



**Chairmanship: Portugal**

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION  
(834th Plenary Meeting)**

1. Date: Wednesday, 9 November 2016

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 10.40 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador M. da Graça Mira Gomes

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

Agenda item 1: REISSUANCE OF THE VIENNA DOCUMENT 2011

Chairperson (Annex 1), Slovakia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/208/16), Romania, United States of America, Armenia, Turkey, Poland (Annex 2), Canada, Belarus, Russian Federation (Annex 3)

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 16 November 2016, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/840  
9 November 2016  
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

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**834th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 840, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON**

The Portuguese Chairmanship convened this special meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) in accordance with paragraph 152, Chapter XII of the Vienna Document 2011, which provides that participating States will organize a special meeting to take place every five calendar years or more frequently in order to reissue the Vienna Document.

The reissuance of the Vienna Document is a commitment of each participating State and one of the key FSC tasks in 2016. In that light, the Portuguese Chairmanship, following the work of the previous Polish and Dutch Chairmanships, made every effort to create the best possible conditions for a constructive discussion with a view to adopting a decision on reissuing the Vienna Document. The Chairperson regrets, however, that there was no consensus on the reissuance of the Vienna Document.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Vienna Document remains integral to the OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative concept of security. The current Vienna Document 2011 and the Vienna Document Plus decisions adopted since 30 November 2011 remain valid until the entry into force of a reissued Vienna Document. It is therefore of the utmost importance that we remain committed to its full implementation.

At the same time, we should be ready to continue our efforts aimed at updating and modernizing the Vienna Document in order to adapt it to developments in the military sphere. It is timely that we strengthen the crisis capabilities and risk reduction mechanisms of the Vienna Document, and raise the levels of transparency concerning armed forces and activities. The proposals currently under discussion should be explored with the requisite political will.

The Portuguese Chairmanship intends to continue the efforts aimed at providing further impetus towards updating and modernizing the Vienna Document, which should be a continuous process aimed at increasing military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States.

I hope that this special meeting on the reissuance of the Vienna Document proves to be an opportunity for us, the participating States, to underscore our shared interest and responsibility to assert the continuing relevance and significance of the Vienna Document.

This statement will be attached to the journal of day.



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

FSC.JOUR/840  
9 November 2016  
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

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**834th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 840, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF POLAND**

Madam Chairperson,  
Distinguished delegates,

I will start by thanking you for convening this special meeting.

In addition to the statement delivered by the EU, which I fully support, I would like to share some views in my national capacity.

Poland strongly believes that it is high time to reissue the Vienna Document, one of the key confidence- and security-building measures of the OSCE. It has been five years since the Vienna Document 2011 was issued, and we have a good knowledge of what needs to be improved, updated or modernized in this text. The Vienna Document 2011 and the four Vienna Document Plus decisions adopted by the FSC in 2012 and 2013 have served our OSCE community well. They have proved that greater military transparency, confidence and trust are vital elements in fostering co-operation in the field of security. We must not dismiss what we have already achieved. And we should not relinquish our efforts aimed at further developing the Vienna Document so that it could better serve our needs and help in addressing new challenges.

Therefore, I am firmly convinced that it is in our common interest to regard the Vienna Document as a living document, to be continuously updated to meet our current goals and needs. It is still a mutually beneficial tool created by us and for us, based on shared conceptual ideas of an OSCE common security area. Thus, a lack of consensus on the rather technical issue of the reissuance of the document is a regrettable outcome.

Nevertheless, we need to be clear: it is not and will not be the end of the road. The Vienna Document 2011 and all four Vienna Document Plus decisions remain continuously in force, fully applicable and implemented in good faith. In that connection, there will be no interruption to the implementation of our political and military commitments.

Furthermore, our work on updating, improving and modernizing the Vienna Document will continue, I hope with even more determination. Poland, together with the majority of participating States, remains fully devoted to that process. That is why we, together with 12 other sponsors, have submitted a proposal aimed at strengthening co-operation on hazardous or dangerous incidents of a military nature (paragraph 17 of the

Vienna Document). We believe that improvement is needed in connection with at least some areas covered by the provisions of the Vienna Document, and it is needed quickly, given the increasing number of incidents, which could unintentionally trigger a real threat to security or even a conflict.

Madam Chairperson,  
Distinguished colleagues,

This special meeting will neither be the first nor the last to conclude without achieving its intended outcome. However, there are lessons to be learned even from the lack of results. Therefore, I would like to ask the following questions. Are there compelling and important reasons for this disappointing outcome? Why was it so critical for those who blocked a positive outcome of this meeting to do so?

Within the OSCE, we of course operate on the basis of consensus. This, however, places a special responsibility on those individual participating States, which – as in this case – thwart the efforts of all the others. We need to bear in mind that to advance common objectives and values within the mandate of this Organization, we need to be able to take common actions that would ultimately serve the best interests of all participating States.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson, and kindly request you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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

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Annex 3

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

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**834th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 840, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Madam Chairperson,

We should like to express our gratitude to you for preparing and holding a special meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) on the reissuance of the Vienna Document 2011. In doing so, we are meeting the commitment set out in paragraph 152 of the Vienna Document 2011.

In connection with today's event, we believe it necessary to state the following.

First, we take the position that the aforementioned paragraph provides merely for the holding of an FSC meeting and in no way predetermines its results, which naturally depend on the position of all the participating States. For now we note the absence of consensus regarding the reissuance of the Vienna Document.

Second, it is well known that following the adoption of the Vienna Document 2011 certain difficulties of a legal nature arose with the implementation of its provisions. With this consideration in mind, if the participating States whose delegations have reproached us today were really interested in a new version of the Vienna Document, then they should have proposed earlier, back in 2012 or 2013, adopting an FSC Vienna Document Plus decision changing the procedure for the entry into force of its provisions. However, this was not done, and now the corresponding window of opportunity has closed.

Third, the fate of the Vienna Document is inseparable from the general situation regarding European security.

Today the view was expressed that the consensus rule implies the responsibility of each participating State for its actions. We agree with this and should like to recall that over a period of many years Russia proposed to its partners the modernization of the Vienna Document. However, our Western partners invariably told us that it "should not be opened up" (today for some reason it is not thought fit to remember this).

Our Western partners also frequently say that in the current politico-military situation "business as usual" with Russia is no longer possible. We are also in agreement with this –

we have no need for the kind of “business” in which ever more demands are made of Russia. However, for some reason, our distinguished colleagues are not bothered that the adoption of a new version of the Vienna Document would send a false political signal that everything is rosy in this area and that we are harmoniously implementing optimistic plans from five or six years ago as if nothing had happened.

The anchoring in NATO documents of a policy of military containment of Russia and the Alliance’s concrete steps in the military sphere rule out the possibility of reaching agreements on confidence-building measures. We can envisage prospects for the modernization of the Vienna Document 2011 only if the North Atlantic Alliance abandons its policy of containment of Russia, recognizes and respects Russian interests, and restores normal relations with the Russian Federation, including in the military sphere. Until then, the FSC needs to concentrate on the implementation of the Vienna Document 2011 and the subsequent Vienna Document Plus decisions (and here by no means all are ideal) and on the creation of the necessary conditions for resuming constructive discussions on strengthening the politico-military foundations of European security.

We should like to emphasize that we see nothing tragic in the FSC being unable to adopt a decision today on the reissuance of the Vienna Document. Its 2011 version and the Vienna Document Plus decisions adopted subsequently remain in force and will be implemented. We do not rule out the possibility of returning to the question of reissuance in the future when the necessary conditions have come about.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.