
Chairmanship: Malta**751st PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 2 April 2014

Opened: 10 a.m.
Suspended: 1.10 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 3.15 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador K. Azzopardi

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE

- (a) *Presentation entitled “Progress of the Capacity Development Programme for SALW Demilitarization and Safe Storage for Montenegro (MONDEM)” by H.E. M. Pejanović-Đurišić, Minister for Defence of Montenegro, Chair of the MONDEM Supervisory Board: Chairperson, Minister for Defence of Montenegro, Mr. N. Luković (FSC.DEL/60/14 OSCE+), Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, United Nations Resident Coordinator / UNDP Resident Representative in Montenegro, Switzerland (Annex 1), 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 Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/62/14), Turkey, FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (United States of America)*
- (b) *Presentation entitled “Main Activities of the SEEBRIG” by Brigadier General H. Eser, Commander of the South-Eastern Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG): Chairperson, Commander of the South-Eastern Europe Brigade (FSC.DEL/59/14 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/63/14), United States of America, Romania (Annex 2), Turkey

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Situation in Ukraine:* Ukraine (FSC.DEL/67/14 OSCE+), Denmark, 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, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/65/14), United States of America (Annex 3), Russian Federation, Germany, Turkey, United Kingdom

- (b) *Results of a project on training officers of the national army of Moldova in the management and security of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, held on 21 March 2014:* FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (United States of America), Moldova

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Anniversary of the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty on 2 April 2013 and appeal for its ratification and entry into force:* 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/64/14)

- (b) *ATHENA 2014 international conference on security and crisis management, to be held in Athens from 17 to 19 June 2014:* Greece (Annex 4)

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 9 April 2014, at 11 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/757

2 April 2014

Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

751st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 757, Agenda item 1(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND

Dear Mr. Chairperson,
Dear Minister,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

Switzerland warmly welcomes the presence of H.E. Prof. Milica Pejanović-Đurišić at today's FSC and thanks her for her instructive and inspiring *tour d'horizon*; we are also grateful to Ambassador Janina Hřebíčková, Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, Lieutenant Colonel Nebojša Luković from the Montenegrin Ministry of Defence, and Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky, UN Resident Coordinator / UNDP Resident Representative, for their useful explanations concerning the MONDEM programme. We also thank and congratulate the Maltese FSC Chairmanship for and on having put yet another relevant topic on the agenda of today's security dialogue.

The international community has realized that the challenges posed by the unrestrained proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons are significant ones, and has taken action in order to address them.

The OSCE adopted the Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in 2000. This was supplemented by the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) in 2003 and several additional instruments and best practices. With this approach, the OSCE was able to establish a comprehensive tissue of politically binding instruments to tackle the illicit transfer and accumulation of SALW and ammunition. In order to support the practical application of this regime in all countries, a strong and efficient assistance mechanism has been established through which participating States can provide assistance in the destruction of surplus SALW and in the improvement of physical security and stockpile management.

Switzerland considers the OSCE SALW and SCA assistance projects as important vectors for reducing risks stemming from degraded ammunition, preventing unplanned explosions, and contributing to the fight against illicit trade in and misuse of SALW. These projects are appropriate means of contributing to prevention and of enhancing security and stability in the OSCE area, and hence also of facilitating the establishment of the framework necessary for economic development and prosperity. Allow me to mention in this context that

the FSC should in our opinion strengthen the SALW and SCA assistance mechanism by striving to facilitate procedures for deploying experts to such missions.

As well as contributing to assistance projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and Serbia, Switzerland has also contributed to the MONDEM project in Montenegro which has been presented today.

In order to enhance its overall contribution, Switzerland has also seconded a Security Co-operation Officer to the FSC Support Section, in order to provide competent assistance in the implementation of projects being carried out in response to participating States' requests regarding SALW and SCA.

Switzerland congratulates the Government of the Republic of Montenegro on having taken such bold steps towards solving problems related to the destruction of surplus, unstable and obsolete ammunition and the upgrade of stockpile management. We are impressed with the progress that has been achieved so far, and we wish you, dear Minister, plenty of success in the continuation of your ambitious and most important project in the service of security and stability in your country and in the whole region. We are sure that in your future efforts you will be able to count on further support from Switzerland and from the OSCE as a whole.

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



751st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 757, Agenda item 1(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ROMANIA

Romania fully subscribes to the statement made by the EU delegation. In addition I would like to make some remarks in my national capacity.

It has been a great pleasure to welcome Brigadier General Hakan Eser, Commander of the South-Eastern Europe Brigade, to the Forum for Security Co-operation and to enjoy his valuable insights into and comprehensive survey of the Multinational Peace Force South-Eastern Europe, or SEEBRIG, as it is usually known.

At the outset, I would like to point out that throughout the 15 years since its activation SEEBRIG has constantly provided an inclusive framework for regional dialogue and military co-operation, promoting and contributing to increasing good neighbourly relations and security and stability in South-Eastern Europe and beyond. This is proven by all its activities and exercises, in particular its deployment and operation in Afghanistan.

Mr. Chairperson, I would also like to stress the importance and significance of the South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) process in co-ordinating at ministerial level all the politico-military and military initiatives and projects related to SEEBRIG.

Romania, in its capacity as the 2013–2015 chair of the two co-ordinating bodies of the SEDM Process, the Coordination Committee and the Politico-Military Steering Committee (PMSC), is focusing on enhancing the effectiveness and the relevance of SEDM as one of the most result-oriented politico-military regional initiatives in South-Eastern Europe, by pursuing the following six priorities:

- Initiating the internal “clearing house” process, with the aim of improving the effectiveness of the initiative;
- Stimulating the SEDM participating nations’ interest in supporting current SEDM projects and in launching new projects in line with existing approaches to regional and international security;
- Endorsing a new rotational chart for the SEDM Presidency and the SEEBRIG Command, starting in 2015;

- Identifying the best solutions for the future of SEEBRIG, including a final decision on the location of the SEEBRIG headquarters;
- Maintaining and improving functional mechanisms of co-operation with the UN, NATO, the EU and the OSCE;
- Enlarging SEDM and SEEBRIG through the inclusion of new nations to be selected from the current observers.

Mr. Chairperson,

As President of SEDM, Romania is demonstrating its commitment to the regional ownership of the process by building upon the success already achieved by the countries in the region in promoting peace and stability and jointly developing regional co-operation.

SEDM is a forum for co-operation in which the participating nations are able to share their own approaches to security in South-Eastern Europe. The current security environment invites us to become more proactive and to identify innovative solutions to make our own contribution to the stability of Europe. Romania considers that, alongside the Euro-Atlantic integration perspective, enhanced regional co-operation amongst the SEDM countries represents the most notable means of defusing the risk of conflict in the Western Balkans and of preventing the spillover of conflict from other regions.

We also believe that promoting SEDM as the most effective regional platform for discussing political and military issues will contribute to intensifying the co-ordination process among the participating nations regarding specific issues of common interest on the agenda of various international organizations, including the OSCE. In this light, the SEDM process and SEEBRIG are making a truly valuable contribution to promoting inclusion and not division, in the spirit of the OSCE's co-operative security approach.

Finally, I would like to wish you, Brigadier General, every success in discharging your important responsibilities at the helm of SEEBRIG.

Mr. Chairperson, I would also like to express our appreciation of the effective way in which you have steered our meetings during the Maltese Chairmanship of the FSC.

I kindly ask you, Mr. Chairperson, to attach this statement to the journal of the meeting.



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

FSC.JOUR/757

2 April 2014

Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

751st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 757, Agenda item 2(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Mr. Chairperson,

The United States has noted Russia's readiness to host Vienna Document inspections and Open Skies observation flights: this readiness constitutes a positive element in the developments of recent weeks.

The United States has also noted, as did Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Aleksandr Lukashevich in his 28 March commentary, the report of Ukraine's Vienna Document specified area inspection in the region of Belgorod, Russian Federation, which concluded that "no military activity subject to prior notification or observation in accordance with the provisions of VD-2011 was being conducted within the specified area," but also stated that Ukraine "expresses its concern over the presence in the specific region – outside their normal peace-time deployment locations – of three battalions of airborne troops of the armed forces of the Russian Federation in the immediate vicinity of the state border of Ukraine."

The three other Vienna Document inspections referred to in Mr. Lukashevich's 28 March commentary, led by Switzerland, Latvia and Estonia, took place in the Moscow and Pskov regions. These inspections could thus shed no light on events in the Ukrainian border region.

Recognizing that on-site inspections and observer visits can make a substantial contribution to building confidence in situations of tension, the United States urges Russia to consider offering to accept additional visits for the inspection and observation of Russia's current military activities in the region of the Ukrainian border.

We also look forward to continued use of the Open Skies regime to shed light on military forces and activities.

It is clear that Ukraine and the international community continue to have questions about Russia's deployments in its Southern and Western Military Districts. Given the limited geography of the specified area inspected by Ukraine, and the large area encompassed by reported Russian military activities, important concerns remain.

On 28 March, the United States transmitted an inquiry under the Vienna Document, Chapter III, paragraph 16, “Mechanism for consultation and co-operation as regards unusual military activities”, seeking information about those deployments. The Russian response did not answer the questions that the United States asked about the purpose, duration, composition and character of the deployed forces.

Accordingly, we expect to ask Switzerland, as holder of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the OSCE, to convene a meeting under paragraph 16.2 between the United States and the Russian Federation, to which other States that have expressed concern may be invited, in order to further discuss these concerns. We hope that Russia will provide details regarding the deployed Russian forces at this meeting.

Mr. Chairperson,

The United States remains unwavering in its support for Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. We condemn Russia’s occupation of Crimea, and its efforts to undermine the territorial integrity of Ukraine and its legitimate Government, and we demand that Russia remove its troops to their pre-crisis positions and reduce them to their pre-crisis numbers. As we have done throughout this crisis, we stand with the people of Ukraine.



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

FSC.JOUR/757
2 April 2014
Annex 4

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751st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 757, Agenda item 3(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GREECE

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to draw the attention of participating States to the note verbale AS 320 distributed by the delegation of Greece on 1 April 2014, in which they are invited to the “ATHENA 2014” Security and Crisis Management International Conference, which is being organized by the Hellenic National Defence General Staff (HNDGS) under the aegis of the Ministry of National Defence (MOD) of the Hellenic Republic. The “ATHENA 2014” conference will be held in Athens from 17 to 19 June 2014.

The Security and Crisis Management International Conference “ATHENA 2014”, launched in 1996, is now established as one of the most significant events gathering together experts on crisis management issues at a political and military level.

The conference programme will last three days. Further information on the programme and participation, including the application form, can be found under <http://www.geetha.mil.gr/media/ATHENA2014/en/index.html>.

I kindly ask you, Mr. Chairperson, to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you for your attention.