

Chairmanship: Russian Federation

858th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 12 July 2017

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1.10 p.m.
Resumed: 3.10 p.m.
Closed: 3.20 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. A. Vorobiev

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF THE OSCE PARTICIPATING STATES IN THE FIELD OF THE MANAGEMENT OF STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION (CA) AND DESTRUCTION OF ITS SURPLUS

- *Swiss Initiative on Safe and Secure Management of Ammunition, presentation by Colonel P. Chaudhuri, Head of Verification Unit, Deputy Head of Euro-Atlantic Security Cooperation, Swiss Armed Forces*
- *National Experience of the Russian Federation in Complex Utilization of Conventional Ammunition, presentation by Mr. A. Gusev, Deputy Director of Department, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Russian Federation*
- *SALW and CA Stockpile Management in Bosnia and Herzegovina, OSCE support to BiH, presentation by Mr. A. Sarban, OSCE Arms Control Project Officer, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Chairperson, Mr. P. Chaudhuri (FSC.DEL/193/17 OSCE+), Mr. A. Gusev (FSC.DEL/194/17 OSCE+) (FSC.DEL/194/17/Add.1 OSCE+), OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (FSC.FR/1/17 OSCE+) (FSC.FR/1/17/Add.1 OSCE+), Estonia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro

and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Georgia, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/190/17), Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, United Kingdom, Armenia, United States of America, Russian Federation, FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary)

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE OSCE MEETING TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION

Chairperson

Decision: The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 3/17 (FSC.DEC/3/17) on the OSCE meeting to review the implementation of OSCE assistance projects in the field of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Montenegro, Serbia, Chairperson

Agenda item 3: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Food-for-thought paper on OSCE best practices against the illicit reactivation and transformation of small arms and light weapons (FSC.DEL/188/17):* Germany (also on behalf of France) (Annex 1), France (also on behalf of Germany) (Annex 2)
- (b) *Joint strategic exercise of the armed forces of Belarus and the Russian Federation “Zapad 2017” to be conducted from 14 to 20 September 2017:* Belarus (FSC.DEL/195/17 Restr.) (FSC.DEL/195/17/Add.1 Restr.), Russian Federation, Canada
- (c) *Situation in and around Ukraine:* Ukraine (FSC.DEL/192/17), Estonia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/191/17), Canada, United States of America, Russian Federation

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Matters of protocol:* Armenia, Chairperson, Hungary

- (b) *Final report on the retreat on politico-military issues related to “Vienna Document 2011, Chapter IX: Compliance and Verification – Demonstration of an Evaluation”, held in Zwölfaxing, Austria, on 22 June 2017 (CIO.GAL/131/17 Restr.): Austria, Co-ordinator of the FSC Chair for the Vienna Document (Switzerland), Germany, Hungary*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 19 July 2017, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/864
12 July 2017
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

858th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 864, Agenda item 3(a)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF FRANCE)**

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

I should like first to thank the Russian Chairmanship for including the topic of management of stockpiles of conventional ammunition and their destruction on today's agenda.

We are also here today to discuss a related issue of great relevance, namely small arms and light weapons and their deactivation.

All OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation are affected one way or another by the problem of the illegal proliferation of small arms. Globally speaking, this has great destabilization potential, threatening peace, stability and security.

Small arms smuggling feeds organized crime, terrorism, gang criminality and armed conflicts. There are some 600 to 800 million small arms in circulation worldwide. Because they are inexpensive, easy to use, portable and simple to hide, monitoring their transfer and proliferation is a particular challenge.

There are a couple of trends to be observed in connection with small arms proliferation. There is evidence that improperly deactivated arms are illegally reactivated or that firearms not intended for use with live ammunition are converted into deadly weapons for use in criminal activities and terrorist attacks. France was painfully confronted by this circumstance during the attack in January 2015, when one of the attackers used a converted weapon. This tragic event illustrated the threat posed by weapons that had hitherto been thought unusable.

If the deactivation is not carried out properly, the firearm can be reactivated by anyone with basic technical knowledge and a few tools. The availability of these weapons, their inexpensive price and their inconspicuousness make them very attractive for criminal groups and terrorist organizations, particularly in countries in which the purchase and possession of small arms is strictly controlled.

In addition, gun laws regulating the transfer of small arms in many States are not applied to deactivated weapons because they are no longer regarded as weapons. Different deactivation standards in States in the same region or in a free trade zone can result in gaps in control processes, as the same object is regarded as a weapon in one country but not in the next.

It is therefore important for States to co-ordinate their activities to ensure that deactivated firearms are in fact deactivated once and for all and cannot be used for deadly purposes.

The international community has demonstrated an awareness of this problem at various levels and shown its willingness to address it. In its report on the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States, the United Nations Small Arms Programme of Action notes: “the need to ensure that destroyed and deactivated small arms and light weapons are rendered permanently inoperable such that illicit reactivation is physically impossible, and the value of relevant best practices in this regard.”

Article 9 of the UN Firearms Protocol also contains a reference to deactivated small arms. The European Union Member States passed a Regulation on Minimum Standards for Deactivation in 2015, and Best Practices for Deactivation were proposed within the Wassenaar Arrangement.

Mr. Chairperson,

I request that this part of the statement also be attached to the journal of the day.



858th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 864, Agenda item 3(a)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF GERMANY)**

The OSCE itself has started work on the deactivation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), and progress can be expected in this area. In the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons adopted in 2000, the participating States agreed that “the deactivation of small arms will be carried out only in such a way as to render all essential parts of the weapon permanently inoperable and therefore incapable of being removed, replaced or modified in a way that might permit the weapon to be reactivated.”

In September 2016, the Conflict Prevention Centre made a study of national small arms deactivation practices in the OSCE area. It revealed that although there are different deactivation standards in the participating States, there is nevertheless a common understanding of the idea of permanent and irreversible deactivation. A seminar organized in March 2017 thanks to Germany on SALW deactivation monitoring enabled States to gain a better understanding of the stakes involved and current deactivation practices and to identify a common approach to meeting the challenges connected with the use of deactivated arms for criminal purposes.

Following on from the seminar in March 2017, France and Germany would like now to submit a draft Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) decision and a Best Practice Guide on Deactivation of SALW for consideration by participating States. This initiative could form the OSCE’s response to the challenges posed by the use of reactivated or transformed firearms in terrorist attacks and criminal activities.

Although non-binding in nature, the Guide would help to establish a common understanding of the essential aspects of the permanent deactivation of SALW and could provide the basis for practical assistance by the OSCE in that area to interested participating States. It contains information on relevant international commitments and suggests approaches and procedures for ensuring the irreversible deactivation of light weapons, including operational measures such as the adoption of adapted legislation, technical specifications for SALW deactivation standards, the designation of control authorities and marking and tracing measures.

The risks associated with the illicit conversion, transformation or reactivation of SALW and trafficking in these arms are a serious threat to our common security. The OSCE

and the participating States can offer real added value in combating this scourge. This is the reason for the joint proposal by France and Germany.

We therefore ask the FSC Chairperson to add this subject to the agenda of the next meeting of Working Group A.

Mr. Chairperson, ambassadors and delegates, I thank you.



858th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 864, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 3/17
OSCE MEETING TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE
ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF SMALL ARMS AND
LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL
AMMUNITION**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Mindful of the important role of the OSCE in combating the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in all its aspects and of its endeavour to contribute to the reduction in, and prevention of, the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW,

Recognizing the continuing importance of OSCE measures aimed at addressing the security risks and the safety of stockpiles of SALW and conventional ammunition in surplus and/or awaiting destruction in some States in the OSCE area,

Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening efforts aimed at ensuring the full implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1, 20 June 2012), the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) (FSC.DOC/1/03/Rev.1, 23 March 2011), and related FSC decisions, including the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (FSC.DEC/2/10, 26 May 2010),

Recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/14, which tasked the FSC to continue to strengthen efforts to fully implement existing measures and commitments set out in the OSCE Document on SALW, the OSCE Document on SCA, and related FSC decisions,

Also recalling the Ministerial Declaration on OSCE Assistance Projects in the Field of SALW and SCA (MC.DOC/3/16), which encourages participating States to hold periodic conferences to assess the implementation of ongoing OSCE projects on SALW and SCA,

Commending the successful projects conducted by the OSCE on the destruction of surplus SALW and SCA as well as ensuring their safe and secure storage,

Decides:

1. To organize an OSCE meeting to review the implementation of OSCE assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA under the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA, with a view to exploring possible further actions, to be held on 3 and 4 October 2017, in Vienna, in accordance with the programme, indicative timetable and organizational modalities annexed to this decision;
2. To request the OSCE Secretariat to support the organization of this meeting;
3. To invite the OSCE participating States to consider providing extrabudgetary contributions for the above-mentioned event.

**OSCE MEETING TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OSCE
ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF SMALL ARMS AND
LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL
AMMUNITION**

Vienna, 3 and 4 October 2017

I. Agenda and indicative timetable

Tuesday, 3 October 2017

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|-----------------|---|
| 9.30–10.30 a.m. | Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Opening statement by the FSC Chairperson– Opening address by the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre– Opening address (TBD) |
| 10.30–11 a.m. | Working session I: Assistance mechanism under the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Introduction by the working session moderator– Presentation on the assistance mechanism for participating States and Partners for Co-operation |
| 11–11.30 a.m. | Coffee break |
| 11.30–1 p.m. | Working session II: Progress and existing challenges in the implementation of SALW and SCA projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Introduction by the working session moderator– Presentations on the progress and existing challenges in the implementation of SALW and SCA projects– Discussion |
| 1–2.30 p.m. | Lunch break |
| 2.30–6 p.m. | Continuation of working session II (with a 30 minute coffee break) |

Wednesday, 4 October 2017

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|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 10 a.m.–12 noon | Continuation of working session II |
| 12 noon–1 p.m. | Closing session |
- Overview of the funding of OSCE projects on SALW and SCA
 - Discussion to explore possible further actions for the implementation of SALW and SCA assistance projects
 - FSC Chairperson’s closing remarks

II. Organizational modalities

Background

Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/14 tasked the FSC to, *inter alia*, continue to strengthen efforts to fully implement existing measures and commitments set out in the OSCE Document on SALW, the OSCE Document on SCA, and related FSC decisions as well as to explore ways to enhance outreach to the OSCE Partners for Co-operation on issues related to SALW and SCA. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the implementation of OSCE assistance projects on SALW and SCA, as well as provide a forum to examine further ways of improving the effectiveness of such projects.

The Ministerial Declaration on OSCE Assistance Projects in the Field of SALW and SCA (MC.DOC/3/16) encourages continued discussions on topical security issues related to SALW and SCA projects and holding periodic conferences to assess the implementation of ongoing OSCE projects on SALW and SCA.

Organization

The FSC Chairmanship will chair the opening and closing sessions.

Each working session will have one designated moderator and one rapporteur throughout. The task of the moderators will be to facilitate and follow the discussion, while the immediate task of the rapporteurs will be to present brief written summary reports for use by the Chairperson of the closing session, and a written summary report, which will become a part of the Chairperson’s report. The rapporteurs will assist the moderators in the preparation of their respective working sessions.

Each working session will be introduced by the moderator, after which several presentations will be given on specific aspects of the topic, either by the moderator or by other experts. The introduction and the presentations are to be in line with point papers to be distributed via the moderator prior to the meeting. The introductions and the presentations at the working sessions are to be brief, so as to allow maximum time for discussion, and should

therefore highlight only the most important elements of the point papers so as to provide information and set the scene for the discussion.

The Rules of Procedure of the OSCE will be followed, *mutatis mutandis*, at the meeting. Also, the guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (PC.DEC/762) will be taken into account.

Interpretation from and into all six working languages of the OSCE will be provided at the opening, working and closing sessions. The FSC Chairperson will provide a report on the meeting not later than 15 December 2017, including a summary of suggestions and recommendations made during the meeting. The OSCE Secretariat will assist the FSC Chairperson in all matters concerning the organizational modalities of the meeting.

Participation

The participating States are encouraged to ensure the participation of senior officials, including those from capitals, at the meeting. The OSCE institutions will participate in the meeting. The Partners for Co-operation will also be invited to participate.

Other relevant international and regional organizations that are involved in relevant SALW activities, such as the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, the UN Development Programme, the European Union, will also be invited by the FSC Chairperson. The deadline for registrations will be 10 September 2017.

General guidelines for participants

Prior circulation of briefings, overviews or statements is encouraged. To promote interactive discussion, delegations are requested to provide formal statements in writing only. Delegations are requested to limit the length of their oral statements to five minutes.

Guidelines for keynote speakers and panellists

To facilitate discussion within the time constraints, the keynote presentation will be limited to 15–20 minutes, introductions and presentations in the working sessions to 10–15 minutes, and interventions/questions from the floor to five minutes.

In their contributions, the speakers at the opening and working sessions should set the scene for the discussion and stimulate debate among delegations by raising appropriate questions and suggesting potential recommendations, and should concentrate on the highlights of their contributions. Speakers should remain present during the entire session they are addressing and should be ready to engage in the debate following their presentation. In order to promote interactive discussion, formal statements and interventions at the working sessions should be as concise as possible and should not exceed five minutes. The speakers should also contribute to the further substance of the meeting as it evolves and as time permits. Prior circulation of statements and interventions will enhance the possibility form engaging in discussion.

Guidelines for moderators and rapporteurs

The moderator will chair the session and should facilitate and focus dialogue among the participants. The moderator should stimulate the debate by introducing items related to the subjects of the opening and working sessions, as appropriate, in order to broaden or refine the scope of the discussion. The moderators may provide input to the Chairperson for the FSC Chairperson's report.

The rapporteurs' reports should address issues raised during the relevant sessions, and rapporteurs should provide written summaries subsequent to the meeting. Personal views will not be advanced.

Guidelines for submitting and distributing written contributions

Speakers should submit their written contributions to the meeting moderators no later than 29 September 2017. By 29 September 2017, participating States and other participants in the meeting are invited to submit any written contributions they may have.