



Dutch Chairmanship

308th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Friday, 24 November 2000

Opened: 3.15 p.m.

Closed: 3.40 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. J. Schellaars

3. Subjects discussed - Statements - Decisions:

Agenda item 1: ADOPTION OF THE OSCE DOCUMENT ON SMALL
ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

Chairperson

Decision: The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which was distributed separately as FSC.DOC/1/00.

Chairperson, United States of America, France-European Union (also on behalf of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and the Czech Republic) (Annex 1), Austria, Turkey (Annex 2), United Kingdom, Russian Federation, Canada

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 6 December 2000, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/314
24 November 2000
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

308th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 314, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT
BY THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE FORUM
FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION

The European Union welcomes the adoption of the OSCE document on small arms and light weapons, an important contribution by the OSCE participating States to the fight against the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons, which it undertakes to implement in accordance with the national legislation of its Member States and the European Community's regulations.

The Member States of the European Union recall the commitments they entered into as part of the joint action of the European Union of 17 December 1998, which they undertake to respect in their entirety.

The European Union believes that the adoption of this document represents a commitment by the participating States to co-operate substantively in this area, and that it will make a constructive contribution to the United Nations' fight against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

The Member States of the European Union thank the co-ordinator, Mr. Paul Flaherty, and his team, as well as his predecessor Mr. Clive Wright, and the delegations of the participating States present in this room, for their efforts and co-operation, which have resulted in the adoption of a very good document.

France, on behalf of the European Union, asks the Chairman of the Forum for Security Co-operation to have this statement attached to the journal of the day.

The Associated Countries, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and the Czech Republic, endorse this statement.



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

FSC.JOUR/314
24 November 2000
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

308th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 314, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT
BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY ON
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS TO THE
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION

Mr. Chairman,

We also would like to welcome the OSCE document on small arms and light weapons, which was just adopted by the Forum and which is the first important document of its kind in the international plane. On this occasion, I would like to express our appreciation for the devotion and tireless efforts of the Co-ordinator, Mr. Paul Flaherty, which made possible the progress we have scored so far.

Turkey has always been sensitive to the challenges posed by the destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of these weapons and in particular to the problem of illicit trafficking. It was, in fact, our delegation that brought this issue to the OSCE agenda for the first time, by tabling in 1996 some concrete proposals. Within this spirit, we also took active part in the work launched by the Working Group B following the relevant FSC decision adopted last year in Istanbul. Bearing in mind the significant role that transparency plays in arms control and disarmament efforts for ensuring increased security, we made proposals in that direction during the negotiations on the small arms document. We observed, however, that consensus could not be reached at this stage on some of our suggestions. Taking into account that the OSCE arrangement on small arms was conceived as a “living” and “progressive” process, our delegation will continue to pursue such proposals in the future as well.

May I kindly ask you, Mr. Chairman, to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you.