



Chairmanship: Latvia

684th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 6 June 2012

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 12.10 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador G. Apals

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Forum, expressed condolences to Bulgaria with regard to an explosion at an ammunition depot in eastern Bulgaria on 5 June 2012. Bulgaria thanked the Chairperson for the expression of sympathy.

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

None

Agenda item 2: SECURITY DIALOGUE

(a) *Presentation on the democratic control over armed forces as an integral part of the OSCE Code of Conduct by Mr. E.-R. Beck (MdB), Member of the Defence Committee, German Bundestag:* Chairperson, Mr. E.-R. Beck (FSC.DEL/75/12), Ireland (Annex), Switzerland, Austria, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Canada

(b) *Presentation on missile defence and the European Phased Adaptive Approach by Mr. F. A. Rose, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Space and Defense Policy, U.S. Department of State:* Chairperson, Mr. F. A. Rose, Turkey, Romania, Spain, Austria, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Belarus, Poland

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Announcement of a financial contribution to the MONDEM programme: Montenegro, Turkey, FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary)*
- (b) *Matters of protocol: United States of America, Chairperson*
- (c) *Distribution of the monthly report of the Conflict Prevention Centre on major implementation activities (FSC.GAL/73/12/Corr.1): Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 13 June 2012, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



684th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 690, Agenda item 2(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF IRELAND

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Ireland would like to thank Mr. Ernst-Reinhard Beck, Member of the Defence Committee, German Bundestag, for his useful and comprehensive presentation concerning the democratic control over armed forces as an integral part of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. Ireland has been a strong supporter of the OSCE Code of Conduct and will continue to promote and enhance its implementation, including during the forthcoming annual discussion on its implementation on 11 July 2012 and other FSC security dialogue sessions.

In addition to the democratic control of armed forces, the OSCE Code of Conduct sets out the civil and parliamentary oversight over the security sector and the rights of armed service personnel. It is therefore perhaps appropriate that Ireland today informs the Forum for Security Co-operation that, in the context of our obligations under the OSCE's Code of Conduct on Politico Military Aspects of Security, in particular paragraphs 32 and 33 regarding fundamental freedoms of defence forces personnel, and their legal and administrative protection, the Annual Report for 2011 of the Ombudsman for the Irish Defence Forces was published on 21 May 2012. The Office of the Ombudsman serves as an office of last resort for members and former members of the defence forces who believe that they have been treated unfairly by the military authorities. Hard copies of the annual report will be distributed to every delegation, along with summaries which are available in a number of OSCE official languages. The report and summaries are also available on the website of the Office of the Ombudsman – www.odf.ie.

In relation to the UNSCR 1325, Ireland believes the issue of gender constitutes an integral part of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, provides additional voluntary information regarding the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and commits to expanding the scope of the annual information exchange on the Code of Conduct to include information on women, peace and security.

Ireland is confident that further security dialogue, seminars and workshops on the Code of Conduct, organized for OSCE participating States as well as for the Partners for

Co-operation, will contribute to increasing awareness, outreach and above all better implementation of the Code of Conduct. The outcomes of this month's seminar on the Code of Conduct in Riga are eagerly awaited as are further presentations on this important document.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.