

Chairmanship: Luxembourg

726th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 11 September 2013

Opened: 11.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador H. Wurth

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

Agenda item 1: OPENING STATEMENT OF THE LUXEMBOURG
FSC CHAIRMANSHIP BY H.E. MR. JEAN ASSELBORN,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE GRAND-DUCHY OF
LUXEMBOURG

Chairperson, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg (Annex), Lithuania-European Union (with the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Albania; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/141/03), Armenia, Ukraine, Turkey, Switzerland (FSC.DEL/142/13 Restr.), Malta, Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation), Russian Federation

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Matters of protocol:* Lithuania, Czech Republic, Hungary, Russian Federation, Poland, Lithuania-European Union, Turkey, France, Slovakia, Netherlands,

United States of America, San Marino, Latvia, Moldova, Sweden, Germany,
Chairperson

- (b) *Meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons,
to be held on 12 September 2013: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 18 September 2013, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/732
11 September 2013
Annex

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

726th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 732, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF LUXEMBOURG

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to welcome you to the 726th meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and, in so doing, to inaugurate Luxembourg's Chairmanship in the third trimester of this year.

I should also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the outgoing Lithuanian Chairmanship, as well as Liechtenstein, the outgoing member of the Troika, for their exemplary efforts, which have greatly facilitated our task at the end of this year. I also wish to officially welcome Malta as the new member of the FSC Troika.

The Luxembourg Chairmanship of the FSC will lead in to the Ministerial Council meeting in Kyiv. We are counting on your support and effective co-operation in order to successfully complete the work of the FSC so that we are able to adopt ambitious decisions in Kyiv.

Today, we find ourselves in a continuing period of reflection and consultation regarding the best way to move forward with our work with a view to the Ministerial Council. Taking the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration, the decisions of the 2011 Vilnius Ministerial Council, and the various relevant documents adopted at the highest level as our starting point, the Luxembourg Chairmanship of the FSC intends to act to allow us to move forward in all areas addressed by the Forum in order that we succeed in establishing a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals.

The FSC will make its contribution to the Helsinki+40 process, and this contribution will be an important element in the context of achieving this ambitious goal. We take the task that has been entrusted to the Forum in participating in this process very seriously and we are prepared to work in close co-operation with Ukraine, the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office, to move us closer to achieving this objective in 2015.

The Security Dialogues already organized by the Liechtenstein and Lithuanian Chairmanships during 2013 have demonstrated that the Forum's work should not only be assessed in light of the decisions of the Ministerial Council. We intend to continue these important discussions, which we consider extremely useful in implementing our common goals. To do this, we are counting on support from all of you, our Troika partners, the co-ordinators, the FSC Support Section, and Conference Services.

At the start of the year, together with Liechtenstein and Lithuania, we drew up an annual work programme. The Indicative Schedule for Plenary Meetings for the final trimester of the year was distributed last week under reference number FSC.INF/11/13. You will notice two elements of particular note.

The first important point concerns the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) adopted, as you know, by the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 2 April 2013 after seven years of negotiations. On 3 June 2013, the Secretary General of the United Nations, as depositary of the Treaty, opened it for signature. It is to be hoped that all United Nations Member States will be able to sign the Treaty when the time comes, so that it becomes universal. The Treaty's adoption by 155 votes in favour with only 3 against and 22 abstentions reflects the strong political will of the vast majority of Member States to create a universal, legally binding instrument establishing the most ambitious shared norms possible for the export, import and transfer of conventional arms.

Since then, Luxembourg has begun the ratification process.

The OSCE, as the most important regional organization, has spearheaded efforts to regulate imports and exports of small arms and light weapons (SALW). It would be logical for the OSCE to continue in this direction and attempt, through a ministerial decision on SALW, to set an example for other United Nations Member States. As a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for 2013 and 2014, Luxembourg will support the endeavours of participating States to improve their co-ordination with the United Nations on SALW and will urge them to closely follow the evolution of the ATT.

The second important point concerns Afghanistan, a partner and neighbouring State of the OSCE area. During the Security Days meeting of 12 March of this year, organized by Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, it became apparent that there is still a pressing need for a regional approach in order to make sure that Afghanistan does not once again become a pawn for differing interests. We share the conviction expressed in the Tokyo Declaration that a long-term commitment by Afghanistan's regional partners remains essential in order to face up to shared challenges such as the fight against terrorism and illicit substances, the refugee situation and economic growth. It is positive that the international community is stepping up various initiatives to bolster regional co-operation.

As you are aware, the OSCE is not involved within Afghanistan, but it is continuing to implement several multidimensional activities based on Ministerial Council decisions adopted in Madrid in 2007 and Vilnius in 2011. Allow me to mention a few of these programmes: the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, the patrol project along the Afghan-Tajik border, the development of cross-border trade between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, and several projects on strengthening the rule of law and training anti-drugs officers and customs staff in Central Asia.

On the cusp of the crucial year 2014, the Luxembourg Chairmanship of the FSC proposes two Security Dialogues in order to give additional impetus to the OSCE's contribution to security in and around Afghanistan. Luxembourg hopes in this way to contribute to the continuation of ongoing and consistent involvement of the international community in Afghanistan and to the implementation of the international mandates necessary to do this.

As for the other important aspects of the Forum that have been considered during the previous Chairmanships, I should like to mention, in addition to the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting, the Annual Security Review Conference and the second Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the importance of the Security Days organized by Secretary General Lamberto Zannier this year. In addition to these very significant events, one should not, however, neglect the day-to-day work regarding the discussions on the Vienna Document 2011, the various statements on projects regarding SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition and the promotion of the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1540.

The 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration, which recognizes the important role of the Organization in putting into place effective confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), reaffirms the commitment of the participating States to implementing these measures. Conventional arms control regimes and CSBMs remain major instruments for ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency, and should be revitalized, updated and modernized. I should like to mention my concern at a time when these regimes are put to the test more than ever before and when we seem incapable of moving beyond national concerns. Nevertheless we intend to commit to work from which all the participating States stand to gain. I remain convinced that with the requisite determination and attention, it will be possible to complete important work with a view to updating the Vienna Document so that it can make a greater contribution to maintaining peace and security for all participating States. To that end, I reiterate the appeal made in the Astana Commemorative Declaration and at the Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius to resume negotiations to obtain the greatest degree of security with the lowest level of armaments.

Lastly, I am especially happy to inform you that thanks to close co-operation with the Troika and the Conflict Prevention Centre, it has been possible to assign all the co-ordinator posts within the FSC Chairmanship. The mandates are as follows:

- Lieutenant Colonel Mark Barlow (United States delegation) as Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition;
- Dr. Pierre von Arx (Swiss delegation) as Co-ordinator for the Vienna Document;
- Lieutenant Colonel Detlef Hempel (German delegation) as Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security;
- Mr. Vasyl Pokotylo (Ukrainian delegation) as Co-ordinator for Non-Proliferation Issues;

- Ms. Bilge Koçyiğit (Turkish delegation) as Co-ordinator on Matters relating to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325;
- Lieutenant Colonel Simon Macrory-Tinning (United Kingdom delegation) as Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

I should also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks on behalf of the Troika to all the co-ordinators for their willingness to embark upon these important tasks. This is not something to be taken for granted and we are grateful that we can count on their professional support.

I wish you all the best for the four months ahead and, in particular, for a highly successful Ministerial Council meeting in Kyiv.

Thank you.