



Chairmanship: Denmark

533rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 12 December 2007

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 10.25 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. J. Bernhard

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Suspension by the Russian Federation of its commitments under the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe: Russian Federation (Annex), Chairperson

Agenda item 2: SECURITY DIALOGUE

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Indicative schedule and programme of the FSC Chairmanship in the first session of 2008: Spain (FSC.DEL/581/07 OSCE+)*

(b) *Vienna Conference on Cluster Munitions, held in Vienna, from 5 to 7 December 2007: Austria (FSC.DEL/579/07 OSCE+)*

(c) *2008 Annual Security Review Conference: Finland*

(d) *Matters of protocol: United Kingdom, Chairperson*

(e) *FSC issues related to the 2008 Unified Budget Proposal: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 19 December 2007, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/539
12 December 2007
Annex

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

533rd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 539, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

On 12 December, implementation began of measures stemming from Federal Law No. 276-FZ of 29 November 2007 “On the suspension by the Russian Federation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe” and Decree No. 872 of the President of the Russian Federation of 13 July 2007 “On the suspension by the Russian Federation of the application of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and of the international treaties associated with it”.

In practical terms this means that since 00 hours Moscow time on 12 December 2007 all of Russia’s activities concerning the implementation of the Treaty and of the documents associated with it have been suspended.

Specifically, the provision of information by Russia and the reception and conduct of inspections are suspended. During the period of suspension Russia will not be bound by limitations on the quantities of its conventional armaments, including the flank limitations. We are not however planning, in the current situation, to build them up on a massive scale or concentrate them on the borders with our neighbours. In the future, the actual quantities and deployment of armaments and equipment will depend on the specific politico-military situation, *inter alia* on the readiness of our partners to show restraint.

This step was the result of exceptional circumstances that have to do with the content of the CFE Treaty and that affect Russia’s security and require the adoption of urgent measures. We have spoken to our Treaty partners about these measures in detail on several occasions.

The Treaty, which was signed at the time of the Cold War, has long since ceased to respond to modern European realities and our security interests. And the adapted version of the Treaty has for eight years now been unable to enter into force because of the position of the NATO countries, which have made its ratification dependent on Russia fulfilling far-fetched demands that have nothing at all to do with the CFE Treaty. What is more, they have taken a number of steps that are incompatible with the spirit and the letter of the Treaty and disrupt the balances underlying it. If Russia were to continue with the implementation of the Treaty in this situation of legal uncertainty, its national interests in the area of military security would be threatened.

Suspension is not an end in itself but a means by which the Russian Federation can fight to restore the viability of the conventional arms control regime in Europe, to which we see no reasonable alternative. This step is politically justified, legally valid and makes it possible, provided Russia's partners show the necessary political will, within a fairly short time frame to resume operation of the CFE Treaty through a decision by the President of the Russian Federation.

Our positive programme for restoring the viability of the CFE Treaty is well known. We announced it at the Extraordinary Conference of the States Parties to the CFE Treaty in June of this year and also provided clarifications during a number of multilateral and bilateral meetings with our Treaty partners.

We believe that to achieve this goal it is necessary to:

- Agree on how the additional potential acquired by NATO as a result of its expansion can be compensated;
- Reach agreement on parameters of restraint in the deployment of forces on foreign territories;
- Adopt a decision abolishing the so-called flank limitations for Russian territory (they are hampering our common fight against terrorism);
- Ensure accession of the new NATO members, namely Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Slovenia, to the Treaty;
- As soon as possible, and without any artificial conditions, bring into force the adapted version of the CFE Treaty and begin to modernize it further.

We expect a constructive response to these proposals, first and foremost on the part of the NATO countries. The consultations already started with our partners confirm that what is needed is a substantive professional discussion on the basis of mutual respect and consideration of one another's interests in the area of security.

The Russian Federation is prepared to continue a result-oriented dialogue on the CFE Treaty during the suspension of its application as well. We hope that this kind of dialogue will bear fruit, but that will naturally only happen if the other States Parties to the Treaty show political realism and display the will to seek mutually acceptable solutions.