

Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC)



OSCE/Mikhail Eustafiev

At a *Seminar on Military Doctrine* at the Hofburg Congress Centre in Vienna on 14 and 15 February, participants focused on security challenges to the OSCE region in the 21st century.

Established at the Helsinki Summit in 1992, the Forum for Security Co-operation is responsible for the military dimension of the OSCE. The Forum's Chairmanship rotates every four months according to the alphabetical order of the OSCE participating States. In 2006, the Forum was chaired successively by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Canada.

The high-level *Seminar on Military Doctrine*, held on 14 and 15 February with the participation of senior military and civilian defence experts, achieved its goal of examining changes in military doctrine derived from evolving threats, changing forms of conflict, emerging technologies and their impact on armed forces and their defence structures. As the nature of the threats becomes more diffuse, the military response complements civilian security measures.

As part of the Forum's work on existing OSCE commitments and new confidence- and security-building measures, participating States engaged in a dialogue regarding two proposals. These proposals related to prior notification of large-scale military transits and to the deployment of foreign military forces on the territory of an OSCE participating State where confidence- and security-building measures are being applied. The discussion led to a broader dialogue on the basis for these proposals, which is expected to continue.

The weekly Security Dialogue featuring a guest speaker proved to be an extremely useful platform for raising awareness of developments in other organizations and for providing information about some areas highlighted by the *Seminar on Military Doctrine*, such as rapidly deployable forces. The Forum Chairperson invited representatives from the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Collective Security Treaty Organization to provide briefings on their respective rapidly deployable forces concept. Other Security Dialogue presentations addressed issues ranging from terrorism and counter-terrorism, civil-military emergency preparedness, to sub-regional efforts in the defence area.

The *16th Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting* was held on 7 and 8 March to discuss the present and future implementation of agreed confidence- and security-building measures, as established in Chapter XI of the *Vienna Document 1999*. At the Meeting, proposals were made for further implementation of OSCE documents.

The non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continued to be a topic of intense discussion. Following presentations by the EU on its strategy on non-proliferation, and by the Chairperson of the *Committee Established Pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1540*, the Forum decided in September to hold a *Workshop on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540*, which aims to prevent the acquisition, use or transfer of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems by non-State actors. The Workshop, held on 8 November, afforded experts an opportunity to discuss the implementation of the *Resolution* and ways for the OSCE to assist participating States in fulfilling their reporting and implementation commitments, as well as to share best practices.

On 17 May, the Forum held a special meeting on small arms and light weapons (SALW) to prepare recommendations for formal OSCE statements to the *UN Review Conference on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All its Aspects*, which took place in New York from 26 June to 7 July. The Chairman-in-Office and the Forum Chairperson delivered statements at the *Review Conference* and organized a Side Event to showcase OSCE activities and projects in the fields of SALW and conventional ammunition.

In November, the Forum adopted a decision to hold a special meeting on 21 March 2007 on combating the illicit trafficking of SALW by air. Participating States will be expected to share views on the potential for developing an information-exchange mechanism on their national air transport import and export controls, for engaging in a dialogue with private businesses in

the air transport sector and competent international organizations, and for developing a best practice guide.

Implementation of the OSCE documents on *Small Arms and Light Weapons* (2000) and *Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition* (2003) also continued to receive considerable attention. The first phase of the project in Tajikistan was successfully completed and projects are underway in Armenia and Ukraine (Novobohdanivka). Projects are also being developed in Kazakhstan and Belarus. A memorandum of understanding was concluded with the UN Development Programme to allow for co-operation on SALW and conventional ammunition projects. The Secretary General addressed the 26th joint meeting of the Forum and the Permanent Council on 15 November, providing an update and highlighting the implications of the surplus rocket fuel (*Melange*) projects, notably in Ukraine, and inviting further attention and guidance from participating States.

In March, the Forum finalized a new Annex to the *Handbook of Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons entitled National Procedures for Stockpile Management and Security of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS)*. The Annex is available both in hard copy and on CD-ROM in all the official OSCE languages, as well as in Arabic.

Two best practice guides related to the *Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition* have been completed and endorsed by the Forum. The *Guide on Stockpile Management* recommends best practices to facilitate and enhance proper

storage and control of conventional ammunition. The *Guide on Transportation* provides general recommendations and practical advice for the safe and secure transport of conventional ammunition.

The Forum also contributed to the *Annual Security Review Conference* in June by providing guidelines for the keynote speakers, in particular those addressing the politico-military aspects of security.

A Special Forum meeting on the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security* was held on 27 September. The meeting focused on implementation of the *Code*. Experts from capitals joined in the discussions, which confirmed the continuing relevance of the *Code* as one of the most important normative documents of the OSCE addressing both the politico-military and the human dimensions of security.

The Forum continued to co-operate with the Permanent Council and its sub-body, the Working Group on Non-Military Aspects of Security. The discussions in the Forum about security sector governance, which is seen to be linked with the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security*, attested to this ongoing collaboration on comprehensive issues that involve not only military but also economic, environmental and human aspects. The briefings to the Forum by heads of OSCE field operations were particularly useful in linking politico-military activities with the other dimensions of security.



Shoulder-fired weapons known as MANPADS are detonated in Tajikistan on 21 June as part of an OSCE assistance project aimed at helping the country destroy excess stockpiles.