



Belgian Chairmanship

461st PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 5 October 2005

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.40 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. B. de Crombrughe

3. Subjects discussed — Statements — Decisions:

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Address of the Secretary General of the OSCE, Mr. Marc Perrin de Brichambaut:
Secretary General, Russian Federation, Finland, Switzerland, Austria, Canada,
Germany, Chairperson

Agenda item 2: STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FSC ON
PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR MILITARY
ACTIVITIES

Chairperson

The Forum for Security Co-operation agreed on the Statement by the
Chairperson of the FSC on Prior Notification of Major Military Activities
(Annex 1)

Germany (FSC.DEL/466/05 OSCE+), Switzerland (Annex 2), Netherlands,
Austria, Russian Federation (also on behalf of Belarus) (Annex 3), Finland,
France, Turkey (FSC.DEL/471/05 Restr.), Chairperson

Agenda item 3: SECURITY DIALOGUE

*Presentation of the project proposals on capacity-building in SALW stockpile
management and security in Belarus:* Conflict Prevention Centre (FSC.GAL/103/05)

Restr.), Mr. R. Kyburz (Switzerland), Mr. E. Sierra (Spain), Mr. M. Cawthorne (United Kingdom), Mr. A. Wilkinson (South Eastern European Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons), Austria, Russian Federation, Mr. V. Afonov (Belarus), Mr. K. Tikhomirov (Belarus), Belarus, United Kingdom (also on behalf of Switzerland and Spain), United Kingdom, Netherlands, Spain (FSC.DEL/470/05 Restr.), Sweden, Switzerland (FSC.DEL/464/05 Restr.),
Chairperson

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

United States and Hungary Agreement on Destruction of Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) Missiles, signed on 27 September 2005: Hungary (also on behalf of the United States of America) (FSC.DEL/469/05 Restr.)

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 12 October 2005, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal

461st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 467, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF
THE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION
ON PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR MILITARY ACTIVITIES**

Recalling the participating States' commitments regarding prior notification of major military maneuvers, as set forth in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the Document of the Stockholm Conference of 1986, and in Chapter V of the Vienna Document 1999 on Prior Notification of Certain Military Activities,

Mindful of the significance of the confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) in further strengthening stability and security in Europe by reducing tensions, allaying suspicions and avoiding misunderstandings,

Perceiving that additional notification of military activities and exercises may further contribute to enhanced transparency and predictability among participating States,

It is understood that the participating States have expressed their willingness to implement the following:

- In the absence of any notifiable military exercise or activity in a calendar year, the participating States will notify, on a voluntary basis, one of the major military exercises or activities, which is below the 1999 Vienna Document (VD-99) thresholds, held on its national territory in the zone of application of CSBMs. The participating States will be guided by the criterion of military significance in determining which specific exercise or activity will be notified. Within the context of this Statement by the Chairperson and taking into account the voluntary nature and confidence-building purpose of this additional measure, participating States will implement this measure acting in good faith and in line with the spirit of confidence- and security-building measures;
- The voluntary notification of such military activities and exercises will be consistent with paragraphs (38), (39), (43) and (44) of the Vienna Document 1999;
- A notifying participating State may also consider inviting observers, on a voluntary basis, to attend such military activities and exercises;

- The participating States are also encouraged, to the extent possible, to include the major military exercise or activity in question in the annual calendar which is exchanged in accordance with paragraph (61) of VD-99;
- The participating States have expressed their willingness to discuss implementation of this measure at the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM).



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

FSC.JOUR/467
5 October 2005
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND

Prior notification of major military activities

Mr. Chairman,

In the context of work on proposals relating to the voluntary notification of a major military activity which is below the levels specified in paragraph (40) of the Vienna Document 1999, Switzerland stated, *inter alia*, that these proposals deviate from the policy of committing all the participating States to implementation and from the principles which have so far guided the process of elaborating new CSBMs (FSC.DEL/496/04, FSC.DEL/217/05). It suggested bringing new conceptual thinking to bear on the question of CSBMs and presented a proposal for adequate modifications (FSC.DEL/449/05) to ensure a coherent approach and a more precise terminology in comparison with the Chairman's Statement just released.

Consistently with this position, Switzerland is not satisfied with this outcome. However, it acknowledges the dynamic nature of this issue and will, therefore, follow the implementation of this measure and its effects on confidence- and security-building.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus welcome the Statement by the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) on Prior Notification of Major Military Activities. This represents a small but sound step towards increasing transparency and predictability in the military area.

At the same time, we regret that, in the difficult negotiations among participating States, they had to depart from the principle that confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) adopted by the Forum are confirmed by an FSC decision and have a politically binding character. In this connection, the delegations of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus wish to state that they do not regard the voluntary nature of these measures and their adoption in the form of a Statement by the Chairperson as a precedent for possible future negotiations.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus will implement the approved understanding on the prior notification of major military activities to the extent that it is implemented by other States that host multinational military exercises on their territory with the participation of countries possessing large-scale military potential.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus take the position that today's Statement by the Chairperson does not affect the urgent need to update the Vienna Document 1999, and confirm that their proposal in this respect (FSC.DEL/172/03) remains valid.

We shall continue to devote our efforts, within the framework of the FSC, to seeking further ways of strengthening pan-European security and stability by means of arms control and CSBMs.

I would request you, Mr. Chairman, to arrange for this statement to be attached to the journal of today's plenary meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation.