

Chairmanship: Canada

## 498th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 1 November 2006

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 11.10 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ms. B. Gibson

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

*Progress on an international treaty on the arms trade at the United Nations: Finland-European Union (with the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania; the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Montenegro; European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/482/06/Rev.1), Chairperson*

Prior to taking up agenda item 2, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Forum for Security Co-operation, welcomed the new Permanent Representative of France to the OSCE, Mr. E. Lebédel.

Agenda item 2: SECURITY DIALOGUE

(a) *Presentation by Mr. Petrit Karabina, Chairman of the South East European Defence Ministerial (SEDM), on the SEDM and its contribution to confidence- and security-building in the South East European region and beyond: Conclusions of the 10th SEDM meeting, held in Tirana on 27 September 2006: Chairperson, Mr. P. Karabina (FSC.DEL/477/06/Rev.1 OSCE+), United States of America, Croatia, Russian Federation, Canada*

(b) *Presentation by Ambassador Ivar Vikki, Head of the OSCE Centre in Almaty, on the project to eliminate Kazakhstan's melange stockpiles: Head of the OSCE Centre in Almaty (FSC.FR/7/06 OSCE+), Chairperson, Germany,*

Slovenia, Sweden, Conflict Prevention Centre, Turkey, Kazakhstan,  
Netherlands

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Proposal for improving the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: France (Annex)*
- (b) *Regional seminar on confidence- and security-building, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 17 to 19 October 2006: United Kingdom (FSC.DEL/486/06 OSCE+), Kazakhstan*
- (c) *Organizational matters: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 22 November 2006, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/504  
1 November 2006  
Annex

ENGLISH  
Original: FRENCH

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**498th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 504, Agenda item 3(a)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE**

1 November 2006

**Food-for-thought paper**

The Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security is one of the founding documents of the OSCE and is as relevant as ever.

However, without actually renegotiating the Code, it could be updated so as to better take into account paramilitary, police and security forces and to better incorporate the rules of international humanitarian law. What is more, there is no point in supplementing a document whose relevance is acknowledged by all the participating States if that document is not properly implemented or does not provide for a follow-up and assessment procedure.

The fact is that since the Code was written in 1994 there have been only three follow-up conferences, namely in 1997, 1999 and 2002. While the special meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) on 27 September 2006 did enable us to reopen the discussions with a view to improving the implementation of the Code of Conduct, it does not make up for the absence of a decision regarding the follow-up of this document, even if recommendations have been proposed.

It is clear today that improving the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct requires better communication, a revision of the questionnaire and regular follow-up.

**Proposals for improvement**

**(a) Improvements to communication**

An improvement in the implementation of the Code can be achieved through better communication and a greater exchange of know-how. However, this process must not be allowed to lead to new constraints but must make use of the OSCE's existing structures and the know-how currently available in the participating States.

Better communication is needed to promote a greater awareness of the Code at the national and international level and within other institutions. Particular use should be made of such communication assets as the Internet, DVDs and brochures. One possible subject of this improved communication might be the promotion of national “best practices” with regard to the democratization of paramilitary armed forces or security forces. The creation of a working tool (database) as a voluntary undertaking would be a step in the right direction and would be useful in promoting an awareness of the Code of Conduct.

The setting up of a website containing information provided by the participating States might serve as an excellent database available to other States and the general public. By way of example, legal texts and other documents considered relevant by the participating States could be the subject of information exchanges, including via the Internet, on a voluntary basis.

The structure of this database might be similar to that of the OSCE website, which provides delegations with a wealth of electronic documentation. Similarly, every participating State could have a homepage of its own to promote an awareness of and to disseminate information on the Code, its *acquis* and the most relevant texts. The sharing by countries of information on “best practices”, backed by specific examples, would be a definite help in the implementation and dissemination of the Code of Conduct within the OSCE area and beyond.

**(b) Improvements to the annual exchange of information questionnaire**

The annual exchange of information questionnaire (FSC.DEC/4/03 of 9 April 2003) ought to be revised or, failing that, supplemented by an explanatory comment or a “standard model” to enable the participating States to avoid repetitions and to complete their annual exchange of information more accurately.

The analysis of these exchanges by the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) (FSC.GAL/74/06), which did an excellent job, emphasizes the need to harmonize the replies so that the information provided by the participating States can be used more effectively.

**(c) Improvements to the Code of Conduct follow-up**

While all the participating States are aware of the relevance today of the OSCE Code of Conduct, there has been no follow-up conference on the Code since 2002, so that it is now necessary for the participating States to meet periodically to assess and improve its implementation (as was done in September 2006). The form and duration of such a meeting would have to be decided.

The analysis conducted by the CPC (FSC.GAL/74/06) is an altogether realistic one. It should be accepted and must be followed up. The suggestions put forward in this document deserve to be placed on the agenda of an FSC meeting.