

Chairmanship: Turkey

937th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 15 January 2020

Opened: 10 a.m.
Closed: 12 noon

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. E. Soysal

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey offered his condolences to the families of the passengers and crew of Ukraine International Airlines flight PS752, which was shot down near Tehran on 8 January 2020.

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

Agenda item 1: OPENING REMARKS BY H.E.
AMBASSADOR SEDAT ÖNAL, DEPUTY MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF TURKEY

Chairperson, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey (FSC.DEL/2/20 OSCE+), Croatia, Croatia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/1/20/Corr.1), United States of America (Annex), Azerbaijan (FSC.DEL/3/20 OSCE+) (FSC.DEL/11/20 OSCE+), Canada, Switzerland (FSC.DEL/6/20 OSCE+), Belarus (FSC.DEL/5/20 OSCE+), Kazakhstan, Albania (FSC.DEL/8/20 OSCE+), Bosnia and Herzegovina (FSC.DEL/4/20 OSCE+), Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Armenia (FSC.DEL/10/20 OSCE+), Georgia, Czech Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine (FSC.DEL/7/20 OSCE+), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Downing of Ukraine International Airlines flight PS752 near Tehran on 8 January 2020: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/9/20 OSCE+), Chairperson

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 22 January 2020, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/943
15 January 2020
Annex

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937th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 943, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Good morning, Mr. Chairperson, thank you very much.

I also wish to express our deepest condolences to our Canadian and Ukrainian colleagues, and to representatives from all nations who lost citizens, when Ukraine flight PS752 was unintentionally downed by Iran on 8 January. I hope all will accept our heartfelt sympathies.

On behalf of the United States, I congratulate Turkey on its Chairmanship and welcome Deputy Foreign Minister Onal to Vienna and to the Forum for Security Co-operation. With the professionalism shown by Turkey during its Chairmanship of the Open Skies Consultative Commission in late 2018, there is no doubt that we are in very good hands. As always, the United States looks forward to working with all of our FSC colleagues toward our shared goals of increasing security and stability in the OSCE area. The United States views the Forum for Security Co-operation as critical for advancing the politico-military dimension of European security, and we look forward to continuing our efforts to that end in 2020. We are also interested in the joint FSC-Permanent Council meeting on counterterrorism planned for 26 February, a topic that is not frequently discussed in this Forum.

Mr. Chairperson and FSC colleagues,

The United States continues to embrace firmly a comprehensive approach to security in Europe that encompasses the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions. In the face of today's challenging and dynamic European security environment, we must ensure that the FSC remains a central forum in our efforts to strengthen our politico-military toolbox to meet the challenges we face. In support of that toolbox and our commitment to transparency, which is at the heart of our confidence-building regime, next week at the FSC the United States will provide a briefing on the exercise "Defender 2020", which will take place this spring.

Mr. Chairperson,

2019 saw a group of 32 participating States make a strong commitment to positive change in our security environment by developing and tabling a unitary proposal to

modernize the Vienna Document so that it is more effective in providing military transparency now and in the future. Why does that matter? Uncertainty regarding the military forces of neighbours gives rise to tensions and suspicion. The lack of mutual trust among OSCE participating States is one of the most disturbing characteristics of the European security environment today. A genuine, collective effort that results in a modernized Vienna Document will help us to change that. This Organization has the opportunity to rebuild trust and confidence. Agreement on an updated Vienna Document this year would be a historic achievement and a sign that our countries and this Organization are committed to meaningful steps to change the security environment in Europe that exists today for the better. The United States is committed to supporting this modernization process in 2020. We need to achieve significant progress toward this worthy goal in advance of the December OSCE ministerial in Tirana. We look forward to constructive engagement in the working groups through positive exchanges of ideas and evaluation of substantive proposals.

Mr. Chairperson,

In Bratislava, US Acting Assistant Secretary of State Phil Reeker noted that the nations must abide by the commitments they already made both to other nations and to their own people. During the 28 January FSC session, we will commemorate 20 years since the Istanbul Summit, which produced a transformative summit statement. The promise of Istanbul was vested not only in the Charter for European Security, which resonated themes of freedom and mutual respect for individuals as well as for nations, but in the adapted Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) and related Istanbul commitments, and in an updated Vienna Document.

It is unfortunate that failure to fulfil all of the Istanbul commitments on withdrawal of military forces had regrettable and far-reaching implications, sowing the seeds of mistrust that is now in full flower today. Let us take this opportunity this commemoration affords us to commit to progress, including by constructively engaging to modernize the Vienna Document. Let us agree to make 2020 a year for full and determined implementation of all our security commitments, including CFE and Open Skies, as well as the Vienna Document.

Mr. Chairperson,

The United States wishes every success to the incoming Chairmanship. We also welcome Ukraine to the FSC Troika and continue to assure our FSC partners of our co-operation and support in the coming session. Mr. Chairperson, I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.