
Chairmanship: Slovenia**884th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 16 May 2018

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 3.40 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Benedejčič

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: KFOR AND ITS CONTRIBUTION
TO THE STABILITY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

- *Presentation by Brigadier General A. Ermenc, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces and former Chief of the Personnel Department at KFOR Headquarters and Adviser to the KFOR Commander*
- *Presentation by Brigadier General C. Riener, Director of Operations Command and Control Division at the Ministry of Defence of Austria and former Deputy KFOR Commander*
- *Presentation by Ms. D. M. Schildknecht, Consultant and former Gender Adviser in KFOR SWISSCOY*

Chairperson, Ms. A. Ermenc, Mr. C. Riener, Ms. D. M. Schildknecht, Bulgaria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/91/18), Hungary (Annex 1), United States of America, Switzerland, Ukraine (FSC.DEL/88/18 OSCE+), Spain (Annex 2), Russian Federation, Albania, Serbia (FSC.DEL/90/18 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Military exercise “Saber Strike”, to be conducted from 4 to 15 June 2018:* United States of America, Chairperson, Poland, Russian Federation
- (b) *Situation in and around Ukraine:* Ukraine (FSC.DEL/89/18 OSCE+), Bulgaria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; 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 and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/92/18), Canada, United States of America, Russian Federation

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Financial contributions to the Project for the Safety and Security Upgrade of Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SAFE-UP BiH):* Norway, Netherlands (FSC.DEL/86/18 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina, FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary), Chairperson
- (b) *First observance of World Bee Day on 20 May 2018:* Slovenia, Ukraine

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 23 May 2018, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



884th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 890, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF HUNGARY

Mr. Chairperson,

While Hungary has aligned itself fully with the statement of the EU, I would nevertheless like to make some remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,

We very much commend the Slovenian FSC Chairmanship for including this important issue on the agenda of the Security Dialogue and thank our guest speakers very much for their interesting and comprehensive briefings.

Despite several positive developments – most notably Montenegro’s full accession to NATO – the Western Balkans remains a region facing a multitude of complex challenges such as inter-State and inter-ethnic tensions, organized crime, illegal migration, and terrorism.

If these challenges are to be properly handled and overcome, and if the Western Balkans is to be turned into a region characterized by security, stability and prosperity, there is a continued need for a high level of international commitment.

Such a commitment must include, most importantly, a credible prospect of Euro-Atlantic integration and the continuation of robust operational engagement where required, most notably by NATO and the EU.

NATO’s Kosovo Force (KFOR) is a particularly good example of the added value that such operational international engagement can provide. KFOR has been playing an outstanding role in promoting and maintaining a safe and secure environment in Kosovo, which is one of the most difficult and delicate spots in the region.

While a number of challenges remain, NATO’s KFOR operation has been an indubitable success story. This is because the KFOR troops have been fulfilling their duties with great professionalism, circumspection and impartiality, as is reflected in the respect KFOR has consistently enjoyed amongst Albanians and Serbs alike.

We therefore strongly believe that KFOR's role in ensuring security and stability must be upheld. The time has not yet come to reduce troop numbers and change KFOR's tasks, which also include providing assistance to the development of the Kosovo Security Force.

As a country neighbouring the Western Balkans, Hungary has always had a particular interest in promoting stability in the region, both by staunchly supporting the region's Euro-Atlantic integration and by contributing to the various international missions.

Accordingly, we have contributed significantly to NATO's KFOR mission and have adjusted the composition of our troops in accordance with changing needs. At times when other nations have withdrawn their troops from KFOR, we have been ready to fill the vacuum created, in 2015, for example, when we doubled our number of troops serving in KFOR.

In April 2017, we increased our contribution to KFOR by taking on the lead nation role in the KFOR Tactical Reserve Battalion. Besides, Hungary is also contributing to KFOR with key capabilities such as human and signal intelligence and a liaison and monitoring team. In addition, we hold the position of Deputy Commander, alternating with Austria on a yearly basis.

Right now we have around 390 troops serving in KFOR. We are firmly determined to uphold our participation as long as required, and to keep our contribution as strong as is necessary.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/890

16 May 2018

Annex 2

ENGLISH

Original: SPANISH

884th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 890, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me first to thank our guest speakers today for sharing with us their interesting information about the international Kosovo security force (KFOR) from the privileged position of holders of important posts within the Mission.

In addition, of course, I should like to congratulate you and your team for introducing to the Forum a subject as important as the practical implementation of a military mission with the fundamental purpose of safeguarding security, a subject that is the *raison d'être* of the Forum for Security Co-operation.

Spain fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union and would like at the same time to make some comments in a national capacity.

Spain has always regarded the Balkan region with great interest, and we have a special relationship with it, which has prompted us to redouble our efforts in all of the missions that have been conducted with a view to contributing to stability and security in the region.

In the specific case of KFOR, Spain sent a number of military contingents in the years 1999 to 2009. During those ten years, some 22,000 Spanish military personnel served in the Multinational Brigade West under Italian command and helped 800,000 refugees of all ethnicities to return home, guaranteeing their safety by means of over 60,000 patrols in vehicles or on foot, as well as carrying out around 250 explosive ordnance disposal missions.

After leaving the mission in 2009, Spain has continued to support initiatives by NATO and the European Union as demonstration of our commitment to the promotion of security and stability in the region. Today, as then, Spain is firmly committed to peace and stability in the Balkans.

Mr. Chairperson,

I should also like to thank the Chairmanship for including the subject of gender in this meeting, and express our gratitude to Ms. Schildknecht for her presentation, which has

revealed the large deficiencies in the treatment of gender issues in the armed forces and international missions and of gender violence in conflict situations. We regard this as a highly important issue that calls for our attention, and we trust that it will continue to be treated with the importance it deserves in this Forum.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.