



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

FSC-PC.DEL/17/16
19 October 2016

ENGLISH only

Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 63rd Joint Session of FSC and PC

(19 October 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)
(Agenda item 1)

Madam Chairperson,

Ukraine has aligned itself with the EU statement, which we fully support. In addition, let me also make some remarks in our national capacity.

We join other delegations in warmly welcoming today's speakers: Ambassador Francisco Seixas da Costa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal and Ambassador Susanne Baumann, Deputy Federal Government Commissioner for Disarmament and Arms Control, German Federal Foreign Office, and thank them for the valuable and thoughtful contribution to the discussion on the Revisiting the 1996 OSCE Framework for Arms Control.

The 20th anniversary of the 1996 Lisbon Framework for Arms Control serves as a reminder of the commitments that all of us have undertaken. In the document, the OSCE participating States committed themselves to fully implement and further develop arms control agreements, as it is essential for strengthening military and political security in the OSCE area. This document also asserts a key role of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation in promoting co-operative responses to challenges and risks in Europe that can be dealt with through arms control measures and their full implementation at all times, including times of crisis. The key principles were defined as sufficiency, transparency, predictability, verification and limitations. In this context, we very much welcome today's valuable and helpful discussions as well as the professional views expressed by our distinguished speakers.

Ukraine believes that it is highly relevant to fully implement, update and modernise the existing OSCE commitments in the politico-military area. We have repeatedly reiterated that such a task should be pursued as a priority. Today's European security dialogue provides a useful opportunity for discussion on the on-going challenges in relation to CAC and CSBMs and on how to effectively respond to them.

Ukraine is convinced based on facts that Russia's attempted annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and its military intervention in eastern Ukraine pose a serious challenge and threat to the European and global security. Russia's selective approach to the implementation of CAC and CSBMs commitments undermined trust and confidence within the OSCE. Over the last two and a half years, to dispel security concerns over the unusual military activity of the Russian Federation, Ukraine sought to make full use of existing mechanisms of the OSCE politico-military toolbox, in particular, those instruments, envisaged in the Vienna

Document on CSBMs. Regrettably, Russia has refused to provide substantive answers to requests for clarification under the VD's Risk Reduction provisions and has chosen to avoid transparency on the build-up of its forces near Ukraine's state border.

Russia, after suspending its participation in the CFE in 2007, avoided information exchange and verification control, especially on the situation in the Southern Military District of Russia. Destabilizing accumulations of personnel and military equipment in this area enabled aggressions of Russia against Georgia in 2008 and Ukraine in 2014-2016. As a result of aggression against Ukraine, regime of CAC and CSBMs is not currently valid on Ukraine's territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, as well as of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The challenges experienced in the past few years, compel us to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the OSCE politico-military instruments. There is a need for effective and updated multilateral solutions to manage new complex political and security problems and for modernizing our toolbox to address them.

We have repeatedly brought to the attention of the OSCE participating States the numerous evidence of illegal international transfers of military hardware and modern military equipment from the Russian Federation across the uncontrolled sections of the Ukrainian-Russian border to Russia-backed illegal armed formations in the east of Ukraine, in violation by the Russian Federation of its numerous international obligations and commitments. It remains critically important for the OSCE to employ all its available instruments to put a halt to these illegal transfers. Today only in the occupied areas of the Donbas region of Ukraine there are:

- over 6.000 regular Russian troops;
- two hybrid army corps, consisting of more than 35.000 trained fighters with a large Russian component, placed in the command and control system of the Russian Armed Forces;
- more than 700 battle tanks, 1.200 armoured vehicles, 1.250 artillery systems and 300 multi-rocket launch systems.

Madam Chairperson,

The Ukrainian delegation would like to underline its readiness to pursue a pragmatic and forward looking approach in the process of revisiting the CAC regime and modernizing the Vienna Document on CSBMs as well as other OSCE relevant instruments, which would enhance military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States and allow dealing with many challenges.

We must be entirely conscious that the interests of advancing peaceful resolution in eastern Ukraine and broader security in the OSCE space require restoration of respect to norms of international law and the OSCE core principles. It remains of critical importance that the Russian Federation and its proxies stop military provocations; withdraw heavy weapons in a verifiable manner, that Russia stops provision of weapons, ammunition and logistical support to the illegal armed formations in Donbas.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.