

Chairmanship: Lithuania

720th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 5 June 2013

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 11.35 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador G. Čekuolis

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE

Presentation on the Nordic Battle Group and the EU Battle Group Concept by Brigadier General S. Andersson, Swedish Armed Forces: Chairperson, Brigadier General S. Andersson (FSC.DEL/94/13/Rev.1 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 country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/96/13), Norway (Annex 1), United Kingdom, Ireland, Russian Federation, United States of America, Belgium, Spain

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

(a) *Signing of the Arms Trade Treaty on 3 June 2013: 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 country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/97/13), United Kingdom (Annex 2), Germany (Annex 3), Norway (Annex 4), Turkey, Spain (Annex 5), France, Romania (Annex 6), Russian Federation*

- (b) *Current activities of the Russian armed forces: Russian Federation (Annex 7)*

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *High-level political meeting to mark the tenth anniversary of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), held in Warsaw on 28 May 2013: Poland (SEC.DEL/146/13)*
- (b) *Invitation to attend the MAOSCE (Military Advisers to the OSCE) Happy Hour, to be held on 5 June 2013: Spain*
- (c) *Matters of protocol: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 12 June 2013, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



720th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 726, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY

Mr. Chairperson,

Norway would like to thank the Lithuanian FSC Chairmanship Lithuania for organizing this Security Dialogue on the Nordic Battle Group and the EU Battle Group Concept.

We would also like to thank Brigadier General Stefan J. Andersson for his interesting presentation and valuable comments. As Norway is participating in the Nordic Battle Group on a regular basis, I would also like to share some thoughts from a Norwegian point of view.

Our motivation for supporting the EU Battle Group, and the Nordic Battle Group in particular, revolves around three main considerations. Firstly, it is a concrete step in Norway's active engagement with the Common Security and Defence Policy CSDP and European security and defence co-operation in general. Secondly, it is an instrument available to enhance the United Nations' ability regarding conflict prevention and crisis management. Thirdly, it has served – and still serves – as an important part of Nordic security and defence co-operation.

The Nordic countries share a common history, language and culture. We also have a long tradition of co-operation and an intra-Nordic record in the political and military areas. In addition, the Nordic countries have always been strong supporters of the United Nations and have a long tradition of contributing troops contribution to UN operations.

These contributions give evidence of the far-reaching co-operation on the military level, regardless of national differences in foreign and security policy. Even though there is no direct link between these efforts and the Nordic Battle Group, it still represents a background to our interest in and motivation for contributing to the EU BG concept.

The best way to face the contemporary challenges to peace and security is through collaboration. Intensive and comprehensive co-operation will enable us to contribute with larger, more efficient and sustainable units to international efforts for peace and security within EU, NATO and UN-led operations. The NBG is a combined and cost-effective contribution to international efforts for peace and security.

However – being a member of NATO, commitments to the NATO Response Force (NRF) will always influence our ability to provide forces. Since NATO, as part of the NATO forces 2020 strategy and the Connected Forces Initiative, plans to bolster the NRF, this also might challenge the ability of NATO members to generate forces for the EU BG in the future. In the future, countries participating in both forces would probably have to take more active steps at an early stage in the planning processes to deconflict their participation.

For the Nordic dimension in particular, the collaboration relating to the NBG has from the start in 2004/2005 been an important facilitator for enhanced co-operation. That being said, owing to a combination of non-use of the EU BG, and the increasingly intensified co-operation through the Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEFECO) initiative from 2009, including the collaboration in Afghanistan, the primary driving force for Nordic defence co-operation now lies in NORDEFECO.

None the less, Norway recognizes the Nordic Battle Group as an important part of Nordic security and defence co-operation. By joining in on the rotations in 2008 and 2011, which we intend to repeat in 2015 (pending political approval), our military have gained valuable experience in interoperability. An increased involvement by the Baltic nations is also welcomed and facilitates progress in the Nordic-Baltic dimension.

A fundamental condition for the commitment of forces is that it should take place without prejudice to each participant's sovereign right to take autonomous decisions as to whether to deploy its forces to a specific crisis management operation.

Given this important condition, it is vital that great effort must be in place to secure efficient dialogue at the political level between and within the EU and the participating nations regarding considerations and decision-making processes related to activating the NBG.

As mentioned by the Brigadier General, the process for NBG 2015 is on track. Norwegian officers are involved in the planning process in an extensive and professional manner through participation in several working groups. This early involvement, including having Norwegian officers permanently stationed at the Force HQ from 1 January 2014, facilitates improvements both in the preparation phase in 2014, and the actual stand-by phase in 2015.

In line with lessons learned, the planned Norwegian participation in 2015 is also more concentrated and focused around our main contribution, an escort platoon in the Logistic Coy of the Logistic Battalion. Furthermore, it is a clear Norwegian impression that Sweden, as lead nation, has actively utilized lessons learned from earlier rotations.

Allow me, Mr. Chairperson, at the end of my statement, also to ask our distinguished speaker, Brigadier General Andersson, two questions:

- In your opinion, where do the most promising opportunity and possibilities lie for achieving closer co-operation and links to UN and NATO?
- Do you see the Nordic Battle Group as a kind of “model” for strengthening regional clusters of Member States usually providing joint contingents?

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of this meeting.

Thank you.



720th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 726, Agenda item 2(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Mr. Chairperson,

In my national capacity, I wish to add some comments to those of previous speakers regarding the signing of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Together with a significant number of other States, many of which are represented in the OSCE, the United Kingdom's Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr. Alistair Burt, MP, signed the Arms Trade Treaty during the solemn ceremony on 3 June.

The United Kingdom feels that the ATT is a vital instrument. Indeed, Prime Minister Cameron has said, "This is a landmark agreement that will save lives and ease the immense human suffering caused by armed conflict around the world. It will reduce the number of illegal arms and make it harder for these to reach the hands of criminals and terrorists who are set on using them to destroy the lives of others."

Mr. Chairperson,

The United Kingdom will take steps to ratify the Treaty swiftly and encourages others to do likewise, to ensure that it will enter into force as soon as possible. The United Kingdom has already set aside 350,000 pounds (GBP) to support implementation of the Treaty and is considering making an allocation to the fund that is being established by the UN for this activity.

The OSCE has adopted many effective commitments on SALW and conventional arms, but we should not be complacent; we should take note of the overwhelming backing for this global Treaty in our common work to improve security, save lives, enable sustainable development, avoid serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and help to combat terrorism and crime.

We hope that those participating States that have not yet done so will be able to sign the Treaty in the near future.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.



720th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 726, Agenda item 2(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY

Mr. Chairperson,

The signing of the international Arms Trade Treaty on Monday in New York marks a significant step forward for peace and security.

Mr. Guido Westerwelle, Minister for Foreign Affairs, signed the Treaty on Germany's behalf and in so doing indicated the significance that the Federal Government attaches to this agreement. Disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation are major priorities for our Government.

Today, in many places throughout the world conventional weapons are both the cause and the instrument of violent conflicts. For precisely this reason, conventional arms control merits particular attention. Controlling conventional weapons is a core element of a prevention-based security policy.

Germany has spoken resolutely in favour of a strong and effective Arms Trade Treaty. We are proud of the result that has now been negotiated. The Treaty creates legally binding uniform minimum standards for the arms trade and covers the most important major weapons systems, as well as small arms, light weapons and ammunition. It rightly places its emphasis on international humanitarian law and human rights.

Mr. Chairperson,

With the Arms Trade Treaty, we are improving both transparency and accountability. The Treaty can save lives, reduce human suffering and make the world a safer place. This can only happen, however, if the Treaty is implemented effectively.

Our first priority must now be to bring the Treaty into force as swiftly as possible. The Federal Government is determined to complete national ratification of the Treaty by the end of summer 2013. A ratification bill has already been submitted to the Bundestag.

Mr. Chairperson,

Conventional arms control has always played a central role within the OSCE. Now, the OSCE can make its contribution to ensuring that the Arms Trade Treaty becomes universal and is implemented as quickly as possible. The implementation of the Treaty is demanding. This is why we should begin a process of exchanging ideas and mutual support for the entry into force and implementation of the Treaty here, at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). A first step could be to send an important signal through a joint declaration by all participating States on the signing and entry into force of the Treaty. The OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, could play an important spearheading role. Furthermore, the FSC can serve as a forum for exchanging ideas and deciding on joint measures for effectively implementing the Treaty. Since the adoption of the Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers in the 1990s, the OSCE has played a pioneering role in championing a restrictive arms export policy. Following on from this, we should now revive the dialogue on this topic at the FSC, building on the new international Arms Trade Treaty.

I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



720th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 726, Agenda item 2(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY

Mr. Chairperson,

Norway signed the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty on Monday, 3 June.

State Secretary Gry Larsen signed the Treaty on behalf of Norway, along with representatives from a number of other countries, at the signing ceremony at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Norway has worked systematically to bring about such a treaty. It is now crucial that as many countries as possible sign and ratify the Treaty to ensure that it enters into force as quickly as possible. Norway encourages all the OSCE participating States to sign and ratify it without delay.

In a press statement issued on Monday, the Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Espen Barth Eide, stated that the Arms Trade Treaty is an important step in the right direction when it comes to reducing armed violence and the serious human suffering caused by the illegal and irresponsible trade in weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Arms Trade Treaty covers a wide range of conventional weapons, including ammunition and parts and components of conventional weapons. The Treaty also includes important prohibitions and criteria relating to export licences, violations of international humanitarian law, international human rights, organized crime, terrorism in importing States and gender-based violence.

Therefore Norway will work to ensure that the Arms Trade Treaty is implemented effectively, and that there is a focus on the humanitarian aspects of the arms trade. It is crucial that the Treaty should gain global acceptance and that it should set a new international standard. In the years ahead, we will seek to strengthen the Treaty, both in specific areas and by keeping it up to date as regards technological developments in the weapons field.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of this meeting.

Thank you.



720th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 726, Agenda item 2(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN

Mr. Chairperson,

The Spanish delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of the European Union on the signing of the Arms Trade Treaty. Allow me to add the following in my national capacity.

In its communiqué published in New York on 2 April regarding the adoption of the text of the Arms Trade Treaty, the Government of Spain expressed its satisfaction at the United Nations General Assembly's approval of the text. This decision marked the end of a negotiation process that had lasted several years and a collective effort on the part of the international community to create a Treaty that would strengthen international security while at the same time respecting the right to trade legally in arms.

The Treaty adopted at the United Nations establishes a universal yardstick based on binding international rules for the international trade in conventional weapons that are to be implemented by the national authorities of the States Parties, with the aim of preventing and ending illicit trafficking in conventional weapons and ensuring that such arms are not used for illegal purposes, including human rights violations.

Spain has played an active role in this process from the beginning, along with the Member States of the European Union. It has been our conviction that this Treaty represents a fundamental instrument for bolstering international security, defending international humanitarian law and respecting human rights. Spain has depended on the support of civil society, non-governmental organizations, political parties, and autonomous, regional and local authorities.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Spanish delegation is pleased to inform this Forum that Spain signed the Arms Trade Treaty at a ceremony held at the United Nations in New York on 3 June. The Spanish Government was represented by the Minister for Industry, Energy and Tourism, Mr. José Manuel Soria López.

Spain's current system is one of the most rigorous in the world. A total of 22 categories of arms, as opposed to the 8 included in the Treaty, fall within its scope of

application. It also includes regulations regarding ammunition and mechanisms for information exchange within the European Union and at international forums for non-proliferation.

The Spanish system for controlling exports of defence material currently complies with the provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Spain will provisionally apply the provisions of Articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty until its entry into force in the interests of safeguarding human rights and respecting international humanitarian law.

Mr. Chairperson,

Spain wishes to urge those OSCE participating States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Arms Trade Treaty as soon as possible.

I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day as an annex.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/726

5 June 2013

Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

720th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 726, Agenda item 2(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ROMANIA

Mr. Chairperson,

Romania fully subscribed to the statement made by EU delegation on the Arms Trade Treaty. At the same time I would like to make few remarks on my national capacity.

On 3 June 2013 Romania signed the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). On this occasion Mr. Titus Corlăţean, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania, stated that “The signing of the ATT will lead to the responsabilisation of the States engaged in the arms trade, will contribute to the reduction of the illegal trade and ensure an adequate level of transparency. ATT will reduce the impact of illegal weapons on civilian population while diminishing risks of breaking the international arms embargoes in force.”

Romania, which implements since 1992 high control standards on arms trade, will proceed to speedy ratification of the ATT in view of its universalization.

Alongside with proposals put forward by Germany, France and other participating States, we believe that OSCE should take into consideration the opening of signing of the ATT and reflect this development in its proceedings and documents.

Mr. Chairperson,

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today’s meeting.



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

FSC.JOUR/726
5 June 2013
Annex 7

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

720th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 726, Agenda item 2(b)

**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.

On 1 June the summer training period began in the troop units and subunits. This training period will be geared towards further improving the combat training of military personnel and the ability of military command structures at all levels, formations and troop units to operate anywhere in the Russian Federation to ensure national security.

The intensity of combat training increased considerably during the past winter period. Around 10,000 combat training exercises were held within the armed forces, of which more than 170 were large-scale exercises, including headquarters exercises and special tactical exercises involving live firing.

At the same time, this combat training period was marked by a considerable change in the approaches to troop training, mainly characterized by surprise inspections to evaluate the combat readiness of units and subunits of a number of military districts, the air force, the navy, the airborne forces and the aerospace defence forces. They were carried out under the command of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, the Minister for Defence of the Russian Federation and the Chief of the General Staff and First Deputy Minister for Defence. The inspections made it possible to evaluate objectively the state of the troops (forces) and their ability to function as intended.

The meeting of the Board of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation held on 30 May 2013 gave fresh impetus to the development of the armed forces' combat training system.

To this end, on the orders of the Minister for Defence of the Russian Federation, decisions of the chief command of each of the branches and military districts and the command of the services of the armed forces regarding the organization of combat training during the summer training period were clarified.

Particular attention will be paid in troop (forces) training to the organization of inter-branch training and the development of real interaction on the battlefield on the part of land, air and naval formations and troop units. To this end, there are plans to conduct during the summer training period around 500 exercises at different levels, 40 per cent of which will be inter-branch exercises. There are plans to conduct around 20 international exercises by the end of the year, in which subunits of the land force, air force, navy, airborne forces and aerospace defence forces will participate. The combat training will culminate in the holding of a joint strategic exercise of the armed forces of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus in September entitled "West-2013".

There are plans to further develop the training facilities at training ranges and to switch to new forms and methods of training commanders and troops at the combat training centres being set up to use new generation training equipment.

The approaches to the training of junior commanders and specialists in troop training units are changing, programmes for their training have been fine-tuned and the duration of training has been extended to four months.

Using new approaches to their organization, the holding of all-army competitions (contests) among subunits of the military districts, branches and services to identify the best team, section, platoon, company and battalion will be one way to improve combat skills, field training and the desire of commanders to achieve high standards.

Generally speaking, the summer training period will be innovative in many aspects and will serve to further develop and improve the training of the armed forces of the Russian Federation.

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