



Chairmanship: Bulgaria

482nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 10 May 2006

Opened: 10.10 a.m.
Closed: 10.50 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. P. Poptchev

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

None

Agenda item 2: PRESENTATION BY AMBASSADOR ALAIN COUANON,
HEAD OF THE OSCE CENTRE IN DUSHANBE, ON THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE IN THE AREA OF THE
POLITICO-MILITARY DIMENSION

Head of the OSCE Centre in Dushanbe, Chairperson, France, Finland,
Sweden, United States of America, Slovenia, Tajikistan

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS
 - (a) *Small arms and light weapons projects in Belarus:* United Kingdom (Annex),
Belarus, Co-ordinator for Small Arms and Light Weapons (Sweden)
 - (b) *Matters of protocol:* Lithuania, Chairperson
 - (c) *Announcing mechanism on information exchange (FSC.GAL/40/06 Restr.):*
Conflict Prevention Centre
 - (d) *Special meeting on small arms and light weapons, to be held in Vienna on
17 May 2006:* Chairperson

- (e) *Agenda of the FSC meeting on 24 May 2006: Chairperson*
- (f) *Preparation of FSC documents for the 14th Ministerial Council meeting, to be held in Brussels on 4 and 5 December 2006: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 24 May 2006, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/488
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Annex

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482nd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 488, Agenda item 3(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to make a statement about Belarus' request for assistance under the SALW Document. To recap, the key recent documents are the United Kingdom's statement of 11 November 2005 (FSC.DEL/507/05) and my Belarussian colleague's statement of 17 March 2006 (FSC.DEL/47/06).

Colleagues will recall that the United Kingdom requested additional transparency in four areas of Belarus' request for assistance with their small arms problems. Subject to satisfactory agreement on the project manager's terms of reference, we are now satisfied that Belarus has agreed to provide the level of transparency that we requested. We thank Belarus for taking note of our concerns and reacting to them in a positive way.

We look forward to reaching a swift agreement on the terms of reference for the project manager. Once this task is complete, as my Ambassador explained to the FSC on 5 October last year, the UK has allocated £100,000 sterling (approximately €145,000 at current exchange rates) to put towards funding project management costs in Belarus, through the UNDP. At present this sum is only available during the current UK financial year, ending on 31 March 2007.

There is a further issue to which I would like to draw the attention of delegations. When drawing up the project proposals, SEESAC identified a cut-off point of available project funding below which it would not be financially viable to employ a project manager for a minimum of 12 months. They recommended a total figure of €500,000, including the project manager costs. We share this assessment, and therefore look forward to being able to make further progress once total project funds committed reach the €500,000 figure.