 hours. In August 2021, the average duration of artificial delays on that route was over 15 hours.

In July 2021, ships carrying exports from Mariupol and Berdiansk were delayed by the Russian Federation at the exit from the Sea of Azov for an average of 28 hours. In August 2021, ships travelling on that route were delayed for an average of over 30 hours.

We are also concerned about the Russian military build-up in the temporarily occupied Crimea and near our borders. After the completion of the "Zapad-2021" military exercise, we have not observed a swift withdrawal of battalion tactical groups of the Russian army to their peacetime locations. There are 19 such groups that were redeployed during the exercise. At the moment, they continue to carry out operations in the Southern Military District of the Russian Federation. Each of them amounts to a thousand servicemen.

We reiterate our exhortation to Russia to match its words with actions and to withdraw all additional troops redeployed near its borders with Ukraine and other participating States following the large-scale exercises conducted in April and September this year.

In closing, we urge the Russian Federation to end its aggression against Ukraine, reverse its illegal occupation of Crimea, de-occupy parts of Donbas, and restore freedom of navigation in the Black Sea, through the Kerch Strait and in the Sea of Azov. Russia must fully implement its commitments under the Minsk agreements, including the withdrawal of its armed forces, mercenaries, armed formations and weapons from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

We kindly ask that our statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.