

Chairmanship: Netherlands

808th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 20 January 2016

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador D. Kopmels

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

Agenda item 1: OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. WIM GEERTS,
DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
NETHERLANDS

Chairperson, Director-General for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (Annex 1), Netherlands-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 and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/4/16), Poland, Norway (FSC.DEL/1/16), Azerbaijan (FSC.DEL/2/16 OSCE+), Belarus (FSC.DEL/3/16 OSCE+), Portugal, United States of America, Turkey, Canada, Montenegro, Armenia (FSC.DEL/7/16), Germany, Russian Federation, Ukraine

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (Annex 2) (FSC.DEL/5/16), Netherlands-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 Georgia, San Marino and

Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/6/16), United States of America, Russian Federation (Annex 3), France

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar, to be held on 16 and 17 February 2016*: Chairperson, Serbia, Ireland, Finland, Austria (Annex 4), Slovakia, Romania, Netherlands-European Union, United Kingdom
- (b) *Matters of protocol*: Croatia, Chairperson, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (c) *Distribution of the annual CPC survey on CSBM information exchanged in 2015 (FSC.GAL/2/16 Restr.)*: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 27 January 2016, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



808th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 814, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE NETHERLANDS

Madam Chairperson,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I feel honoured to address you today on behalf of Minister Koenders, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, who himself could alas not be present because of coinciding obligations in the framework of the Dutch Presidency of the European Union.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the Norwegian delegation for their solid FSC Chairmanship in the last trimester of 2015, and to welcome our Polish colleagues to the FSC Troika.

We are assuming our FSC responsibilities at the same time as holding the EU Presidency during this first EU semester of 2016. I know that it is not the latter capacity that has brought me to Vienna today, but I hope you will allow me to share a few EU-related notions with you all the same. Our guiding principles are a Union that focuses on growth and jobs through innovation, and a Union that connects with civil society. Our overarching priority areas will be the following:

- Migration and international security;
- Europe as an innovator and job creator;
- Sound finances and a robust Eurozone;
- Forward-looking climate and energy policy.

In the international security domain, we will in particular support High Representative and Vice-President Federica Mogherini in a number of areas, of which the following are most relevant for the OSCE:

- Within the realm of the future EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy, we aim to strengthen the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). This includes a renewed level of ambition within the Global Strategy for the EU as a

security actor, and preparing the operationalization of the new strategy in the security and defence domain through a CSDP document and a Defence Action Plan;

- Addressing ‘new’ threats such as hybrid threats, foreign terrorist fighters, and cybersecurity threats. Within some of these fields, the potential for strengthened co-operation between the EU, the OSCE and NATO is of paramount importance;
- Increasing the efficiency of civilian CSDP missions and making military CSDP operations run more smoothly;
- Strengthening and deepening EU defence co-operation as a key focus, which will be pursued by encouraging practical defence co-operation initiatives and stimulating more transparency on defence spending and military capability development.

As you will appreciate, there are quite a number of fields where interaction with the OSCE, in particular the FSC, would seem natural. We aim for good co-ordination between our separate responsibilities, in close co-operation with the Representation of the European Commission here in Vienna.

I would now like to focus on the FSC. The Netherlands feels privileged to help shape the work of the FSC during these first four months of 2016, in the forty-first year since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act and the fourteenth since the establishment of the Forum.

We assume these responsibilities at a point in time that is critical not only for the FSC and the OSCE but also, and more importantly, for security and stability in Europe as a whole. The whole continent is, in fact, plagued by stormy weather, in particular after Russia’s annexation of Crimea and its destabilization of eastern Ukraine. OSCE participating States are among those that have been hit by acts of terrorism, perpetrated most especially by ISIS, both on their own territory and abroad. These weather conditions not only require sturdy umbrellas like the ones you have found on this table but, much more importantly, call for substantial efforts to rebuild trust amongst ourselves. In that context, I want to echo what Minister Steinmeier said last week in the Permanent Council: it is about renewing dialogue, rebuilding trust and restoring security.

For many years, the participating States tended to take security and stability almost for granted. We had a well-built edifice of instruments that provided us with the means to discuss that security and, where needed, to address each other on concerns we might have. The Vienna Document even provided well-used opportunities to have a look over the borders to assure ourselves that every participating State was keeping within the bounds of what had been agreed to.

This whole architecture rested on the shared set of norms and values laid down in, among other documents, the Helsinki Final Act with its so-called Helsinki Decalogue.

Until relatively recently, those norms and values were not challenged in the way they are being challenged today. They were embedded in a broadly supported belief in comprehensive security, for which we all bore a deeply felt responsibility.

Then things began to shift. Norms and values came under fire, as did the OSCE's role of keeping them alive, maintaining and supervising them, and have become less self-evident than they used to be, and than they ought to be.

Still, we see no reason for scepticism, nor any reason to call into question the OSCE's *raison d'être*; the Organization has faced daunting challenges in the past, and it has always come out stronger. Isn't it indicative that other regions, such as the tormented Middle East, are looking with great interest at the way the Organization functions?

I could dwell for a long time upon the reasons for our present predicament, but here and now it must suffice to say that we all bear a shared responsibility for the much-needed restoration of confidence and true co-operation, and for the sustainability of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security, stability and predictability.

It is a responsibility we owe to hundreds of millions of citizens in our respective countries.

It is with that realization in mind that we enter upon our Chairmanship. And although the Ministerial Council in Belgrade has not yielded a very explicit tasking or provided us with an agenda, I think we all know what these are. In general terms, they are about rekindling the spirit of true dialogue, confidence and co-operation.

In practical terms, we will, in good co-operation both with the Polish and Portuguese Chairmanships that will follow ours and with the German Chairmanship-in-Office, mount a rich programme of regular events, amongst which I would mention the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting in March and later this year, under Polish guidance, the Annual Security Review Conference.

Furthermore, in the course of this year we are obliged to start the process of updating the Vienna Document. In our view, this is an exercise the importance of which cannot be stressed enough.

It is not just a tasking we gave ourselves, some years ago. It has also become evident, notably throughout the different crises we have gone through and are still going through, that there is ample reason for the Vienna Document to be modernized, added to and, in general, made to respond better to today's requirements. I would think the crisis around Ukraine is a case in point: although the Vienna Document served us well in its initial phase, the limits to its possibilities have become evident as well.

We hope that this Forum will be able to transcend political division, come to a shared assessment of what is needed, and discuss responses to that assessment. There is no lack of proposals on the table. What we need to do is to sit around this table and look each other in the eye. Let's get to work and not waste a single week.

A special occasion is approaching on 16 and 17 February that we hope will be a highlight of our four months of chairing the Forum: the High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar. We encourage every participating State to send high-level military authorities to Vienna (the Dutch Chief of Defence Staff will participate) and to engage fully in the discussion of the impact of military and other security-related developments on today's and

tomorrow's military doctrines. If there is one thing that is the business of this body for dialogue on politico-military security, it is this subject. And given the regrettable lack of military contacts among a number of participating States under the current circumstances, our hope is that this event may serve as a step to re-establish these crucial relationships.

Then, on 9 March, there is the joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council focusing on European security. My earlier remarks made it clear how much importance we attach to that debate.

Now, as is becoming for every FSC Chairmanship, there are some particular touches we would like to add to our work. The so-called security dialogues offer an opportunity for this of which we will make good use. Firstly, one week from now, there will be a security dialogue on subregional co-operation at which we hope to present the benefits of extended co-operation between armed forces of two participating States. We will also engage the Forum on topics such as defence capacity-building with a gender perspective, arms transfers and reporting instruments for arms transfer controls, and the Code of Conduct and international humanitarian law.

All our efforts during this Chairmanship will be supported by a dedicated team of co-ordinators:

- Dr. Pierre von Arx from Switzerland, FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator for the Vienna Document;
- Mr. Ivan Dvořák from the Czech Republic, FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security;
- Ms. Neval Orbay from Turkey, FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325;
- Colonel Magnus Bratt from Sweden, *Chef de file* of the FSC for the 2016 High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar;
- Lieutenant Colonel Michael P. Cullinane from the USA, FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition;
- Mr. Robert Stražišar from Slovenia, Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons;
- Mr. Vasily Pavlov from Belarus, FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues; and
- Colonel Anton Eischer from Austria, *Chef de file* of the FSC for the 2016 Annual Security Review Conference.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to them, and also to Ambassador Pesko and his able team in the Conflict Prevention Centre, specifically the FSC Support Section, as

well as to Conference Services and all others who are working hard to help our Chairmanship run smoothly.

Predictably unpredictable will of course be current affairs, which always warrant our attention. They will give us a chance to do what we are here for: to discuss the security of our countries, our peoples and our region, and to work for its furtherance.

And then there is one thing that I am sure will really spice up our work. I am talking about nothing less than the yearly OSCE Ball. Vienna wouldn't be the same without it, and we are so happy that it just happens to fall within our mandate period. I'm sure it will offer another and an even more pleasurable occasion to cross swords – ceremonial ones this time, I trust.

So, we will have ample opportunities to meet and speak. Let us make the most of them.

Madam Chairperson, please attach my statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson, your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.



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

FSC.JOUR/814
20 January 2016
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

808th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 814, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Madam Chairperson,

In connection with today's statement by the Russian delegation on the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC), the delegation of Ukraine wishes to emphasize the following.

International law prohibits the acquisition of part or all of another State's territory through coercion or force. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which remains an integral part of Ukraine, was illegally occupied by military force and annexed by the Russian Federation in violation of OSCE principles and commitments and norms of international law. Illegitimate actions on the part of the Russian Federation do not have any legal consequences with regard to the status of the ARC as an integral part of Ukraine. The territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders is safeguarded by international law and UN General Assembly resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014, "Territorial integrity of Ukraine".

We call on the Russian Federation to return to the tenets of international law and reverse the illegal occupation and annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this statement be registered in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/814
20 January 2016
Annex 3

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

808th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 814, Agenda item 2

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

Dear Madam Chairperson,

In connection with the reference to Crimea in the statements by a number of delegations today, the delegation of the Russian Federation feels obliged to make the following observations.

The proclamation of independence of the Republic of Crimea and its incorporation into the Russian Federation was a legal expression of the right of the people of Crimea to self-determination at a time when Ukraine, with outside support, was in the throes of a *coup d'état*, with radical nationalist elements exerting a forceful influence on the decisions adopted in the country, which in turn resulted in the interests of the Ukrainian regions and Russian-speaking population being ignored.

The multi-ethnic population of Crimea took the corresponding decisions by a huge majority in a free and fair expression of its will. The status of the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as constituent entities of the Russian Federation is not open to reconsideration or discussion. Crimea is and will remain Russian. This is a fact that our partners will have to come to terms with.

This position is based on and fully complies with international law.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I 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/814
20 January 2016
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

808th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 814, Agenda item 3(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AUSTRIA

Thank you, Madam Chairperson,

As this is the first time that my delegation has taken the floor under your Chairmanship, allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of this important function and assure you of the full support of my delegation.

I thank you for providing information on the forthcoming High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar. Austria attaches great importance to this event and will give it its full support. Austria's delegation will be headed by the Chief of Defence.

Allow me to add a few remarks of a technical nature on the arrangements of the seminar from the perspective of the host country. We have informed our embassies about this event in order that the utmost may be done to ensure the smooth processing of visa applications. We kindly ask all delegations to duly respect timelines for visa applications, where needed, as outlined in the information circulated by the Dutch Chairmanship. We also particularly ask all persons subject to travel restrictions under sanctions regimes to inform the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs in good time of their intention to participate, and to file visa applications in a timely manner, in order for the established process allowing for their participation in OSCE conferences to be completed on time. We remain at the disposal of delegations for any further assistance.

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

I thank you.