



*Forum for Security  
Co-operation*

# Forum for Security Co-operation

Established at the Helsinki Summit in 1992, the Forum for Security Co-operation is responsible for the military dimension of the OSCE.

The Forum's main objectives are:

- negotiation and adoption of politically binding decisions on arms control as well as disarmament and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs);
- regular consultations and intensive co-operation on matters relating to security issues;
- further reduction of the risks of threats and conflicts;
- implementation and verification of the implementation of agreed CSBMs and commitments.

The Forum's chairmanship rotates every four months according to the alphabetical order of the OSCE participating States. In 2005, the Forum was chaired by Azerbaijan, Belarus and Belgium.

The three chairmanships decided a key focus of the year would be on the implementation of OSCE Documents on Stockpiles of Small Arms and Light Weapons and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. They also focused on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and organized a Seminar on Military Doctrine, held in February 2006. Finally, they considered a possible follow-up conference on the Code of Conduct on the politico-military aspect of security.

**Tackling dangerous stockpiles of ammunition and small arms and light weapons.** Surplus stockpiles of small arms and conventional ammunition left over from the Cold War pose a significant threat to the population, infrastructure and environment of many OSCE countries. Often poorly guarded, they can also become a general security threat should they fall into the hands of terrorists.

The OSCE *Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition* provide participating States with a framework for requesting or giving assistance to secure or destroy such stockpiles.

The Forum's work in this field has gradually evolved into concrete action from the initial exchange of information following the Documents' adoption in 2000 and 2003. The OSCE responds to requests for assistance from participating States in the area of small arms and light weapons destruction, stockpile security and management. A number of participating States have expressed their interest and readiness to assist the requesting States.

In 2005, the Forum responded to requests for assistance on small arms and light weapons from Belarus, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.

The Forum launched the practical phase of the Tajikistan programme in June. The UK, Switzerland, Spain and the OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre put forward a proposal to improve stockpile security of small arms and light weapons in Belarus for the consideration of potential donors. It also started its assessment process in Kazakhstan.

The Forum took a leading role in preparing the OSCE contribution to the *United Nations' Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* in July in New York. It also prepared elements of the Forum's agenda in 2006 regarding small arms and light weapons and taking into account and focusing on international developments, in particular in the UN.

Another aspect of this work is that of preparing an inventory of existing decisions and a review of the implementation of the OSCE *Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons*. This work may eventually lead to a review of the Document itself and serve as a basis for the OSCE contribution to the UN's efforts to tackle the problem at a global level.

With regard to conventional ammunition, the Forum is preparing a report, in accordance with a decision taken at the OSCE Ministerial meeting in Sofia, on further efforts to implement the OSCE Document on the issue.

**Destruction of toxic rocket fuel.** In 2005, the Forum and the office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities started to address the challenge represented by the stockpiles of rocket fuel component. Armenia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan submitted requests for assistance with disposal either through the Forum or through OSCE field operations. (For more on this topic, please see page 11.)

**Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.** The Forum reinvigorated discussion on the role the OSCE might play in addressing the challenges of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In June, it held a special meeting on non-proliferation designed to consider possible OSCE tasks in this domain. Delegations suggested updating the 1994 OSCE Principles governing non-proliferation and considered the possibility of issuing a comprehensive political declaration on non-proliferation.







The discussion demonstrated that the OSCE could complement the role of other international organizations at the regional level through the exchange of information; the support of implementation of non-proliferation regimes; and through mechanisms, namely UN Security Council Resolution 1540, which tackle the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Forum reached a decision to encourage dialogue on how to support implementation of the Resolution.

**Assessing the OSCE's work on security issues.** The third Annual Security Review Conference, held in June, focused on preventing and combating terrorism, comprehensive security and enhancing co-operation and synergy with other international organizations and institutions. The Forum contributed significantly to the preparation of this event, which produced more than 100 proposals, 25 of which related directly to the politico-military dimension. These included proposals related to small arms and conventional ammunition, the adaptation of arms control to changes in the politico-military situation in Europe and the OSCE's role in the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

An essential task of the Forum is to assess the participating States' degree of implementation of their numerous commitments concerning CSBMs contained in the Vienna Document 1999 and in other relevant Forum decisions. The *15<sup>th</sup> Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM)*, held on 8 and 9 March, reviewed implementation measures. Subsequent meetings of Working Group "A" worked on further implementation of the OSCE Documents on small arms and conventional ammunition. The Forum issued a *Statement on Prior Notification of Major Military Activities*. The statement was a modest but important step aimed at enhancing openness and transparency in the context of CSBMs. Implementation of this voluntary measure will be assessed during the Annual Implementation Assessment Meetings.

**Seminar on Military Doctrine.** The Forum agreed to hold a high-level *Seminar on Military Doctrine* on 14 and 15 February 2006. A wide spectrum of issues related to changes in military doctrines of the participating States with regard to new security threats and challenges was discussed at this seminar.

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**Maintaining a dialogue on security questions.** The Security Dialogue is an essential and dynamic tool of the Forum. A regular feature on meeting agendas, it represents an opportunity for all participants to bring up security-related issues of a more general nature. It is especially important given changes in the security environment, which may eventually lead to the reformation of the armed forces and the transformation of military doctrines in the participating States. OSCE States and international experts addressed a number of important issues in this context, including the national defence planning of Belarus, Canada, Ukraine and the United States, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, export controls, and small arms and conventional ammunition.

**Strengthening co-operation with other international bodies.** In 2005, the Forum invited a number of experts from other international, regional and sub-regional organizations to address specific security-related questions. Experts from the UN, EU, the NATO and the Collective Security Treaty Organization spoke on security issues. The Forum also devoted considerable time to studying the prospects for co-operation with NATO on small arms, conventional ammunition and rocket fuel component.

**Strengthening internal co-operation.** In 2005, the Forum worked more closely with the Permanent Council troika, with regular contacts at the working level to facilitate preparations for the *Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting* and the contribution to the *Annual Security Review Conference*. It presented to the *Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting* the Forum's work on the implementation of the Vienna Document 1999 since the previous meeting.

The Forum also contributed to the *Border Security and Management Concept*, received briefings of representatives of two field operations on politico-military activities and held the customary joint meeting with the Permanent Council ahead of the December Ministerial Meeting. The Forum presented its activities at the Winter Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on 28 January.

The Forum participated in the Workshop on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security* organized by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces.

The Forum met for the first time all the Partners for Co-operation in the format of 66 countries united around one table, focusing on one theme, in this case, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

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