



Chairmanship: Greece

603rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 10 February 2010

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 12.25 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador M. Marinaki

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

(a) *Launch of a green paper entitled “Adaptability and Partnership – Issues for a Strategic Defence Review”*: United Kingdom (Annex 1)

(b) *Presentation of the project on eliminating melange in Ukraine*: Conflict Prevention Centre, Chairperson, Denmark, FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Denmark), Finland, Sweden, Ukraine

(c) *Extrabudgetary contribution to the comprehensive small arms and light weapons programme in Kyrgyzstan*: United Kingdom (Annex 2), Chairperson, Kyrgyzstan

Agenda item 2: SECURITY DIALOGUE

Special FSC meeting on small arms and light weapons (SALW):

– *The Arms Trade Treaty: Presentation by Mr. Fabio Della Piazza, Council of the European Union, Office of the Personal Representative of the High Representative on Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction;*

and

- *National efforts in preparation for the Biennial Meeting of States on the United Nations Programme of Action on SALW: Presentation by Mr. Daniel Prins, Chief, Conventional Arms Branch, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*

Chairperson, Mr. F. Della Piazza (FSC.DEL/17/10 OSCE+), Mr. D. Prins, Spain-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (Annex 3), United States of America, Sweden, Turkey, Russian Federation

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 17 February 2010, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal

603rd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 609, Agenda item 1(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Madam Chairperson,

1. On 3 February 2010, the UK's Secretary of State for Defence launched the MOD's Green Paper "Adaptability and Partnership – Issues for a Strategic Defence Review". The Green Paper is the first step in a process leading to a Strategic Defence Review (SDR) early in the next parliament, and the start of the first fundamental reappraisal of UK defence policy since the 1998 SDR and its 2002 New Chapter. This review process reflects the need to take account of changes in the UK's strategic, social and financial circumstances, the changing character of armed conflict, and the implications of our recent military operations.
2. The Green Paper does not itself determine a shift in current UK defence policy. Rather it identifies some key questions the future SDR will need to answer, and sets out some areas for further study in the mean time. It considers likely future UK interests; future threats to the UK and trends which will shape the international security context; changes in the way force is used, including lessons learned on recent operations; the increasing importance of adaptability, influence and partnership; and future MOD personnel, equipment and structures.
3. The key components of the Paper are that:
 - (a) Afghanistan remains our main effort, but we need also to prepare for tomorrow's conflicts, in a complex and uncertain world.
 - (b) UK domestic security and prosperity depends primarily on the maintenance of a stable, rules-based international order. We cannot defend ourselves purely on our borders, but must also be able to act internationally.
 - (c) UK defence needs to increase its adaptability, flexibility and agility in the way that it plans for and responds to security risks.
 - (d) The UK's security increasingly relies on strengthening relationships with regional organisations and effective international relationships.
 - (e) The Green Paper calls for stronger partnerships with allies, across the UK government, and with other actors.

- (f) We will continue to seek opportunities for international collaboration in defence acquisition.

The Green Paper has been published on the MOD website: www.mod.uk.

Madam Chairperson,

I hope that the FSC will find this information useful, and we would encourage any participating States who are engaged in similar strategic reviews of their Defence policy to keep this Forum apprised of their progress.

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



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

FSC.JOUR/609
10 February 2010
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

603rd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 609, Agenda item 1(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Madam Chairperson,

Taking note of the decision (MC.DEC/15/09) that our Ministers made in Athens on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), and its specific request to the FSC to continue its efforts to support participating States in seeking practical assistance with SALW projects, I am very pleased to be able to inform participating States that the United Kingdom has decided to make an extra-budgetary contribution of 15,000 euros for Task 9 of the Comprehensive Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) programme for the Kyrgyz Republic.

In 2008, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan requested technical and financial assistance from the OSCE in enhancing stockpile management and security of SALW and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) in accordance with FSC Documents on SALW and SCA. Due to the lack of expert and financial resources the condition of the storage sites has deteriorated over the past decades. In their present condition they do not ensure sufficient safety and security of the stored SALW and ammunition, thus increasing the risk of accident causing human losses and the potential diversion to illegal markets.

Madam Chairperson,

We believe that this project is important, and would welcome the support of other donors in order to be able to initiate the work needed improve stockpile security and management, and for the destruction of identified surpluses.

Madam Chairperson,

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



603rd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 609, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union welcomes this Special FSC Meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons. We would like to thank the Greek FSC Chairmanship for organizing this timely and relevant session in order to continue and intensify our work in this area, in line with the tasking received from our Ministers during the Athens Ministerial Council.

We would also like to thank Mr. Daniel Prins, Chief of the Conventional Arms Branch of the UN Office on Disarmament Affairs, and Mr. Fabio della Piazza of the Council of the European Union Office of the High Representative's Personal Representative on Non-Proliferation of WMDs for their comprehensive and informative presentations.

The destabilizing consequences of the illicit trade and excessive accumulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and ammunition and the threat that they pose to international peace and security have been long recognized by the EU. Since December 2005, the guidelines for the EU's action in combating illicit trade and excessive accumulation are set by the EU Small Arms and Light Weapons Strategy. This document, adopted at the highest level by the European Council, sets out the policy lines along which concrete actions shall be taken both in the demand and supply side of SALW and promotes an integrated approach to address SALW-related security challenges.

Three key principles underpin the EU's plan of action in the field of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Firstly, prevention. Preventive action is needed to reduce the risk of conflicts and to address a situation of deteriorating security. To this end, the EU has been implementing several activities related to increased security of stockpile, destruction of surplus, training and awareness raising and has assisted third States in developing adequate SALW legislation, regulation and administrative procedures. A recent example is the support the EU provides to the African Union in developing an AU SALW strategy.

Secondly, co-operation with partners: global security challenges can only be solved through co-operative efforts. The EU continues to streamline SALW issues in its relations with third countries, both in terms of political dialogue and concrete projects.

Thirdly, support to multilateralism. The EU is in favour of a multilateral answer to a global challenge, such as SALW. Therefore, the EU fully supports relevant international instruments in this field and co-ordination among UN MS.

As a part of the general support to multilateralism, the EU is also fully engaged in the negotiations on an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). An ATT which prescribes the highest possible standard in the trade of conventional weapons has a huge potential in preventing the diversion of conventional arms and its destabilising effects for peace and security.

The OSCE Ministerial Decision on SALW, adopted at the Athens Ministerial Council, has requested this forum to remain seized of these matters. It also tasks us to enhance our work by, among other activities, developing a Plan of Action and taking an active role in the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States Parties to consider the implementation of the UN Programme of Action.

The main political and legal framework for international action in the field of SALW remains the UN Programme of Action. The EU looks forward to a successful outcome of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States Parties in June 2010. To this end, the EU is in the process of adopting a new Council Decision, to be implemented by UN ODA, that will foresee several activities in preparation of the 2012 Review Conference. *Inter alia*, this project will focus on the regional implementation of the UN Programme of Action, implementation of international guidelines on ammunition stockpiles, and regional implementation of the International Marking and Tracing Instrument.

The EU commended the choice of the Third BMS to concentrate on three cluster topics, namely, the International Tracing Instrument, illicit brokering and stockpile management and surplus destruction. We are convinced that this pragmatic and result-oriented approach could be replicated for the Fourth BMS, identifying additional cross-cutting themes for discussion. Our objective remains the preparation of a substantive and overarching assessment of the UN PoA at the 2012 Review Conference.

The EU has also consistently reiterated the importance of reinforcing regional approaches to the UN PoA and to SALW issues in general. The EU has been co-operating closely with the OSCE in order to achieve more effective results to prevent excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of these weapons. We welcome the active role taken by OSCE in international efforts, including through the assistance provided to participating States in the destruction of surplus SALW and conventional ammunition stockpiles and in improving stockpile management and security practices.

In recent years the EU has successfully contributed to disarmament and stockpile management projects in Ukraine and in the Western Balkans. Our Member States are about to adopt a new ambitious integrated project, to be implemented by SEESAC, and foreseeing activities aiming at improving stockpile management and registration and collection of weapons, and destruction of surplus weapons in the Western Balkans.

As part of the OSCE contribution to find appropriate responses to the challenges posed by the illicit trade and excessive accumulation of SALW, we welcome and support the Food-for-Thought Paper circulated by the Greek Delegation to update the OSCE normative

base and improve SALW related work. We are confident that we can build on previous work in order to achieve a substantive Plan of Action by May 2010.

The EU has on many occasions stressed its support for strengthening the implementation of existing OSCE commitments; we note with satisfaction that this is also one important part of the proposed Plan of Action.

Excessive and destabilizing accumulations and uncontrolled spread of SALW, as well as the illicit transfer of Weapons, are important elements in the context of transnational threats to security and stability, as was recognized by the relevant decision in the Athens Ministerial Council. The EU Strategy also states that SALW contribute to a worsening of terrorism and organized crime, and are a major factor in triggering and spreading conflicts, as well as in the collapse of State structures.

At the same time, action in the field of SALW is also an effective and indispensable tool to prevent and manage conflicts.

Our work in this area will thus be very relevant in the context of the Corfu Process. FSC has been called upon to bring its contribution to the work of this Process, in co-ordination with the Permanent Council and its bodies. We believe that this contribution must include substantive progress in the area of SALW.

We have an intense and challenging agenda ahead of us; May 2010, when our Plan of Action should be presented, will be an important benchmark for the work of the FSC this year, and into the future. We are looking forward to working with you and other delegations to achieve concrete results in this endeavour.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland, and Norway, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.