

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR ANTTI TURUNEN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FINLAND
ON THE CLOSING OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE FORUM FOR
SECURITY CO-OPERATION IN 2008**

17 December 2008

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address you today as we conclude the third session of the Forum for Security Co-operation in 2008.

During the year it became apparent that the OSCE as a whole faces a *plethora* of challenges, also in the field of politico-military aspects of security.

The crisis in Georgia has been a challenge also for the arms control and confidence-building regimes upheld by the OSCE and the FSC. It is with particular pleasure I note that the Forum for Security Co-operation has been able to uphold and even, despite the current circumstances, reinforce the building blocks of our politico-military acquis. The Vienna Document 1999, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, and the Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) remain the basic normative documents of our Forum. In spite of the signal of the will of the participating States to continue to fully implement our common commitments, we should, however, keep in mind that commitments should be fulfilled at all times without exceptions.

We welcome the revitalization of the Forum's security dialogue, for the FSC is uniquely placed to debate all European security issues. The discussions under security dialogue on the armed conflict that took place in August 2008 in Georgia have been substantive and constructive. During the discussions we have been able to utilize the mandate and capacity of the FSC to further contribute in the OSCE efforts which aim at strengthening the ceasefire and supporting processes aimed at a peaceful settlement.

During 2008 the tradition of convening joint meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council continued. In our view this contributed to creating synergy between the decision-making bodies, enabling them to discuss cross-dimensional themes. These themes included Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel as well as the issue of cyber security, which was taken on the agenda of the OSCE and will be further discussed next year in order to define what would be the OSCE's contribution to this very topical issue.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Finland is deeply grateful for the assistance and cooperation demonstrated by all Delegations. I wish to warmly thank Estonia and France for excellent co-operation in the FSC Troika. We thank the Secretary General, Conflict Prevention Centre, especially the FSC Support Section, and Conference Services for their expertise and assistance during the autumn session. I should especially like to thank the Forum for Security Co-operation Coordinators for their tireless efforts. Particular appreciation goes to the interpreters, who have put in long hours during the autumn session.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Running a chairmanship, let alone two simultaneous Chairmanships, is a demanding task. It most certainly will be something Finland will remember and cherish for a long time. The time has come to pass the torch to the next in line. Finland does not hand over the baton with a heavy heart, but on the contrary, with the knowledge that the Forum will start a new working year in the steady and able hands of the French delegation. We continue to stand ready to cooperate with the FSC Troika, OSCE Troika and everyone around this table also in the future. Finland offers her support to the Greek OSCE Chairmanship in their very demanding task of leading the Organisation next year.

The time has also come to conclude this working year. I would personally and on the behalf of the Finnish FSC Chairmanship like to wish you and your families happy holidays and health and success for the future year.

Thank you.