

Chairmanship: Lithuania**717th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 15 May 2013

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.35 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador G. Čekuolis

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, 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 Andorra, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/75/13) and the United States of America offered condolences to Turkey in connection with the bombing that took place in Reyhanli, Turkey, on 11 May 2013.

The Chairperson also extended his condolences to the United States of America in connection with the shooting that happened during a Mother's Day parade held in New Orleans, United States of America, on 12 May 2013. He furthermore offered his condolences to Georgia on the deaths of three Georgian soldiers in the attack of 13 May 2013 on a Georgian base in southern Afghanistan.

Turkey, Georgia and the United States of America thanked the Chairperson and the participating States for this expression of sympathy.

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE

Presentation on strengthening the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and the role of regional organizations by H.E. Ambassador Kim Sook, Chair of the United Nations Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004):

Chairperson, Mr. Kim Sook (FSC.DEL/78/13 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 Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/76/13), Kazakhstan (FSC.DEL/80/13 OSCE+), Serbia (FSC.DEL/74/13/Corr.1 OSCE+), FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues (Ukraine), Montenegro, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Croatia, Kyrgyzstan, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Belarus (FSC.DEL/77/13 OSCE+), Russian Federation, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Mr. T. Taylor (Expert Group Coordinator, United Nations 1540 Committee)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Briefing on recent military exercises in the Russian Federation: Russian Federation (Annex)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons, to be held on 16 May 2013:* Chairperson

(b) *Matters of protocol:* Kazakhstan, Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 22 May 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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15 May 2013

Annex

ENGLISH

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717th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 723, 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 three recent events.

Firstly, since 11 May the five-day Pomor-2013 Russian-Norwegian naval exercise has been under way in the waters of the Barents Sea and Norwegian Sea. Russia is represented in that exercise by the crew of the Northern Fleet's large anti-submarine ship, the "Vice-Admiral Kulakov". The main purpose of the exercise is to practise joint operations by the Russian and Norwegian military in the Arctic region.

The international exercise consists of a number of counter-terrorist scenarios, which include conducting anti-piracy and search operations with the participation of marines, liberating a civilian vessel from armed extremists, ensuring the security of civilian shipping, intercepting speedboats that were violating State borders, and carrying out search and rescue operations. The exercise plan also includes practice artillery firing at aerial and surface targets, measures to counter aerial threats and to detect and attack a submarine, and the landing of ship-based helicopters on the decks of the Russian and Norwegian vessels.

Prior to the start of the exercise, from 7 to 11 May the Norwegian naval frigate "Helge Ingstad" called at the main base of the Northern Fleet in Severomorsk. The captain of the Norwegian warship paid an official visit to the commander of the Northern Fleet and attended an official meeting with the head of the Severomorsk administration. Around 50 sailors from the Norwegian Navy took part in a military parade in Murmansk to mark the 68th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

On 11 May, immediately after leaving Severomorsk, the large anti-submarine ship "Vice-Admiral Kulakov" and the frigate "Helge Ingstad" set about practising counter-terrorist training scenarios. As the ships sailed out of Kola Bay, they successfully performed the first element of the training exercise, namely the detection and interception of non-compliant speedboats, the role of which was played by torpedo recovery vessels from the

Northern Fleet. On the first day of the exercise, Russian and Norwegian sailors also countered aggressor air assault forces and conducted a joint rescue operation to provide assistance to a simulated vessel in distress. A Northern Fleet SB-523 rescue tug played the role of the stricken vessel.

The second day of the Pomor-2013 exercise began with the arrival of the Norwegian Navy coastal defence frigate “Senja” to join the ships taking part in the exercise. One of the most spectacular scenarios was an artillery engagement with an aggressor surface ship represented by a drifting target. In addition to artillery firing, the vessels taking part in the exercise continued to practise conducting joint rescue operations of varying degrees of difficulty.

The international exercise was suspended for several minutes at the boundary between the Barents Sea and Norwegian Sea. As is the established tradition, the crew of the ships paid tribute, with military honours, to the sailors who perished in the Arctic waters during the Second World War. The crew assembled in formation on the decks of the ships and a wreath-laying ceremony took place, with the wreaths placed on the water. The international squadron of ships then continued to work on the planned training scenarios.

On 13 May the vessels participating in the exercise started joint operations in the waters of the Norwegian Sea. They practised lifting simulated injured sailors from the water. The crew of the ships also carried out a joint search and destruction exercise against an aggressor submarine and repelled simulated air strikes by fighter planes of the Norwegian Air Force from various altitudes and directions.

The concluding stage of the exercise began on 14 May under Norwegian command. Two main scenarios were played out that day – the searches of vessels suspected of illegal activity, and artillery engagement with an aggressor surface ship involving practice artillery firing at targets using the ships’ primary armaments. The Russian and Norwegian sailors carried out joint manoeuvres and conducted a damage-control exercise. Training sessions for rescue teams in firefighting and administering first aid to the injured took place on board the “Senja”.

The practical phase of the Pomor-2013 joint Russian-Norwegian exercise will continue until 16 May, after which the Russian ship “Vice-Admiral Kulakov” will call at the Norwegian port of Bergen, where Northern Fleet sailors will take part in Norway’s Constitution Day celebrations.

As agreed in advance by the parties, groups of officers from each side are learning about practices on board a foreign ship as well as about the performance of the crew in carrying out the training exercises.

The Pomor-2013 exercise demonstrates the ability of the Russian and Norwegian armed forces to conduct joint operations to combat terrorist threats and protect national interests in the western Arctic region. Similar exercises have been taking place on a regular basis since 2010.

Secondly, on 9 May military parades to commemorate the 68th anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945 were held in 24 cities in

the Russian Federation. More than 38,000 military personnel, around 850 pieces of military equipment and 68 planes and helicopters were involved in the parades.

The country's main military parade took place in Red Square in Moscow. Over 11,000 military personnel from troop units and military training establishments of the Russian armed forces and other ministries and departments participated in that parade. A total of 101 pieces of modern military equipment and 68 planes and helicopters of the air force were involved in the parade.

For the first time, military parades were held in cities on the territory of the Eastern Military District – Khabarovsk, Vladivostok, Ussuriysk, Chita, Ulan-Ude and Belogorsk. Around 7,000 military personnel and around 200 pieces of military equipment were involved in these parades.

In the Central Military District, military parades took place in Yekaterinburg, Samara and Novosibirsk. More than 3,500 military personnel and over 100 pieces of military equipment were involved in them.

In the Southern Military District, military parades took place in Rostov-on-Don, Volgograd, Vladikavkaz, Astrakhan, Novorossiysk and Stavropol. Over 8,000 military personnel and 200 pieces of military equipment were involved in them. A joint parade involving military personnel from the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Naval Forces took place in the “hero city” of Sevastopol.

In the Western Military District, military parades were held in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Murmansk, Severomorsk, Kaliningrad, Nizhny Novgorod, Tula and Smolensk. More than 19,000 military personnel participated in these parades, and over 300 pieces of military equipment were involved.

In addition, special events took place at Russian military bases abroad.

Thirdly, as announced by Colonel General Vladimir Shamanov, commander of the airborne troops, by 1 September parachute (air assault) subunits will be formed in all airborne troop formations. The troops of these subunits will be entrusted with peacekeeping operations. Four divisions will each have one battalion staffed 100 per cent by professional soldiers who will be called upon to participate in peacekeeping operations under the auspices of the United Nations and to protect the interests of Russia's allies within the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). In that connection, the 31st Separate Guards Air Assault Brigade stationed in Ulyanovsk will, as the airborne troop formation staffed by the largest number of professional soldiers, be ready as of 1 June to commence peacekeeping operations.

The position of deputy commander of troops for peacekeeping forces and the CSTO Collective Rapid Reaction Force is being introduced into the airborne troop command for the supervision of peacekeeping activities, and a corresponding command and control unit is being formed within the established structure.

Since 2009, two airborne troop formations – the 98th Guards Airborne Division (at Ivanovo) and the 31st Separate Guards Air Assault Brigade (at Ulyanovsk) – have been

included in the CSTO Collective Rapid Reaction Force. As part of the Collective Rapid Reaction Force, subunits of these formations are regular participants in combat training exercises conducted under CSTO command, including large-scale joint exercises on the territory of allied States. In September 2013 subunits of the 31st Separate Guards Air Assault Brigade will participate in the Interaction-2013 joint exercise with the CSTO Collective Rapid Reaction Force, which will take place on the territory of Belarus.

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