

Chairmanship: Sweden

892nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 19 September 2018

Opened: 9 a.m.

Closed: 11 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador U. Funered

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE ON THE CODE OF CONDUCT:
DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES

- *Presentation by Mr. B. von Sydow, Chairman of the Swedish Defence Commission and Member of the Swedish Parliament*
- *Presentation by Mr. S. K. Rakhmanov, Chairman of the Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs and National Security of the Council of the Republic, National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus*
- *Presentation by Colonel Y. Matlai, Chief of the Western Territorial Legal Department, Legal Directorate of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine*

Chairperson, Mr. B. von Sydow (FSC.DEL/158/18/Rev.1 OSCE+),
Mr. S. K. Rakhmanov (FSC.DEL/156/18/Rev.1 OSCE+)
(FSC.DEL/156/18/Add.1/Rev.1 OSCE+), Colonel Y. Matlai
(FSC.DEL/157/18 OSCE+), Austria-European Union (with the candidate
countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro
and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and
potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade
Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the
European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino
and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/160/18), United States of America,
Russian Federation, Ukraine, Switzerland, Armenia, FSC Co-ordinator for the
Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Romania)
(Annex 1)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Large-scale military exercise in Azerbaijan, being conducted from 17 to 22 September 2018: Armenia (Annex 2), Azerbaijan

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Training course for the OSCE Points of Contact on UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), conducted in Rostov-on-Don, Russian Federation, from 4 to 7 September 2018: Russian Federation*

(b) *Matters of protocol: Slovenia*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 26 September 2018, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/898
19 September 2018
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

892nd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 898, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE
FSC CO-ORDINATOR FOR THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON
POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY**

Madam Chairperson,

I should like to make use of this opportunity to deliver a brief statement as FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, which I wish to open by thanking you for the trust you have placed in me by nominating me to this post. Second, I am very pleased to note that the topic of democratic control of armed forces was chosen as the theme of this Security Dialogue.

From today's guest speakers we have heard about many new findings and inputs related to the Code of Conduct. The very interesting presentations by representatives of Ukraine and Belarus on the legal framework for, and implementation of, democratic control of the armed forces in those two countries were rich in insights. The presentation by the Chairman of the Swedish Defence Commission on the concept of "total defence" in Sweden and on his country's plans for the development of civil defence during 2021–2025 was also very informative and has brought added value to today's discussions.

Democratic control of the armed forces is a complex subject involving several protagonists, dimensions, issues and regulations, which makes it difficult to provide an exhaustive overview.

All societies have to deal simultaneously with the need for security (usually met by the armed forces) and with the requirement to respect fundamental rights and freedoms. Democratic oversight of the armed forces is, at least in part, a mechanism for meeting the various demands involved.

As many political theorists have pointed out, control of the military by democratically elected civilian authorities is an indispensable element of a democratic government.

Given that the main purpose of the Code of Conduct is to guide "the role of armed forces in democratic societies", as stated in the Budapest Summit Declaration "Towards a Genuine Partnership in a New Era", and also bearing in mind that paragraph 20 of the Code calls upon participating States to "further the integration of their armed forces with civil

society as an important expression of democracy”, it is essential that society as a whole should engage with the Code.

Madam Chairperson,

Raising awareness of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security is vital to building trust among OSCE participating States, and as such it is an ongoing endeavour.

The adoption, in 2008, of FSC Decision No. 1/08 on awareness-raising and outreach of the Code of Conduct was truly a breakthrough for the OSCE. Through this decision, the FSC requested the OSCE Secretariat “to organize, in co-operation with other international organizations or with participating States, as appropriate, and within available resources at least one specialized seminar or workshop a year in order to facilitate better implementation, to promote awareness and to support outreach of the C[ode] o[f] C[onduct]” and encouraged participating States “to contribute extra budgetary funds to enable such events”.

Pursuant to this decision, the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre has organized several regional seminars on the Code of Conduct, the most recent one being held in Bucharest from 14 to 18 May 2018.

Not only during the latest seminar in Bucharest, but also at earlier seminars – notably those held in Washington, DC, Budva (Montenegro), Berlin and Amman – various sessions have been devoted to the topic of democratic control of the armed forces, including the role of parliaments in this process.

These seminars were numerous attended by officials from the ministries of foreign affairs, defence and of the interior, by military personnel, and by members of national parliaments, academia and civil society, all of whom came together to discuss jointly the implementation of the Code of Conduct. The discussions proved that the Code of Conduct actually works, and it is therefore legitimate to say that the Code is already being used in practice as a new confidence-building measure.

The organization of those events would not have been possible without the generous support of participating States. In this connection, I should like to encourage all of us gathered here to contribute to the Code of Conduct. I am referring not only to the provision of financial support, but also to spreading knowledge of the Code and to participating actively in new seminars by giving presentations, for example.

We are looking forward to the follow-up events that will take place in the years to come, building on the above-mentioned regional initiatives. We are convinced that further discussions, seminars and workshops on the Code of Conduct, organized for OSCE participating States as well as for the Partners for Co-operation, will contribute to increasing awareness of this important document.

By way of conclusion, I wish to emphasize that meetings like today’s one constitute an excellent opportunity to share experiences and to discuss the way forward, as well as to prepare for the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Code of Conduct, which we will be celebrating next year.

Democratic control of the armed forces is necessary in order to reduce the “civil–military gap” – which involves, in particular, increasing trust and enhancing co-operation and co-ordination among the civilian and military personnel of armed forces institutions – and thus to promote the integration of the military within democratic societies.

Thank you very much again for including this important topic in our agenda for today.



892nd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 898, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA

Madam Chairperson,

This is already the third time in the current year that the Armenian delegation is taking the floor to inform the participating States about a flagrant violation of the Vienna Document's provisions by Azerbaijan.

On 14 September, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan published, on its official website, information on large-scale military exercises scheduled to take place from 17 to 22 September and involving various military branches, army corps and formations of the Azerbaijani armed forces.

According to the same source, the exercises involve more than 20,000 military personnel; more than 200 tanks and other armoured vehicles; more than 120 rockets and artillery mounts of different calibres; multiple-launch rocket systems and mortars; and up to 30 military aircraft.

In accordance with Chapter V ("Prior Notification of Certain Military Activities"), paragraph 40.1.1, of the Vienna Document 2011, notification of these exercises should have been given at least 42 days before the start date, since the troop numbers involved exceed the threshold by at least 11,000.

Madam Chairperson,

Our delegation has repeatedly stressed that violations of the Vienna Document, such as the one I have just brought to the attention of the FSC, should be a matter of concern for all participating States, since Azerbaijan is discrediting and undermining the whole architecture of confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) in the OSCE area.

Azerbaijan has once again given a clear indication that it did not and does not have any intention of fulfilling its commitments under the Vienna Document, and this must be considered as a major threat to regional security and transparency. In this respect, we lament the fact that certain participating States, which advocate addressing the problem of unannounced military exercises within the framework of the Vienna Document modernization and Structured Dialogue process, have remained silent on such acts of open non-compliance by Azerbaijan.

Madam Chairperson, I request that this statement be appended to the journal of the day.

Thank you.