



FSC.DEL/123/08

9 July 2008

ENGLISH only

**REPRESENTACION PERMANENTE
DE ESPAÑA ANTE LA OSCE
VIENA**

**552nd Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation
(Wednesday, 9 July 2008)**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN ON THE DISCUSSIONS HELD
AT THE WORKING SESSION II OF THE
2008 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE (ASRC)**

Madame Chairperson,

I would like to take this opportunity to warmly commend the work carried out by Lieutenant Commander, Mr. Misa Kangaste, from the Finnish Delegation, in his capacity as Chef-de-file for the 2008 Annual Security Review Conference. Also, I believe that the discussions held at the Working Session II of the Conference gave way to an important and substantial exchange of views on the present situation of the arms control arrangements in the OSCE area. This was possible not only thanks to the invitations sent by the Chairmanship-in-Office to the keynote speakers whose thought-provoking speeches helped delegations to be involved in a lively discussion, but also thanks to the interventions of the representatives of Estonia, Armenia, Germany, Russian Federation, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Greece, Serbia, Turkey, United Kingdom, Azerbaijan, Belarus and United States of America. Most of them distributed their statements as they are mentioned in the Journal of the Conference, distributed by the Conference Services on Monday.

In my capacity as moderator of the Working Session II, I would also like to thank to Mr. Valerio Negro for his report read at the Closing Session. Although the Chairmanship-in-Office will soon circulate a consolidated summary of the Conference, let me highlight a number of issues. As stated in the PC Decision 846 on the agenda and organizational modalities of the ASRC 2008, the purpose of the Working Session II was to assess the current politico-military situation, the OSCE's response to emerging threats, and the value of the OSCE's security dialogue, its arms control arrangements and the CSBMs in the OSCE area. The session also addressed the future of existing arms control arrangements and CSBMs.

It is also important to recall that in your letter as Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation sent on 14 May to the Chairperson of the Permanent Council on a list of politico-military elements for the 2008 ASRC, there were a number of proposed items for discussion in the Working Session II, as suggested by the FSC delegations.

Madame Chairperson,

As Mr. Valerio Negro said in his preliminary oral report at the Closing Session of the Conference, the main focus of the Working Session II was on the current crisis of the CFE Treaty and on its repercussions on the state of discussions in the framework of the

politico-military dimension of the OSCE. It was indeed a core issue of the presentations made by the two keynote speakers, Ms. A. Bailes of the Iceland University, and Mr. A. Kobieracki of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland. But also a number of delegations took the floor, contributing to a lively debate.

The heritage of stability, transparency and predictability owed to the CFE regime and the importance of preserving it was highlighted. But the lack of a constructive approach with a view to overcoming the present difficult situation concerning the ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty was also underlined. I hope that the dialogue concerning this crossroads will continue in the appropriate political bodies and between parties concerned.

Many delegations also raised the issue of broader OSCE commitments in the politico-military dimension and the need for an enhanced role of the FSC, underlining the importance of implementing and building up on existing documents and decisions. Let me refer here to the main topics that have been identified for further discussion and follow-up within the Forum for Security Co-operation.

These topics are actually suggestions and recommendations made by the participants at the Conference during the Working Session II:

1. A proposal for a Draft Decision on information exchange with regards to cyber security was announced;
2. A food-for-thought paper and a proposal for a draft decision on CSBMs in the naval area was already distributed;
3. A suggestion was made for a comprehensive review of existing CSBMs and arms control arrangements in order to adapt the OSCE tools to new and asymmetric threats; and
4. A general appeal was made to re-evaluate the FSC as a forum for political dialogue in the OSCE in accordance with the commitments agreed by participating States.
5. Finally, one delegation proposed a list of suggestions dealing with a number of topics: the organization of a second Special FSC Meeting on prospects for Arms Control and CSBMs in the OSCE area; a further improvement of the OSCE Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security; an improvement of the use of the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) as an interactive forum of thorough assessment as well as of fair and constructive suggestions; and a possible mandate to the FSC in order to assess the existing OSCE procedures and mechanisms and to make recommendations for more efficient mechanisms in relation with the politico-military dimension.

In conclusion, Madame Chairperson, I would like to invite all delegations to take advantage of the lively discussions held during the Working Session II and, in my capacity as moderator of this session during the 2008 ASRC, I would like to thank again all participants for their contributions and congratulate you and the Chairmanship-in-Office for your work and dedication.

Thank you very much for your attention.