

**Chairmanship: Lithuania**

## 719th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 29 May 2013

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 11.40 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador G. Čekuolis

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE

*Presentation on the reorientation of the Bundeswehr by Admiral T. Kähler, Director of Security Policy, Ministry of Defence of Germany: Chairperson, Admiral T. Kähler (FSC.DEL/92/13 OSCE+) (FSC.DEL/92/13/Add.1 OSCE+), Ireland-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; 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 countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/93/13), United States of America, Turkey, Greece, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain, Cyprus, Netherlands, Austria, Belgium*

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

*International Conference on Military and Political Aspects of European Security, held in Moscow on 23 and 24 May 2013, and current activities of the Russian armed forces: Russian Federation (Annex)*

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

*Invitation to an event entitled the Future of Peace Operations – “Scenarios 2025”, to be held in Vienna on 4 June 2013 (SEC.DEL/133/13) (SEC.DEL/134/13): Germany*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 5 June 2013, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

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Annex

ENGLISH

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**719th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 725, Agenda item 2

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

Mr. Chairperson,

On the basis of information received from the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation and as a sign of goodwill, our delegation is continuing to inform our distinguished colleagues about the day-to-day activities of the Russian armed forces. Today, we should like to concentrate on two recent events.

Firstly, on 23 and 24 May 2013, the International Conference on Military and Political Aspects of European Security was held in Moscow by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation. Over 300 representatives from 50 countries, along with foreign and Russian experts from more than 20 non-governmental organizations, attended this event. The purpose of the Conference was to hold an open discussion of existing problems and develop proposals to find mutually acceptable solutions for ensuring equal security in Europe.

The President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, welcomed the Conference participants. The opening session was addressed by the Chief of Staff of the Executive Office of the President of the Russian Federation, Sergey Ivanov, the Minister for Defence of the Russian Federation, Army General Sergey Shoygu, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov, the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, Army General Valeriy Gerasimov, the Secretary General of the OSCE Lamberto Zannier, heads of defence departments of European States and of international organizations, namely NATO, the European Union and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), and respected representatives of Russian and European expert communities and academic circles. The Conference's work then continued in panel workshops on the following: challenges and threats to the Euro-Atlantic region; developing a new arms control mechanism and the influence of the missile defence factor; Russia, NATO and their current status, opportunities and prospects for interaction with the CSTO; and the role of the OSCE in ensuring European security.

In summing up the event, the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and First Deputy Minister for Defence, Army General Valeriy Gerasimov, noted that the Conference participants had succeeded in analysing and discussing in detail the challenges and threats to common security that exist or may emerge in

the Euro-Atlantic region. The discussion showed that on these issues there are similarities between our views and those of our European partners. This confirms the point made in the address by the Russian President that we need to work together to counter modern threats, using various mechanisms for co-operation.

Valeriy Gerasimov reported that during the Conference there had been a frank exchange of opinions on interaction between Russia and NATO. There are positive developments in this area. However, views still differ on a number of fundamental issues, such as the eastward expansion of the Alliance and plans to place anti-missile defence facilities in Europe. Ideas regarding possible steps to increase security on the European continent in the future were outlined at the forum. Russia put forward its vision of the so-called “security equation” in Europe, a resolution to which could bring us to a new level of confidence and co-operation. There was a productive discussion at the Conference on the OSCE’s role in ensuring European security.

In assessing the results of the Conference overall, Army General Gerasimov noted that intensive debates had shown the complexity and ambiguity of the problems under discussion. However, at the same time, much has changed in the relations between military departments over the last few years. Military co-operation and transparency are becoming an important part of the discussions on security in the Euro-Atlantic region. “We trust that the approaches outlined by Russian specialists will be studied by our partners. For our part, we shall carefully analyse all the ideas that we have heard here, and we shall also draw conclusions”, Valeriy Gerasimov stressed.

The Russian Minister for Defence, Army General Sergey Shoygu, held meetings on the margins of the Conference with his colleagues from other countries, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cyprus, France, Greece, Moldova and Serbia, and also with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of Finland. The main topics of these conversations and discussions were bilateral military and military-technical co-operation and prospects for interaction in the military sphere to ensure security in Europe.

In the eyes of the Russian Federation, all the prerequisites for this are in place: there are no fundamental ideological differences, the economic interests of States overlap, and cultural, scientific and business ties between States are being strengthened. Nevertheless, it is also clear that there are still factors that impede further movement towards realizing the principle of the indivisible security of all European States. These factors include differences in the approaches to building a European security architecture and the absence of the necessary climate of trust. Needless to say, this state of affairs needs to change radically. It is for this reason that initiatives aimed at resolving key issues of European security are needed today more than ever.

In this connection, Sergey Shoygu urged Russia’s partners to engage in constructive, joint projects, which could compensate for the lack of trust and help to develop co-operation among countries at the most different levels and in various areas, ranging from humanitarian and economic matters to military questions.

On 24 May, in line with the programme of the International Conference, its participants visited the Taman guards motorized infantry division. At the division museum, the foreign guests were told about the formation’s operational record. They then visited

barracks and training facilities, where they learned about the living and service conditions of the military personnel. The guests were shown the training centre and range, where they were able to observe practice firing using small arms, RPG-7 grenade launchers and BTR-80 armoured personnel carrier weaponry.

The Conference's plenary session and discussion workshop sessions were webcast on the Ministry of Defence's website and broadcast live on the *Rossiya 24* and *Zvezda* television channels. The Conference agenda, list of delegates and other information material can be found on the official website of the Russian Ministry of Defence – [www.mil.ru](http://www.mil.ru).

I imagine that in the near future we shall return on more than one occasion to a discussion of the ideas raised at the Conference.

Secondly, since 27 May 2013, on the orders of the Minister for Defence of the Russian Federation, Army General Shoygu, a surprise inspection has been under way to assess the combat readiness of units and subunits of the aerospace defence forces, long-range and military transport aviation as well as air force and air defence force formations from the Western Military District.

The exercise is being carried out to monitor the troops' combat readiness and ability to perform their assigned tasks under various conditions. As part of the exercise, the aerospace defence forces have been practising repelling a surprise aerospace attack by a simulated enemy. Aviation forces were assigned the task of playing the enemy and of participating in the efforts to repel the aerial attack. Command of the air defence grouping is exercised using standard-issue mobile command and control facilities, including those mounted on armoured vehicles.

On the morning of 27 May, the relevant units were placed on alert and made fully combat ready. They then began to carry out their assigned tasks.

On the same day, combat teams from four air defence regiments were redeployed by military transport aircraft to the Ashuluk training range (Astrakhan region), where, in a simulated combat situation, they began to practise a range of practical exercises to repel a massive air strike by simulated enemy missiles and aircraft. Immediately upon arriving at the Ashuluk training range, the military personnel received S-300 air defence missiles and marched to their designated areas, where they performed an operational deployment in combat formation in the areas to be defended with the aim of detecting and destroying aerial and ballistic targets represented by real targets. The aerial situation in the defended area was complicated by mass flights by air force fighter planes simulating aggressor action at all altitudes and velocities, and also by the use of electronic warfare.

As part of the surprise inspection to assess combat readiness, fighter planes, bombers and military transport aircraft from the Western Military District have also been redeployed to operational airfields. As early as 27 May, advance parties of aviation specialists arrived by military transport aircraft at the designated airfields, where during the night they inspected the landing strips. In addition, military transport aircraft delivered specialized ground equipment to make sure the military aircraft could fly from unequipped airfields. At 9 a.m. on 28 May, following receipt of reports from the leaders of the advance parties announcing that the operational airfields were ready to receive the aircraft, the 1st air force and air defence

force command began redeployment of operational aircraft. Two bomber squadrons from the Baltimore air base were redeployed to operational airfields. Su-27 aircraft from the Besovets air base and MiG-29 squadrons from the Kursk airfield landed at the Pushkin airfield near St. Petersburg. Virtually all the airfields in the Western Military District were involved in the dispersal of operational aircraft. Flights were made in standard squadrons flying in combat formation, taking the necessary camouflage measures and using electronic warfare measures against simulated enemy air defence systems. The mission of redeploying aviation forces and equipment was assigned to the 1st air force and air defence force command by officers of the General Staff, who are on the ground monitoring the training exercise and evaluating the performance at the Western Military District airfields.

In total, 8,700 troops, 185 combat aircraft and 240 armoured combat vehicles were involved in the inspection. Officers from the Main Operations Directorate headed by Lieutenant General Vladimir Zarudnitskiy are monitoring the troops' activities. Forces and equipment falling under Russia's international commitments, in particular, subunits of the land forces, are not involved in the exercise. On the orders of the Russian Minister for Defence, detailed information is available in the media on every stage of this exercise. The inspection is scheduled to conclude today.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and ask that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.