



## **In search of a common ground to advance security co-operation in the OSCE area**

### ***Interview with the Director of the Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control of the Russian Foreign Ministry Mikhail Ulyanov, Vienna, 3 May 2017***

*1) What are the main priorities of Russia's Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation starting on 3 May 2017?*

In the framework of the Russian FSC Chairmanship we intend to propose an agenda aimed at the search for common approaches and joint efforts in problem resolving.

It includes topics for discussion that in the current security environment could in our view play a uniting role. The work of the Forum encompasses a wide range of issues – from traditional challenges to regional security, such as the destabilizing accumulation of conventional weapons, the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms to transnational threats including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.

We will share Russia's experience in the fields where we enjoy a certain positive head-start notably UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and effective export-control mechanisms, and the prevention of military incidents at sea and in the air. We will continue the practice of discussing sub-regional aspects of security, looking among other things into what can be learned from the work of the Shanghai Co-operation Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

We believe it is necessary to implement the positive outcomes of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Hamburg, in particular, the declarations on supporting the OSCE's assistance activities in the field of small arms and conventional ammunition, and the declaration marking the 20th anniversary of the Framework for Arms Control. Therefore, we intend, in close co-operation with the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, to conduct a joint meeting of the Forum and the Permanent Council to review the work of the Informal Working Group on the Structured Dialogue.

Taking into account the notable interest shown by participating States during last year's High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar on the topic of how scientific and technological advances impact security and arms control, we have scheduled a separate meeting on this matter.

Our utmost priority is to achieve our goals through dialogue and the search for consent on the basis of mutual benefit.

2) *What is the importance of the FSC Chairmanship for Russia?*

The Russian Federation sees the FSC as an important platform for dialogue on security issues in the OSCE region. Notably our Chairmanship coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Forum. In the last two-and-a-half decades it has proved to be a useful tool for transparency and confidence-building in the military sphere. A unique acquis was drawn up that regulates a wide spectrum of regional security matters. We provide assistance to interested participating States on a whole range of issues and closely co-operate with relevant international and regional organizations.

We are confident that despite different approaches on how to develop the European security architecture, the political will to search for a compromise in solving problems and searching for ways to counter threats and challenges will prevail.

3) *How do you see your contribution during the Chairmanship to improve the dialogue on issues discussed at the FSC?*

Within the framework of the Security Dialogue we emphasized the sharing of positive national experiences of OSCE participating States. We think it is useful to exchange views with partners on the issues of eliminating the surplus stock of conventional ammunition, the creation of a reliable export control system in the process of implementation of UNSCR 1540, the prevention of military incidents at sea and in air, as well as the analysis of the practice of studying the provisions of the Code of Conduct in the military forces of participating States.

4) *Co-operation with other regional security organizations is something that the OSCE always supports. How can Russia's FSC Chairmanship contribute to this?*

Strengthening contacts between the OSCE with the UN and other relevant international and regional organizations are very important. We see the recent dynamic in co-operation between the Secretariats of the OSCE and the SCO, and the close co-operation of the FSC with the UNSC 1540 Committee as positive developments.

Among speakers invited to the Forum are the Secretary-General of the SCO Rashid Alimov and Deputy Secretary-General of the CSTO Valery Semerikov, who will be speaking on how these organizations work as well as the approaches to regional security issues developed within these entities.

We trust that the expertise of these organizations as well as the further development of mutually beneficial co-operation and the exchange of experience on relevant military and political issues will promote the greater efficiency of the OSCE's work in the area from Vancouver to Vladivostok.