



Chairmanship: Kazakhstan

**SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**  
(665th Plenary Meeting)

1. Date: Wednesday, 30 November 2011

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 11.30 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador K. Abdrakhmanov

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

*Vienna Document 2011:* Germany (Annex 1), France (FSC.DEL/177/11 OSCE+), Spain (Annex 2), United Kingdom (Annex 3), Portugal, Austria (Annex 4), Italy (Annex 5), United States of America, Ireland (Annex 6), Netherlands (Annex 7), Greece (Annex 8), Russian Federation, Turkey, Belgium (Annex 9), Holy See, Armenia, Belarus (FSC.DEL/175/11 OSCE+), Czech Republic

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON REISSUING THE VIENNA DOCUMENT

Chairperson

**Decision:** The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 14/11 (FSC.DEC/14/11) on reissuing the Vienna Document, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Turkey (interpretative statement, see attachment 1 to the decision), Cyprus (interpretative statement, see attachment 2 to the decision), Greece (Annex 10), Chairperson

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Distribution of a corrigendum of the FSC Chairperson's progress report to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (MC.GAL/4/11/Corr.2):* Chairperson
- (b) *OSCE regional workshop on explosive hazards, held in Bishkek on 22 and 23 November 2011:* FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of conventional Ammunition (Hungary)
- (c) *Request by Moldova for technical and financial assistance to upgrade storage sites containing small arms and light weapons:* Moldova (FSC.DEL/176/11 OSCE+), FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of conventional Ammunition (Hungary)
- (d) *Organizational matters:* Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



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

FSC.JOUR/671  
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Annex 1

ENGLISH  
Original: GERMAN

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**665th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 671, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,

The German delegation thanks the Kazakh Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) for this special meeting on the Vienna Document. It also offers an excellent opportunity to take stock of the work we have done so far in adapting and modernizing the Vienna Document, and is a good opportunity to map out a route for after the Ministerial Council in Vilnius.

We recall first of all that the Astana Summit Declaration gave the FSC a clear mandate: “Conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes remain major instruments for ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency, and should be revitalized, updated and modernized”. We should ask ourselves whether we have already fulfilled this task set by our Heads of State or Government. In our view, 2011 has not set a particularly high standard in this respect. If we are optimistic we can say that the first steps have been taken towards a strategic adaptation that will make the Vienna Document relevant to the security challenges of the second decade of the twenty-first century. We hope that next year will see a new degree of engagement and understanding with respect to the Vienna Document, focused on enhanced transparency and predictability, and the security benefits that the participating States would achieve through the adoption of such measures.

In 2010 and 2011 the FSC agreed on a number of useful proposals, even though most of them are rather of a technical nature. Nevertheless the participating States have demonstrated in this way their will to engage in this process.

At this point, we should however like to come back to something mentioned by the European Union during the most recent reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council. We must step up our work.

We believe that we must truly “change up a gear”, on the basis of a fresh, concrete and meaningful tasking from our ministers. This is what we are currently negotiating. We should then look in greater depth at the work concerned with the continuous development of the structure and doctrine of the armed forces, the introduction of new technologies, tighter

and reduced military budgets and the need for a prompt and efficient use of the Vienna Document during military activities and in crisis situations.

We already have quite a few proposals on the agenda, such as lowering thresholds for the prior notification of military activities and formalizing the voluntary arrangements for notifications below the threshold, which is contained in the FSC Chair's 2005 statement on this issue. We have also seen proposals on risk reduction, which could enhance the Vienna Document's capacity to help ensure military stability, predictability and transparency.

These proposals remain important for the improvement of the Vienna Document. We should be in a position to develop and adopt them without any major difficulties. Regardless of our geographical location, adaptations of this kind offer a basis for long-term security. We should come to agreed positions on these proposals, and then move on to finding a way to reach consensus on more difficult questions as well. Just saying "no" should not be an option for discussions in the FSC on these issues. At the same time, we must also take cost-effectiveness aspects into consideration in the discussions.

We hope also that next year's Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting will bring further new ideas to the table. We should use the opportunity of that meeting for a lively and constructive exchange of views on the possibilities actually offered by our mandate for modernization.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, allow me to sincerely thank the Kazakh FSC Chairmanship and the previous Chairmanships for their committed efforts in this important endeavour. Our thanks go also to the Co-ordinator of the FSC Chairmanship for the Vienna Document, Mr. Pierre von Arx, whose extraordinary efforts have made a considerable contribution to this work.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.



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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN**

Mr. Chairperson,

Like the other delegations that have spoken before me, the delegation of the Kingdom of Spain wishes to express its gratitude to the Co-ordinator of the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation for the work done to date and also to the Kazakh Chairmanship of the Forum for the organization of this special meeting on the Vienna Document, which constitutes an excellent opportunity to evaluate the work we have done so far with regard to updating and modernizing that Document under the mandate given to the Forum in the Astana Commemorative Declaration.

Although the task assigned by our Heads of State or Government represented a major challenge, we have not given up our efforts to revitalize, update and modernize this important political instrument. It is true that in 2011 not all of the objectives set in the various proposals presented by the participating States have been achieved. But it is also true that 2011 is a year in which the first tentative steps have been taken towards a strategic updating of the Vienna Document.

In 2010 and throughout 2011 the Forum has agreed on a number of useful proposals, and although most of them are of a technical nature they nevertheless demonstrate the will of the participating States to develop this modernization process.

Mr. Chairperson,

Spain shares the views expressed by various delegations in the sense that we believe that we should change to a higher gear after the Ministerial Council in Vilnius. This delegation believes that we should then look in greater depth at work aimed at taking into account the constant changes in the structure and doctrine of the armed forces, the introduction of new technologies and the military budgets at a time of great financial challenges affecting the global economy.

We still have a number of proposals on our agenda such as the reduction of thresholds for prior notification of military activities, co-sponsored by Spain from the outset, and other

proposals that our country supports and that we believe will help to improve security and transparency among participating States once they are adopted.

We also hope that next year's Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) will serve to bring even more new ideas to the table for discussion. As previously mentioned, we must make the most of the opportunity that the AIAM will provide to ensure an intensive and positive exchange on the possibilities offered by our mandate to update the Vienna Document.

Lastly, we should like to thank the Kazakh Chairmanship of the Forum and its predecessors in 2010 and 2011 for their efforts in this important task.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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



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Original: ENGLISH

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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Mr. Chairperson,

The United Kingdom is very grateful to the Kazakh FSC Chairmanship for organizing this special meeting on the Vienna Document (VD). This is a good opportunity to assess the work we have done so far in updating and modernizing this Document as we were tasked to do by our Heads of State or Government at the Astana Summit. It is also an opportunity to set out a plan for our work beyond the 2011 Ministerial Council in Vilnius.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Astana Summit Declaration gave the FSC a clear mandate: “Conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes remain major instruments for ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency, and should be revitalized, updated and modernized”. We should take the opportunity provided by this special FSC meeting to ask ourselves whether we have truly fulfilled the task set us last December. In the UK’s view, our work in 2011 has not set a particularly high standard. With our glass half full, we can believe that it represents the first tentative steps towards a strategic update of the document that will make it relevant to the security challenges of the second decade of the twenty-first century. 2012 will, we hope, realize a new level of engagement and understanding in a Vienna Document, focussed on enhanced transparency and predictability, and the security benefits that would accrue to participating States through the adoption of such measures. In 2010 and 2011 the FSC agreed a number of useful proposals, though most of a technical nature that, nonetheless, demonstrated participating States’ willingness to engage in this process.

After Vilnius we believe that we should change up a gear, based on a fresh impetus and a meaningful tasking from our ministers. We should then look in more depth at work aimed at taking into consideration the changes in the structure and doctrine of the armed forces of the OSCE participating States, the introduction of new technology, the tighter budgets we are facing, and the need to improve the prompt and efficient use of the VD during military activities and in crisis situations.

There are still many proposals that we have not managed to agree, such as that on lowering thresholds for prior notification of military activities and that for formalizing the voluntary arrangements for below threshold notifications contained in the 2005 FSC Chair’s

statement on the issue. We have also seen proposals on risk reduction which could enhance the VD's capacity to help ensure military stability, predictability and transparency.

These proposals remain important for the overall improvement and updating of the Vienna Document. Regardless of our geographical location, the engagement and networking these changes entail act as cement for our long-term security. We should come to agreed positions on these proposals, and then move on to finding a way to agree the difficult items that would truly redefine Vienna Document as a suite of confidence- and security-building measures relevant to the second decade of the twenty-first century. Just saying "no" should not be an option for discussions in the FSC on these issues – regardless of what is happening in our capitals.

We hope also that next year's Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting will bring further new ideas to the table for discussion. We should grasp the opportunity that it will give us for a lively and positive exchange on the possibilities offered by our mandate to update the Vienna Document.

Lastly we would like to thank the Kazakh FSC Chairmanship and its predecessors in 2010 and 2011 for the effort invested in this important endeavour and to the Chair's co-ordinator Pierre von Arx for his efforts to move this work forward.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I should be grateful if you would attach this statement to the journal.





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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AUSTRIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the Kazakh FSC Chairmanship for its initiative to convene this special meeting today of the Forum for Security Co-operation on the Vienna Document on confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs). We have always regarded the Vienna Document (VD) as a vital instrument for CSBMs, transparency and stability in the politico-military dimension of the OSCE.

Austria welcomes the proposed decision today to update the document in the form of the Vienna Document 2011 as a first important step towards modernizing CSBMs and in this way strengthening one of the core areas of the OSCE.

I agree with other speakers that the clear mandate given to us in Astana by the Heads of State or Government to further develop and strengthen conventional arms control and CSBMs has not yet been effectively implemented.

In our delegation's view, however, the elaboration of the Vienna Document 2011 on the basis of the VD Plus decisions adopted in the last few years provides a solid basis for future work. We should like to express the hope that this will be the first step on the way towards far-reaching and more substantial improvements to the VD. For the near future there is no shortage of ideas in this regard or suggestions that have already been submitted. Some of the suggestions that we regard as particularly important refer to lowering the threshold values, voluntary notification of activities below the threshold, and risk-reduction measures.

We should like to thank all concerned, particularly the FSC Chairmanships and the FSC Chair's Co-ordinator Mr. Pierre von Arx, for their untiring efforts, which have made this success possible. I can assure you that Austria will continue to contribute actively to the modernization of the Vienna Document.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ITALY**

I should like to subscribe fully to the statements made by the previous speakers and reiterate Italy's hope that the work of updating the Vienna Document, which has still only been sketched out to date, will be given a new impetus in 2012 and the years ahead and will lead to a renewed and open spirit of co-operation among all the participating States.

Particular thanks go to the Kazakh Chairmanship for organizing today's meeting and to the Chairmanship's Special Co-ordinator, Mr. Pierre von Arx, for his commitment and the excellent co-operation that was established with the Italian Chairmanship of the Forum in the second four-month period of 2011.



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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF IRELAND**

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

I would like to congratulate the delegation of Kazakhstan for steering through this very important decision today. It is the culmination of over two years of work, and satisfies, in part, the mandate given to us by our ministers in Athens and by our Heads of State or Government in Astana.

The fact that this decision is possible when other initiatives in arms control are stalled is significant. That said, much work remains to be done to ensure that the Vienna Document can continue to make an important contribution to military stability, predictability and transparency in the OSCE area.

A number of valuable proposals remain on the table, including proposals to reduce thresholds, to enhance the risk reduction mechanism and to provide for below-threshold notifications of certain military activities. I call on all delegations to redouble their efforts to seek a way forward on these and other proposals before us.

We are also discussing in Working Group B an important decision for our ministers that aims to give clear guidance for the work of the FSC in 2012. It is essential that this decision includes a robust tasking to continue discussions to update the Vienna Document and I call on all delegations to continue to engage constructively in this process. As I have said on previous occasions “What is wrong with now” – we should strive to achieve what is possible in the short term and deal with the more problematic issues in the longer term.

Before I conclude, Mr. Chairperson, I wish to congratulate the Icelandic, Italian and Kazakh Chairmanships for maintaining the momentum on the Vienna Document this year. As incoming Chairmanship-in-Office, I also wish to assure all delegations, and in particular the incoming FSC Chairmanships of Kyrgyzstan, Latvia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, of our fullest support for the FSC’s activities next year, including its activities related to the updating of the Vienna Document.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, I wish to highlight and pay particular tribute to Dr. Pierre von Arx, whose contribution as the FSC Chair's Co-ordinator for the Vienna Document has been absolutely immense.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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Original: ENGLISH

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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE NETHERLANDS**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Also the Netherlands thanks the Kazakh Chairmanship for organizing this special meeting on the Vienna Document.

Special gratitude goes furthermore to our Swiss colleague Dr. Pierre von Arx for his tireless efforts to bring us and our texts closer together.

We fully share and support the statements made before in this meeting. Allow me to mention briefly, in this context, our food-for-thought paper on risk reduction mechanisms. Such development of Chapter III is important to us, as it is for many other delegations.

Apart from all the initiatives that are in front of us to improve the Vienna Document, a development we in general, independent of a national position, fully support, the Netherlands would like to bring the following to the attention of the meeting:

In the recent past the Netherlands voiced in various formal and informal settings growing concern on how to deal with shrinking resources. The reason for this signal has its roots in the ongoing financial crisis that is accompanied by deep cuts in budgets and personnel of many participating States. For the Netherlands cost-effectiveness should, for the OSCE in general and the FSC in particular, be one of the key aspects when considering any new proposals. Without taking this into consideration a situation could arise that many participating States after careful considerations might find it difficult to proceed with numerous resource intensive confidence- and security-building measures proposals that require capacity in any kind from the continued shrinking national resources.

We kindly request you to attach our statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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Original: ENGLISH

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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GREECE**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Many thanks to the Kazakh Chairmanship for having organized this meeting. We believe that the Vienna Document should be updated and modernized for reasons that have been repeatedly said by our delegation and underlined today by a number of colleagues. There are a number of proposals on the table. They remain important for the improvement of the Vienna Document. We hope that next year in the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting we will have fresh ideas for discussion. We should grasp this opportunity. Thank you once more.

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



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**665th Plenary Meeting**  
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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELGIUM**

Belgium would like to thank the Kazakh FSC Chairmanship for organizing this special meeting on the Vienna Document (VD). This is also an excellent opportunity to assess the work we have done so far with regard to updating and modernizing this Document. It is an opportunity to set out a plan for our work beyond the Ministerial Council in Vilnius.

The Astana Summit Declaration gave the FSC a clear mandate: “Conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes remain major instruments for ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency, and should be revitalized, updated and modernized”. We should ask ourselves whether we have fulfilled the task set us by our Heads of States or Government. 2011 has not set a high standard. Optimistically we can believe that it represents the first tentative steps towards a strategic update of the document that will make it relevant to the security challenges of the second decade of the twenty-first century. 2012 will, we hope, realize a new level of engagement and understanding in a Vienna Document, focused on enhanced transparency and predictability, and the security benefits that would accrue to participating States through the adoption of such measures.

In 2010 and 2011 the FSC agreed a number of useful proposals, though most of a technical nature that, nonetheless, demonstrated participating States’ willingness to engage in this process.

After Vilnius we believe that we should change up a gear, based on a fresh impetus and a meaningful tasking from our ministers. We should then look in more depth at work aimed at taking into consideration the constant changes in the structure and doctrine of the armed forces, the introduction of new technologies, the tendency of even tighter and more reduced military budgets also in future and the need to improve the prompt and efficient use of the VD during military activities and in crisis situations.

We still have a number of proposals on our agenda, such as that on lowering thresholds for prior notification of military activities and that for formalizing the voluntary arrangements for below threshold notifications contained in the 2005 FSC Chair’s statement on the issue. We have also seen proposals on risk reduction which could enhance the VD’s capacity to help ensure military stability, predictability and transparency.

These existing proposals remain important for the improvement of the Vienna Document that we should be able to elaborate and accept without difficulty. Regardless of our geographical location, the engagement and networking these changes entail act as cement for our long term security. We should come to agreed positions on these proposals, and then move on to finding a way to agree the difficult items. Just saying “no” should not be an option for discussions in the FSC.

At the same time, against the background of the ongoing financial crisis and accompanying deep cuts in budgets and personnel of the participating States, cost-effectiveness is one of the key aspects when considering any new proposals. Without taking this into consideration many participating States might find it difficult to proceed with numerous very valuable confidence- and security-building measures proposals.

We hope also that next year’s Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting will bring further new ideas to the table for discussion. We should grasp the opportunity that it will give us for a lively and positive exchange on the possibilities offered by our mandate to update the Vienna Document.

Lastly we would like to thank the Kazakh FSC Chairmanship and its predecessors in 2010 and 2011 for the effort invested in this important endeavour. Our gratitude also goes to the FSC Chair’s VD Co-ordinator, Dr. Pierre von Arx, whose devotion has contributed significantly to this work.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.





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Original: ENGLISH

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## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GREECE**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I wish to make a short comment regarding the interpretative statement made by the Turkish delegation on the demilitarized status of “specific territories”.

Greece would like to refer to its Verbal Note 28/52/AS 908//11.07.2011 and the related previous correspondence.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I am asking you to append this statement to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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FSC.DEC/14/11  
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Original: ENGLISH

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**665th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 671, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 14/11  
REISSUING THE VIENNA DOCUMENT**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Guided by the Astana Commemorative Declaration, which valued the work of the FSC and looked forward to the updating of the Vienna Document 1999, and by FSC Decision No. 1/10 establishing a procedure for incorporating relevant FSC decisions into the Vienna Document and its reissuing,

Decides to:

- Reissue the Vienna Document under the title “Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures” by incorporating in the Vienna Document 1999 VD PLUS decisions annexed to this decision;
- Replace the wording in the last paragraph of chapter XII “will come into force on 1 January 2000, unless specified otherwise” with “will come into force on 1 December 2011”.

## **LIST OF VD PLUS DECISIONS TO BE INCORPORATED IN THE VIENNA DOCUMENT 1999**

- Decision No. 10/10 “Taking national holidays into account when planning verification activities” of 27 October 2010
- Decision No. 11/10 “Timing of a demonstration of new types of major weapon and equipment systems” of 10 November 2010
- Decision No. 12/10 “Incorporating FSC Decision No. 1/10 into the Vienna Document Chapter XII” of 10 November 2010
- Decision No. 13/10 “Updating the listing of Partners for Co-operation mentioned in Chapter XII” of 10 November 2010
- Decision No. 15/10 “Eligibility of air bases for hosting visits” of 24 November 2010
- Decision No. 4/11 “Updating the list of OSCE participating States mentioned in the introduction” of 15 June 2011
- Decision No. 6/11 “Accuracy of co-ordinates of formations, combat units, air formations and air combat units” of 20 July 2011
- Decision No. 7/11 “Amendments and additions to Chapter IX ‘Compliance and Verification’ Paragraphs 98 and 127” of 27 July 2011
- Decision No. 10/11 “Updating the title and the introduction of the Vienna Document 1999” of 28 September 2011

FSC.DEC/14/11  
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Attachment 1

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Turkey:

“The Government of Turkey had placed a reservation concerning the representation of Cyprus at the CSCE Summit on 31 July 1975 (CSCE/III/1). The Government of Turkey has later reiterated this reservation at subsequent meetings, and in this regard on the occasion of the adoption of the Vienna Document 1999 has made an interpretative statement on the validity, applicability or binding effect of that Document as regards and in relation to Cyprus as recorded in FSC Journal No. 275 dated 16 November 1999. There is no change in the Turkish policy in these issues.

In the same interpretative statement the Government of Turkey stated that the Vienna Document is negotiated and adopted on the basis of the commitments undertaken in the Helsinki Final Act and the ten principles contained therein, among them the principle on the ‘Fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law’. Therefore, the implementation of the Vienna Document has to be carried out in full conformity with this principle, including respect for the relevant provisions of the international agreements and treaties regarding the demilitarized status of specific territories. Consequently, any notification or acts of implementation carried out under the provisions of the Vienna Document cannot in any way affect the demilitarized status of such territories as described in the relevant instruments as well as the international obligations related to this status arising from these international instruments. The Government of Turkey maintains the same policy on this issue as well.

Mr. Chairperson, I kindly request this statement to be attached to the journal of the day.”

FSC.DEC/14/11  
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Attachment 2

Original: ENGLISH

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Cyprus:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

I wish to make an interpretative statement in reply to the interpretative statement just made by the Turkish delegation:

‘Cyprus has no doubts about being a sovereign State, its sovereignty extending over the whole of Cyprus. No State or international organization has any doubts about Cyprus’ sovereignty, except the Republic of Turkey. The internationally recognized Republic of Cyprus is a member State of the United Nations, the European Union, the OSCE and a plethora of other international organizations.

The claim that the Republic of Cyprus does not represent Cyprus as a whole has been unequivocally, authoritatively and definitively rejected by the pre-eminent organ responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, the United Nations Security Council, in several of its mandatory resolutions.

Any documents and commitments adopted in the OSCE, including the FSC, are equally binding on and applicable to all participating States without exception, pursuant to relevant principles and procedures. There can be no effect or consequence as a result of the statement made by the delegation of Turkey here today, nor shall this statement preclude the applicability or implementation of the decision just adopted by this Forum, between the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Turkey.’

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”