



Chairmanship: Belarus

1016th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 6 July 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.
Closed: 11 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Dapkiunas

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Current security situation in the OSCE area: Russian Federation (Annex) (FSC.DEL/253/22/Add.1), United Kingdom (FSC.DEL/252/22 OSCE+), Belarus (FSC.DEL/254/22 OSCE+), Canada, Czech Republic-European Union (FSC.DEL/251/22)

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Announcing and Reminding Mechanism pursuant to FSC Decision No. 10/02 (FSC.DEC/10/02): Chairperson (FSC.DEL/255/22 OSCE+)

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 13 July 2022, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



1016th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1022, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

Having failed to adapt to post-Cold War conditions, the North Atlantic Alliance led by the United States of America continues to seek to justify its existence by one means alone and to stir up a hotbed of instability in Europe. The NATO summit held in Madrid from 28 to 30 June, which proved to be nothing but a gesture of despair on the part of the collective West, is in keeping with this logic. In 2021, NATO had to endure a humiliating flight from Afghanistan. Today, as Russia takes steps to defend its security interests, NATO in its impotence is reviving the old adage of its first Secretary General, Lord Hastings Lionel Ismay: “Keep the Soviet Union (for which now read Russia) out, the Americans in, and the Germans (for which now read the EU) down.” Well, a vestige of the Cold War can work only according to the laws of the latter. However, those times are long gone. An age of multipolarity is dawning, an age of States standing up for a truly democratic world order based on unconditional respect for the rights and interests of countries and peoples.

Let me say a few words about the decision to expand NATO northwards. Some States believe that in this way they will be able to “escape” from Russia. In this regard, the preparations for the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava in 2009 come to mind. As Grigory Karasin, currently the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, recalls, a Swedish colleague said at the time: “We are grateful to the Russian tsar Peter I for having defeated our king Charles XII. From then on we understood our place in Europe: we stopped waging wars and began to lead tranquil and affluent lives.” It is a pity that those who were once our good neighbours are today opting for militaristic rhetoric and seeking to become involved in a large-scale hybrid war against Russia. Moreover, they have themselves, albeit under relentless pressure from the US Government, renounced not only centuries-old traditions of neutrality but also other so-called democratic ideals cherished by the West. Let us see what will come of this.

The NATO “get-together” in Madrid was not marked by anything sensational. All the decisions were well known in advance: definition of external enemies (Russia and China), unrestrained militarization of the European continent, exacerbation of the European security

crisis and, of course, avowals of unquestioning support for the war criminals in Kyiv. The NATO member States have evidently not yet realized that in Ukraine they are not only destroying their own weapons and their own citizens in the form of mercenaries, but that they are tearing to shreds their own reputation, since they are waging war – by no means for the first time – against everything that is Russian.

With the support of its NATO handlers and taking its cue from them, the Kyiv regime used Tochka-U ballistic missiles with cluster munitions and Tu-143 Reys kamikaze drones in the early hours of 3 July to carry out a deliberate attack on residential areas of the Russian cities of Belgorod and Kursk, where there are no military facilities whatsoever. Russian air defence systems sprung to action against all the enemy projectiles, but the fact remains that these strikes were deliberately planned and conducted against the civilian population. Five people were killed in Belgorod, including three Ukrainian citizens, and a further four were injured. Children were among the casualties. More than 26 apartment buildings and 46 houses were damaged. Fortunately, there were no casualties in the Kursk region on that occasion, but as from yesterday border villages have once again begun to come under artillery fire. Where are the cries of condemnation from all those who used the alleged Russian strikes on civilian targets in Ukraine for grandstanding? Or do you automatically write off Russians as “collateral damage”? We warn the criminal regime in Kyiv and its handlers that retribution is inescapable.

We note with indignation that the much-lauded “free” Western media presented images from Belgorod as if they showed the “consequences of Russian strikes on Ukraine”. At the same time, European journalists who cover the events in the zone of the special military operation honestly are subject to prosecution in their home countries. Among these is the German journalist Alina Lipp, who has been accused in Germany of “encouraging and endorsing criminal actions” against Ukraine simply because she interviewed some residents of Donbas. No one in the West cares for the truthful side of events: it is easier to lap up the mainstream anti-Russian propaganda.

A case in point is the attempt to accuse the Russian armed forces of having carried out a strike on a shopping centre in the city of Kremenchuk on 27 June. The actual target of the Aerospace Forces of the Russian Federation was the Kredmash road-building machinery plant in Kremenchuk, a defence factory in which weapons and ammunition received from the United States and European countries for the Ukrainian armed forces’ battle group in Donbas were stored. It was planned to use these weapons to kill Russians. The detonation of the ammunition stored there for these Western weapons caused a fire in a shopping centre next to the factory that had long ceased to be used for commercial activities. The first question that should spring to mind for any right-minded person is why the criminal regime in Kyiv was storing weapons and ammunition in hangars near civilian infrastructure facilities. Are the civilian population again being used as human shields? The second question is one that needs to be put to the Western handlers of the Ukrainian Government: do you still consider that the shipping of military goods to Ukrainian neo-Nazis is in accordance with the provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty and your international export control obligations?

Mr. Chairperson,

The differences in the approaches of Russia and the Western countries as regards their respective assessments of the objectives and tasks of the special military operation do not

lessen the responsibility of the United States and the EU countries for the consequences of transferring arms to Ukraine.

According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, over 28,000 tonnes of military supplies have already been delivered to the criminal regime in Kyiv. Some of these supplies are vanishing into the Middle East and ending up on the black market. The law enforcement agencies of Western, Northern and Eastern European countries have already noted a significant increase in the volume of criminal trafficking of weapons from territories controlled by the Ukrainian Government. South-Eastern Europe is in a zone of particular risk. In this connection, one cannot but have doubts, at the very least, as to the commitment of the French and German Governments, the arms sponsors of the Ukrainian Government, to the objectives of countering illicit trade in arms under the Franco-German initiative of 2017 to combat firearms trafficking in the Western Balkans.

Some of the Western weapons in the zone of the special military operation are being handed over directly to the Russian military by “defenders” of the Kyiv regime wishing to enrich themselves. Our troops came by two French-made CAESAR self-propelled artillery systems in this way quite recently. It has even come to the point that Ukrainian military personnel in the area of Popasna exchanged a US-made Javelin anti-tank guided missile and other weapons for ten boxes of tinned goods. Other arms systems are ending up in the possession of the allied forces of Russia, the Luhansk People’s Republic and the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) as battlefield trophies, including German-made Panzerfaust shoulder-mounted anti-tank grenade launchers and their ammunition.

There is also a third pathway for Western military equipment in Ukraine, namely its transformation into scrap metal. About a third of the 70,000 anti-tank guided missiles and anti-tank missile systems handed over to the Ukrainian army have been destroyed through high-precision strikes by the Russian Aerospace Forces. We have seen how the Western press is particularly concerned about the fact that out of the 108 M777 howitzers dispatched to the Ukrainian armed forces only 34 remain in service. Russian military personnel recently blew up a high-tech German-made Panzerhaubitze 2000: it is now being studied by our specialists. I have a question for our Western colleagues: why go to all this trouble? Transport the weapons directly to the Urals. After all, your “gun barrels” will eventually end up there anyway. In case it still has not been understood over in the West: Western weapons have no business being in Donbas.

We note with regret that in view of an acute shortage of weapons, the Ukrainian Government will continue to use every means to force through supplies of heavy equipment from Western countries. Accordingly, the leadership of Ukraine is planning to stage an incident involving the use of chemical weapons by the Russian armed forces. To that end, Ukrainian neo-Nazis have transported containers with liquid chlorine (over 6,000 litres) to the pumping and filtration station of the Slovianska thermal power plant in Mykolaivka. They have mined these containers and plan to blow them up when the allied units of Russian troops and DPR formations approach. Obviously all this will be accompanied by appropriate hype in the Western media. It is not surprising that the European Union has already handed over to Ukraine 300,000 chemical protection suits and hundreds of kits for the deactivation of hazardous substances. Likewise, Ukrainian armed formations are deliberately stationing weapons at chemical industry facilities, including the enterprises Ukrkhimtransammiak (Mykolaiv), Odessa Port Refrigerator (Odessa) and Kharkiv Khimprom (Kharkiv). We urge

the Ukrainian nationalists and their handlers to come to their senses and refrain from dangerous provocations.

We have spoken on more than one occasion about how Ukrainian specialists were directly involved at the behest of the United States in the creation of a mechanism for the covert propagation of deadly virus strains as part of the production of selective biological weapons. In particular, the immunity of the Ukrainian population was being studied at research centres funded by the Pentagon with a view to identifying the most dangerous pathogen for the inhabitants of a given region and ethnic origin. In this regard, we have taken note of a statement by the prominent US academic Jeffrey Sachs, who heads the COVID-19 Commission of *The Lancet*. According to him, it is highly likely that the coronavirus escaped from a US biological laboratory, rather than originating in nature. He also added that there was “enough evidence” to investigate this matter, though so far no one had wanted “to look under the rug too much”.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian special military operation to denazify and demilitarize Ukraine continues to proceed smoothly. On 3 July, the Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, Sergei Shoigu, briefed the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, on the liberation of the Luhansk People’s Republic (LPR). As a result of the successful combat operations conducted jointly with the allied LPR units, full control has been gained over Lysychansk and nearby population centres, including Bilohorivka, Novodruzhesk, Malorizantseve and Bila Hora. Civilians received the allied troops as liberators, with tears in their eyes and full of sincere gratitude.

At present, full-scale reconstruction work is under way in the territories liberated from the Nazis. Russian military construction workers are rebuilding Mariupol; the handover of the first residential neighbourhood comprising 1,000 apartments is due to happen this very autumn. In the Kherson, Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv regions no one is expecting the return of control by the Kyiv authorities either. The latter have already shown their true colours by demanding of the State security agencies that they intensify terrorist activities targeting these regions, by threatening reprisals for so-called “collaboration” with Russia, that is, for affinity with Russian culture and a desire to honour one’s ancestors and wear symbols of victory in the Great Patriotic War.

As part of the demilitarization of Ukraine, 231 airplanes, 134 helicopters, 1,451 unmanned aerial vehicles, 353 anti-aircraft missile systems, 3,910 tanks and other armoured combat vehicles, 716 multiple-launch rocket systems, 3,092 field artillery pieces and mortars, and 4,016 special operations tactical vehicles have been destroyed since the start of the special military operation. The targeted elimination of Western mercenaries arriving in Ukraine continues. According to Russian Minister of Defence Sergei Shoigu, 170 “soldiers of fortune” were liquidated over the past ten days. Almost a hundred refused to take part in the hostilities and have left the territory of Ukraine. Two more mercenaries from the United Kingdom stand accused as war criminals in the DPR. In this respect, it is remarkable that the British subject Aiden Aslin, who is in custody there, has said that he was more likely to be killed by the Ukrainian armed forces’ active shelling of the city of Donetsk than from the carrying out of his death sentence. In a recent video message for social media he pointed out:

“I am convinced that [God] gave me life so that I could see the truth. To get me on the path to recovery.”

The military successes of the allied troops are demoralizing the Ukrainian armed forces, leading to increasing numbers of deserters and of those seeking to avoid taking part in the fighting. The Ukrainian command is concealing in every possible way the understaffing of units. Widespread drunkenness and drug use have been observed, as have instances of combat positions being abandoned without orders. Instances of the Ukrainian armed forces or mercenaries opening “friendly fire” on members of their own troops are being recorded with increasing frequency.

The major personnel losses suffered in Donbas are compelling the Ukrainian forces to enlist reinforcements from western regions of the country. Many are not ready to take part in intensive fighting, all the more so since they receive at most two weeks of training. Military personnel from the Eighth Battalion of the Tenth Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, which is based in the city of Siversk, recently addressed the President of Ukraine as follows: “We have no commanding officers In these circumstances we shall be obliged to refuse to perform combat tasks, since we are first and foremost people, not cannon fodder. We are not the only ones – there are lots of us.” These words are further confirmation of the fact that even citizens who have been brainwashed by the propaganda from Kyiv are beginning to understand that Russia is not at war with them, with the people of Ukraine, but that it is waging war against a criminal regime, carrying out the denazification and demilitarization of that regime and eliminating a security threat in Europe.

However, the Ukrainian Government does not wish to stop. The list of those liable for military service from 1 October now also includes women aged between 18 and 60 years. Significantly, an external adviser to the Office of the President of Ukraine, Oleksii Arestovych, openly talks about how women are effectively not treated as people in the Ukrainian armed forces: “Women in the army – that’s a terrible story. They are not treated as human. Then there are hygiene issues. Women are at risk of sexual harassment. ... They are under constant pressure because men there often do not see women as human beings. These are things that have become entrenched in tradition ever since women were not allowed into the Zaporozhian Sich.” One may legitimately ask whether the assurances by the Ukrainian delegation at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) that United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 was being incorporated into all spheres of activity of the Ukrainian army were worth anything at all. We would remind you that these assurances were also voiced by the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, Tetiana Kovalchuk, at the joint meeting of the FSC and the OSCE Permanent Council on 20 May 2020. Where is the reaction by the Western champions of resolution 1325 at the Forum, who over several years have been hysterically arguing that it is necessary to draw up an OSCE Ministerial Council declaration on this topic?

Here it is appropriate to point out that the majority of Ukrainians who, not wishing to die for the current authorities, have deserted to Europe are young men of military age. They demand that the local authorities provide them with maximum-comfort living conditions at the level of five-star hotels, drive around Vienna in expensive foreign cars and often use violence against the police, while their peers in Ukraine are everywhere forcibly issued with military call-up papers. This is most telling.

Mr. Chairperson,

By way of summing up today's statement, I should like to point out that while the Ukrainian Government's Anglo-Saxon handlers are calling the former to order and asserting that the time for conducting peaceful dialogue between Russia and Ukraine has not yet come, they fail to realize that the special operation in Ukraine could be terminated before another 24 hours have passed. All that is required for this is an order to the nationalist battalions and the Ukrainian armed forces to lay down their arms and meet Russia's demands. However, very many people in the West, especially on the banks of the Thames, have no need for peace in Ukraine, which would even be disadvantageous to them.

I think that we will now hear triumphant accounts of how Ukraine allegedly drove out the Russian garrison from Snake Island. However, you would do better to save up your ardour for when the blue-yellow flag is actually raised there. That has not happened yet. The Russian forces in fact left the island in an orderly manner after carrying out all the tasks that they had been set. Artillery control over the island has been retained.

Incidentally, those same British officials are chomping at the bit to bring ships from the once great Royal Navy into the Black Sea. The freeing up of ports for the export of Ukrainian grain is cited as a pretext. It is worth noting that in 1915 an Anglo-French squadron already tried to force a passage through the straits into the Black Sea. I think that the distinguished military advisers remember and will tell us about this chapter of their military history.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.