



Chairmanship: Italy

650th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 29 June 2011

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 11.20 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador G. Tonini

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

(a) *Funding assistance to address the stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition in Kyrgyzstan:* United States of America

(b) *Response to the interpretative statement by Turkey on the FSC Vienna Document Plus decision on updating the list of OSCE participating States mentioned in the Introduction (FSC.DEC/4/11):* Cyprus (Annex 1), Turkey

(c) *Publication of the 2010 Annual Report of the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces:* Ireland (Annex 2)

Agenda item 2: SECURITY DIALOGUE

Presentation by Ambassador Gazmend Turdiu, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania, on the general status of the Ottawa Convention, priorities and challenges: Chairperson, Mr. G. Turdiu (FSC.DEL/115/11 OSCE+), Hungary-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, Iceland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Turkey; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Serbia; as well as Andorra, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/118/11), Belgium (Annex 3), United Kingdom (Annex 4), Switzerland (FSC.DEL/117/11), Canada, Azerbaijan, Armenia

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Reminder letters in accordance with FSC Decision No. 10/02: Chairperson*
- (b) *Assessment visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 20 to 24 June 2011: FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary)*
- (c) *Invitation to a civilian-military relations course, to be held in Sweden from 9 to 13 September 2011, and to a United Nations civilian staff officer course, to be held in Sweden in October 2011: Sweden*
- (d) *Matters of protocol: Ireland, Chairperson, Canada, Denmark, France*

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 1 July 2011, at 9 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/656

29 June 2011

Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

650th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 656, Agenda item 1(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CYPRUS

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

I wish to make a statement in reply to the interpretative statement made by the Turkish delegation upon adoption of FSC Decision No. 4/11 during the 648th plenary meeting of the Forum. The Republic of Cyprus notes that Turkey maintains the reservation it made at the CSCE on 31 July 1975. We also note the fact that the content of this reservation is incompatible with international legality and, as such, is not shared by any other State in the world. My delegation reiterates its standing objection *vis-à-vis* the above reservation and would like to repeat that Cyprus has no doubts about its sovereignty.

The Turkish reservation in no way precludes the equal applicability of documents adopted at the OSCE, including by this Forum, in respect of and between all participating States without exception.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I would 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/656

29 June 2011

Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

650th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 656, Agenda item 1(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF IRELAND

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

In the context of our obligations under the OSCE's Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, in particular paragraphs 32 and 33 regarding fundamental freedoms of defence forces personnel, and their legal and administrative protection, Ireland wishes to inform the Forum for Security Co-operation of the publication on 21 June 2011 of the Annual Report of the Ombudsman for the Irish Defence Forces for 2010.

The Office of the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces was established in 2005 and serves as an Office of last resort for members of the defence forces who believe that they have been treated unfairly by the military authorities. The Office of the Ombudsman can assist both serving and former members of the defence forces, although serving personnel should normally exhaust existing internal grievance procedures before the Ombudsman can review or examine their case.

In 2010, a total of 116 cases were in line for review by the Ombudsman. Of these cases, 105 were accepted for preliminary examination. The report provides statistical information concerning the types of complaints investigated by the Office in the period under review. The report notes that continued reform and change in defence forces administrative procedures and practices are evident as a result of recommendations contained in the Ombudsman's final reports on cases.

Over the last number of years, the Office of the Ombudsman has participated in a number of international initiatives, including contributing to the International Conference of Ombuds Institutions for Armed Forces, and to the drawing up of the Handbook on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel produced by the ODIHR in co-operation with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces. The Office of the Ombudsman hopes to continue this valuable engagement in the coming years.

Copies of the Annual Report can be found on the website of the Office of the Ombudsman – www.odf.ie, or upon request from the Irish delegation to the OSCE.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/656

29 June 2011

Annex 3

ENGLISH

Original: FRENCH

650th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 656, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELGIUM

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to thank you for placing a discussion of the Ottawa Convention on the agenda of the security dialogue of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). This is an important aspect of the promotion of human security, which is part of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security.

I thank H.E. Gazmend Turdiu, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania and the current President of the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, for his excellent presentation on the general status, priorities and challenges of the Convention. He can rest assured of our continued support for the humanitarian anti-mine action plan.

Belgium would like to inform the participating States that it has succeeded Canada as the co-ordinator of the contact group for the universalization of the Ottawa Convention. We should like to congratulate Canada on ten years of excellent work, thanks to which numerous States have joined this important humanitarian project prohibiting a weapon that causes disproportionate harm to the civilian population.

In its new function, Belgium intends to rely on a number of States Parties to the Convention and volunteers in their region of the world, "the champions of the Convention", to ensure regular contacts with States that are not party to the Convention and on which they could exert a more consistent influence with a view to accession. Belgium will co-ordinate and centralize the information on the action taken by its partners. We also offer our full political support to the President of the Meeting of the States Parties in his efforts to promote the ultimate goal of the Ottawa Convention – "a world free of anti-personnel mines".

The FSC is an appropriate platform for encouraging the participating States to accede to the Convention prohibiting anti-personnel mines. Too many OSCE participating States are not yet parties to the Convention. We call on them to consider their possible accession with the greatest attention and care.

Anti-personnel mines continue to injure and kill ordinary people every day, destroying their legs, their feet and their hands and sometimes taking their lives. The vast

majority of the victims are civilians, and not soldiers. According to reliable sources, every year civilians in fact represent three quarters of the total victims of these mines, among them many children, who if they are not killed on the spot find their future affected forever. Moreover, these mines cause damage not only during conflicts, but also after the conflicts in times of peace. They also constitute a major obstacle to the economic growth and social development of the countries concerned.

Belgium also chairs the contact group on transparency measures. We should like to take this opportunity to urge all the States Parties to submit their annual report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Office for Disarmament Affairs in Geneva in due course in accordance with Article 7 of the Treaty.

Mr. Chairperson,

The problem of anti-personnel mines must remain on the agenda of the Forum for Security Co-operation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/656
29 June 2011
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

650th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 656, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me first of all confirm that the United Kingdom's views have, of course, already been represented in the statement made so eloquently by our Hungarian colleague. This statement gives additional nuance to the United Kingdom position with respect to the Convention and expands on some national initiatives.

I would like to start by thanking H.E. Ambassador Gazmend Turdiu for his interesting and informative presentation on behalf of the Presidency of the Ottawa Convention.

It is a tribute to the concerted efforts of Member States and civil society that the Ottawa Convention has achieved so much in twelve years. The Convention's strong membership is a major factor in its success and we would urge those States yet to join to do so. The United Kingdom was delighted at the recent intersessional meeting held in Geneva to learn that Finland, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Poland and Tuvalu all hope to join the Convention in the foreseeable future. We also welcome the United States (US) review of policy towards the Convention and hope she will be able to report positive news soon.

In recent years anti-personnel landmines have been effectively stigmatized and generally they are used less now than at any other time in their history. However, reports of alleged use of landmines in Libya are a worrying development and of great concern to the international community. I am pleased to report that through the Department for International Development, the United Kingdom has responded to the UN's flash appeal and has donated 300,000 US dollars to the mine action organization MAG for mine action work to start in Libya in early July.

Throughout the world, more and more mines are being lifted from the ground and this activity is rightly focussed in areas where they present the highest humanitarian and developmental threat. The steady decline in casualties over the last decade means that collectively we can place a greater emphasis on delivering social and economic outcomes through mine action. The Cartagena Action Plan adopted in December 2009 re-energized States' efforts. The United Kingdom through the Department for International Development has responded by developing a comprehensive mine action strategy supported by an

investment by of 30 million pounds between 2010 and 2013 to assist those countries where the threat to lives and livelihoods is greatest.

Mr. Chairperson, we ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.