



PERMANENT DELEGATION
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**Closing Statement by the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation
Ambassador Andrei Popov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova at
the Closing Session of the Moldovan FSC Chairmanship
761st FSC Plenary meeting, July 23, 2014**

Excellences,

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we are approaching the end of the Moldovan FSC Chairmanship in the second trimester of 2014, it is a good occasion to look back and assess the main outcomes of our term as well as to share our views on the way ahead.

Our Chairmanship coincided with one of the most challenging periods for the Forum and for the Organization as such. From the very beginning it was not business as usual, since even before the official launch of the Chairmanship we had to hold a joint session of the FSC-PC. While remaining committed to the implementation of the 2014 FSC Working Programme that was jointly drafted by Malta, Moldova and Monaco, we had to maintain an adequate degree of flexibility to accommodate the need for open dialogue and exchange of views on what became the key challenge to the security environment in the OSCE area - the crisis in and around Ukraine.

As the Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Ms. Natalia Gherman stated in her opening address on May 7, we aimed at facilitating and encouraging delegations to make best use of the existing political-military toolbox in order to promote dialogue and to advance the settlement of the crisis ensuring the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

During the course of our Chairmanship, the delegations have used on several occasions the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011, particularly, by activating the Chapter III on risk reduction. This proves once again the high relevance of this Document in the evolving political and military environment. We also have facilitated discussions on proposals to update the Vienna Document and in the Working Group "A" we had some interesting debates, including on the Document's application in crisis situations. However, the pressing current developments did not provide the most conducive atmosphere to advance these discussions in a fruitful manner. Nevertheless, efforts to achieve practical results in updating and modernizing this key normative document should be continued. By updating the Vienna Document 2011, the FSC can provide its valuable contribution to the Helsinki +40 process, moving closer to the genuine security community and strengthening the capabilities of our organization in the context of evolving European security realities. We also hope that the early adoption of the FSC decision on Dates of the 2014 Meeting of Heads of Verification Centre, to be held on December 16, 2014, will give sufficient time to delegations to prepare a successful event.

Dear colleagues,

An important aspect of our work was to ensure a substantive contribution and good preparation by the FSC of three significant events:

First, in line with the Ministerial Decision 8/13, the FSC took an active role in the work of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects (BMS-5). The conference highlighted once again the importance of regional co-operation in achieving the success in preventing and combating illicit trade of SALW.

Second, the FSC Chairmanship contributed to the preparations of the second Session of the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), an event that provided an additional opportunity for participating States to assess the Conventional Arms Control and Confidence and Security Building commitments in the OSCE area, including their applicability during a crisis situation.

Thirdly, this year we marked the 20th anniversary of the Code of Conduct, and the 3rd Annual Discussion reconfirmed that it remains a relevant instrument in the political-military toolbox of the OSCE and there is a need to continue discussions on ways to improve its implementation.

Dear colleagues,

While politico-military aspects of the crisis in and around Ukraine have understandably dominated our general debates, we have also strived to promote discussions on core issues of the FSC mandate. Therefore we placed special emphasis on conducting a multifaceted and balanced agenda for the Security Dialogues aiming at strengthening the Forum's work and promoting transparency and confidence building measures among the participating States.

Our first Security Dialogue was focused on the general overview of the European Security realities, a topic that was addressed by two high level speakers, Lieutenant General Wolfgang Wosolsobe, Director General of the European Military Staff, and Major General Randy Kee, J5 Director, Headquarters of the United States European Command. These presentations gave a critical insight on the current security environment in Europe and set the stage for substantive discussions and exchange of views among the delegations on current and future prospects of the European Security.

The Moldovan Chairmanship has devoted a special attention to efforts aimed at strengthening the implementation of the OSCE commitments in the area of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunitions. Based on the Ministerial Council decision 8/13 from Kiev as well as in the context of our preparations for the BMS-5, we organized three Security Dialogues on this topic.

Given the focus of our Chairmanship on the South-Eastern Europe, we invited prominent speakers from the region – SEESAC Coordinator Mr. Ivan Zverzhanovski and RACVIAC Director Ambassador Branimir Mandic – to outline the regional developments but also to speak about the challenges in fighting illicit trafficking of SALW.

Another important topic was the safe storage of arms and ammunitions. H.E. Zekerijah Osmic, Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina spoke about the Project for Security

Upgrade of Ammunition and Weapons Storage Site (SECUP) and regional efforts to address the severe floods from the Western Balkans.

Furthermore, we considered appropriate to ensure continuity between the two Mediterranean Chairmanships of the FSC, by inviting Mr. Brian Montebello from Malta to speak about strengthening the export control regime of SALW by maritime transport to conflict areas.

The OSCE has set itself as a leading institution in the field of SALW and we should build on these achievements and continue this positive path. We are pleased to note the adoption of two important decisions on SALW and SCA, namely, **a)** Voluntary Guidelines for Compiling National Reports on SALW Exports From/Imports to Other Participating States During the Previous Calendar Year; and, **b)** Implementation Assessment in Respect of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. Let me thank the co-sponsoring countries for their hard work in putting together these decisions and also thank all the delegations for showing flexibility and supporting these documents.

We have also analysed ways the participating States can contribute to enhancing the common international standards regulating international trade in conventional arms. In this regards, Ms. Riona Nichols spoke about United Kingdom's experience and possible implications of the Arms Trade Treaty implementation. Mr. Valentin Vasilenko presented Russian Federation's approach towards improving the effectiveness of control over illegal supplies of arms, promoted in multilateral formats.

This year we also marked the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. Aiming at raising awareness and consider ways the OSCE can assist participating States in implementing this resolution, we invited Ambassador Oh Joon, the Chair of the 1540 Committee and Mr. Terence Taylor, Coordinator of the UNSCR 1540 Group of Friends to speak about the UN and OSCE cooperation towards CBRN non-proliferation. Ms. Svetlana Geleva presented the national experience of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in implementing the 1540 resolution, emphasizing the importance of regional cooperation.

Moreover, speaking about non-proliferation matters, we would like to highlight the address at the Joint FSC-PC meeting by H.E. Ms. Angela Kane, the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, who stressed the importance of global efforts in the field of disarmament.

The Moldovan Chairmanship supported the initiative to have more discussions on human rights in armed forces and gender mainstreaming in the security sector. Therefore, a security dialogue was organized on these issues and we had some excellent presentations by Ms. Snjezana Bogulic from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, H.E. Ms. Miroslava Beham, the OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues and Ms. Megan Bastic from the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces.

Dear colleagues,

As the Moldovan Chairmanship draws to an end, let me sincerely thank all delegations for their valuable contributions to the activity of the Forum in the second trimester of this year. Me personally and my team have enjoyed working closely with all of you. May I avail myself of this opportunity to particularly thank Ambassador Thomas Greminger and his team from

the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship for smooth and excellent co-operation and to wish them every success in leading the preparations for the Basel Ministerial Council.

Let me express my appreciation to our FSC Troika colleagues, Malta and Monaco and thank both of them for very open and productive cooperation. As Malta is preparing to leave the FSC Troika, let me thank you, dear Keith, Ambassador of Malta, and your strong team for the support and for the exemplary performance set in the first session of this year. We also warmly welcome Mongolia as the future member of the Troika.

We are very grateful for the professional support and advice provided by all our FSC Chair's Coordinators and the *chef de file*: Dr. Pierre-von-Arx, Lt.Col. Detlef Hempel, Ms. Bilge Koçyiğit, Lt.Col. Mark Barlow, Mr. Raimonds Oškals, Mr. Robertas Rosinas and Major Magin Alvarez Arribas. Being a small delegation, we counted very much on and benefited a lot from your expertise and experience.

Our sincere thanks also go to the OSCE Secretariat, Mr. Mathew Geertsen and his able team from the FSC Support Section as well as to the Conference Services, in particular Mr. Bekmurad Astanakulov, Ms. Andrea Sekhvat and Ms. Sara Lamberti. I wish, also, to thank our interpreters and translators for their professionalism and exemplary work.

Before concluding, let me wish Ambassador of Monaco Claude Giordan and his competent team all the best during their FSC Chairmanship in the coming months and assure them of our full support as a member of the Troika.

With this, let me pass to the incoming Chair the integral attributes of the FSC Chairmanship, with each of these items having a symbolic value.