

Chairmanship: Armenia

978th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 2 June 2021 (via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 10.55 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Papikyan

The Chairperson reminded the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) of the technical modalities for the conduct of FSC meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic, as outlined in FSC.GAL/31/21 OSCE+.

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/216/21) (FSC.DEL/216/21/Add.1), Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/219/21), United States of America (FSC.DEL/214/21 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Canada, Russian Federation (Annex)

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Logistic matter related to the format of forthcoming FSC meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic: Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 9 June 2021, at 10 a.m., via video teleconference

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978th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 984, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Our basic assessment of the causes, course and consequences of the internal Ukrainian conflict is well known to our esteemed partners in these negotiations and remains valid. At the same time, in exercising the right to reply, we should like to comment on the statements by a number of delegations in connection with the sovereign decision of the Russian Federation to deploy 20 new military units and formations in the Western Military District.

The Russian delegation has repeatedly noted that an increase in military activity by the North Atlantic Alliance is being observed practically along the entire length of our borders, accompanied by an intensification of operational training activities for NATO troops, along with reconnaissance activities, including the use of aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles equipped with the latest technology for monitoring the situation on the ground and on water and making it possible to observe Russian territory. It is telling that the greatest number of reconnaissance flights near the Crimean peninsula are recorded when NATO member countries' vessels are in Black Sea waters and when the Alliance is conducting military exercises in the region.

According to the Russian military leadership, the situation in the Western strategic area is characterized by growing military threats. The volume of strategic aircraft flights by the United States Air Force there has increased fourteenfold since 2014. NATO vessels equipped with guided missile systems regularly enter the Baltic Sea near the Kaliningrad region. It is common knowledge that the Western countries are preparing the largest military exercise in Europe in 30 years, involving 40,000 military personnel.

Given these facts, one may legitimately ask who is actually engaging in sabre-rattling and at whose borders.

We note with regret that the activities of our Western colleagues are aimed at undermining the regional security system. All of these factors are taken into consideration in

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our military planning. We reserve the right to take appropriate measures in the interests of ensuring the national security of the Russian Federation.

We expect our esteemed colleagues to hear and fully take into account our position on the issue they have raised, to which we do not intend to return.

In addition, we note that the subjective views expressed today about the implementation of confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) under the Vienna Document 2011 are largely baseless and incorrect. We have a paradoxical situation where participating States located on a different continent and notable for not having accepted a single inspection or evaluation visit on their territory in the entire history of the Vienna Document consider themselves entitled to use any opportunity to offer comments or make recommendations to others. It should be recalled that the territory of one of the participating States that have spoken today is not covered at all by the pan-European CSBMs. We believe that in these circumstances our esteemed US and Canadian colleagues are not at liberty to make the comments we have heard today.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.