



**Chairmanship: Tajikistan**

**916th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 22 May 2019

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Kalandar

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE ON THE POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF BORDER SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE REGIONAL APPROACH IN CENTRAL ASIA

– *Presentation by Mr. J. Holland, Director of the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe*

– *Presentation by Ms. V. Goncharova, Project Manager, Border Management Programme in Central Asia, International Centre for Migration Policy Development*

Chairperson, Director of the OSCE Border Management Staff College, Ms. V. Goncharova, Romania-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Moldova, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/105/19), United States of America, Russian Federation, Japan (Partner for Co-operation)

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE REMINDING MECHANISM FOR THE OSCE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 3/19 (FSC.DEC/3/19) on the reminding mechanism for the OSCE Communications Network, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 3:           GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a)    *Situation in and around Ukraine:* Ukraine, Romania-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/106/19), Russian Federation, United States of America, Canada
- (b)    *Large-scale military exercise in Azerbaijan, being conducted from 20 to 24 May 2019:* Armenia (Annex), Azerbaijan

Agenda item 4:           ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a)    *Briefing on the 83rd meeting of the OSCE Communications Group (including the 2019 Global Exchange of Military Information), held in Vienna on 9 and 10 May 2019:* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (b)    *Meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), to be held in Vienna on 28 May 2019:* Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW and SCA (Latvia)
- (c)    *Workshop on the SALW Online Reporting Tool, to be held in Vienna on 30 May 2019:* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre

4.    Next meeting:

Wednesday, 29 May 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/922  
22 May 2019  
Annex

Original: ENGLISH

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**916th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 922, Agenda item 3(b)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

This is now the second time this year that the Armenian delegation takes the floor to alert the Forum for Security Co-operation to a flagrant violation of the Vienna Document by Azerbaijan.

On 15 May, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan published, on its official website, information that large-scale military exercises would be conducted from 20 to 24 May in accordance with a plan approved by the country's President.

According to the same source, the exercises would involve: more than 10,000 military personnel; 150 tanks and other armoured vehicles; up to 200 artillery pieces, mortars and multiple rocket launchers of different calibres; and up to 35 aircraft and helicopters.

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 number of troops involved exceeds the threshold.

Mr. Chairperson,

These unnotified military activities by Azerbaijan are taking place just a few days after a meeting of the Informal Working Group Structured Dialogue at which we discussed, *inter alia*, how important it is to implement the Vienna Document, especially the provisions on prior notification. The common understanding was then expressed that we can secure peace and stability for our region only by ensuring transparency and rebuilding trust. Lamentably, my present statement comes to prove that Azerbaijan thinks otherwise.

Azerbaijan's repeated violations of the Vienna Document are not a bilateral issue. They undermine the credibility of the commitments made by all of us in the OSCE area, and we therefore urge all participating States to give an adequate response.

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

Thank you.



**916th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 922, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 3/19  
REMINDING MECHANISM FOR THE OSCE  
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Recalling the Vienna Document's provision that the OSCE Communications Network is to be used for the transmission of messages,

Recalling FSC Decision No. 5/99 committing participating States to connecting to the Network and to using it efficiently and cost-effectively for communications between States concerning treaty and agreement notifications,

Reaffirming the commitment of the OSCE participating States to full and timely implementation of all measures agreed by them,

Determined to make further efforts to strengthen communication and compliance as outlined in the Standard Operating Procedures for the OSCE Communications Network (FSC.GAL/3/06) established by the OSCE Communications Group,

Recognizing the need to improve existing procedures in order to jointly promote the implementation and fulfilment of commitments by the participating States,

1. Authorizes the Chairperson of the FSC to take necessary action to implement the reminding mechanism for the OSCE Communications Network;
2. Tasks the Chairperson of the Communications Group and the Conflict Prevention Centre with supporting the Chairperson of the FSC in the implementation of this mechanism.

## **REMINDING MECHANISM**

This mechanism will apply both to the implementation of agreed confidence- and security-building measures and also to other commitments established by FSC decisions.

### **Level A**

In accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures for the OSCE Communications Network, the Conflict Prevention Centre will establish verbal contact with a participating State upon occurrence of any one of the following events:

- The primary end-user station becomes disconnected from the OSCE Communications Network for more than one hour during primary business hours of the OSCE;
- The primary end-user station is repeatedly disconnected from the OSCE Communications Network;
- The identified Points of Contact are not accessible.

The Conflict Prevention Centre will provide available technical or administrative assistance to any participating State if requested to do so.

### **Level B**

If the issue is not resolved and no explanation is provided within two weeks, the Conflict Prevention Centre will provide situational information to the Chairperson of the FSC. In turn, the Chairperson of the FSC will send a reminder letter, prepared by the Conflict Prevention Centre, within an additional two weeks on behalf of the FSC to the participating State in question.

The Chairperson of the FSC will inform the Forum of letters sent and of any replies subsequently received.

### **Level C**

If no explanation is forthcoming within four weeks after the reminder letter has been sent, the Chairperson of the FSC will make direct contact with the participating State that has not fulfilled its commitment in order to determine:

- The reason(s) for failure to provide a written explanation and/or to respond to the Chairperson's reminder letter;
- The obstacles to compliance and/or implementation problems; and

- Possible needs for assistance and solutions.

The Chairperson of the FSC will inform the Forum of the status of Level C contacts in a general manner.