

**Chairmanship: Czech Republic**

**931st PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 13 November 2019

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 11.35 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Šrámek  
Mr. D. Řezníček

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

*Situation in and around Ukraine*: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/240/19 OSCE+)  
(FSC.DEL/240/19/Add.1 OSCE+), Finland-European Union (with the candidate  
countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade  
Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic  
Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment)  
(FSC.DEL/241/19), Russian Federation, United States of America, Canada, United  
Kingdom, Romania

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE AGENDA AND MODALITIES OF THE  
THIRTIETH ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT  
MEETING

Chairperson

**Decision**: The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 6/19  
(FSC.DEC/6/19) on the agenda and modalities of the thirtieth Annual  
Implementation Assessment Meeting, the text of which is appended to this  
journal.

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Informal Meeting on Normative and Practical Aspects of OSCE Efforts in the  
Field of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional*

*Ammunition, to be held on 26 November 2019 (FSC.GAL/127/19):*  
Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Latvia) (Annex 1),  
FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary)

- (b) *Questionnaire on enhancing the assistance provided by the OSCE through projects on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, distributed on 4 November 2019: FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary)*
- (c) *Military exercise “Iron Wolf 2019-II”, being held in Lithuania from 4 to 18 November 2019: Lithuania*
- (d) *Response to the Russian Federation’s statement on the military exercise “Center-2019” delivered at the 929th plenary meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation on 30 October 2019: United Kingdom (Annex 2) (FSC.DEL/242/19), Belgium (FSC.DEL/239/19 OSCE+), Latvia, Russian Federation*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 20 November 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/937  
13 November 2019  
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

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**931st Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 937, Agenda item 3(a)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF  
FRIENDS ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND  
STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION (LATVIA)**

Dear colleagues,

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), I should like to inform you about the Informal Meeting on Normative and Practical Aspects of OSCE Efforts in the Field of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition that will be held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 26 November 2019, in the Bibliotheksaal of the Hofburg.

An invitation to this meeting was distributed to all delegations of OSCE participating States on 11 November 2019 (FSC.GAL/127/19).

The meeting will be chaired jointly by me as the Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW and SCA and by Colonel László Szatmári as the FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on SALW and SCA.

The aim of the meeting is to discuss: (a) the perception paper prepared by the FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on SALW and SCA on the informal meeting on “Lessons learned from the project life cycle under the OSCE practical assistance mechanism in the field of SALW/SCA” held in Vienna on 8 October; and (b) my food-for-thought paper on the process for reviewing and updating the OSCE Best Practice Guides on SALW and conventional ammunition. Both papers will be distributed to the delegations of OSCE participating States not later than 19 November 2019.

All interested members of the delegations of OSCE participating States are cordially invited to attend this meeting.

Thank you very much for your attention.



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**931st Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 937, Agenda item 3(d)

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

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to reply to my Russian colleague's allegation, made at the FSC on 30 October, that the United Kingdom did not fulfil its Vienna Document obligations during the exercise "Joint Warrior 17".

The Russian allegation, as with many we hear in this Forum, was untrue. The exercise "Joint Warrior 17" was largely a maritime and air exercise, and fell below notification thresholds. However, in the interests of military transparency and risk reduction the United Kingdom notified the exercise on a voluntary basis via an F30 message (CBM/GB/16/0048/F30/O).

This was expanded on in an F25 message (CBM/GB/17/0003/F25/O), which went into considerable detail with regard to the disposition of participating forces during the phases of the exercise, which was held from 20 March to 5 April 2017.

As per the F25 message, Phase 3 training locations were as follows: the 16th Anti-Aircraft Brigade will conduct brigade defensive and offensive operations, including an aviation strike in Stanford Training Area (southeast England) and then a joint personnel recovery at RAF Spadeadam (north England); the 29th Commando Regiment of the Royal Artillery, including US and Swedish participants, will continue to deploy to Cape Wrath and conduct live and dry joint fire training.

The Russian Federation inspection team planned to visit on 4 and 5 April 2017, to coincide with Phase 3 of the exercise. They created a specified area for inspection from the information provided by the United Kingdom in the F message. All delegates will be aware that it is incumbent upon the inspecting State to designate the specified area for inspection in accordance with paragraphs 80 and 85 of the Vienna Document. However, the inspection team designated an area in which no exercise activity was taking place. The Russian Federation inspection team intended to observe the 16th Air Assault Brigade parachute drop at Stanford Training Area. The map you can now see shows the relevant areas. This error was pointed out to the Russian senior inspecting officer, and an offer was made to take the inspection team to observe the parachute insertion outside the specified area. This offer clearly went beyond our obligations under the Vienna Document; it was made in good faith

and in the interests of transparency. Regrettably, the offer was turned down by the inspection team.

I respectfully ask my Russian colleagues to revisit this issue and check their facts. When they find that what I have just stated is indeed the true narrative of what took place, I would ask them to return to the FSC and withdraw their allegation that the United Kingdom did not fulfil its CONAC (conventional arms control) implementation obligations in respect of “Joint Warrior 17”.

Thank you for your attention. Please attach this statement to the journal of the day.

**931st Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 937, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 6/19  
AGENDA AND MODALITIES OF THE THIRTIETH  
ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT MEETING**

3 and 4 March 2020

*Vienna Document:*

- (148) *The participating States will hold each year a meeting to discuss the present and future implementation of agreed CSBMs. Discussion may extend to:*
- (148.1) – *Clarification of questions arising from such implementation;*
  - (148.2) – *Operation of agreed measures, including the use of additional equipment during inspections and evaluation visits;*
  - (148.3) – *Implications of all information originating from the implementation of any agreed measures for the process of confidence- and security-building in the framework of the OSCE.*
- (149) *Before the conclusion of each year's meeting the participating States will normally agree upon the agenda and dates for the subsequent year's meeting. Lack of agreement will not constitute sufficient reason to extend a meeting, unless otherwise agreed. Agenda and dates may, if necessary, be agreed between meetings.*
- (150) *The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) will hold such meetings. It will consider, as required, suggestions made during the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) aiming at the improvement of the implementation of CSBMs.*
- (150.4) *Participating States which, for whatever reason, have not exchanged annual information according to this document and have not provided an explanation under the FSC announcing and reminding mechanism, will during the meeting explain the reasons why and provide an expected date for their full compliance with this commitment.*

## I. Agenda and indicative timetable

**Tuesday, 3 March 2020**

- 10–11 a.m.            Opening session
- Opening of the Meeting by the Chairperson
  - Remarks by the Chairperson of the FSC
  - Presentation of a summary report and of the report on the Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres by the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC)
  - General statements
- 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.    Working session 1: Implementation of the Global Exchange of Military Information (GEMI) and the Vienna Document, Introduction and Chapters I to III: Clarifications, assessments and conclusions
- GEMI
  - Vienna Document
    - Introduction
    - Annual exchange of military information
      - (i)      Information on military forces
      - (ii)     Data relating to major weapon and equipment systems
      - (iii)    Information on plans for the deployment of major weapon and equipment systems
    - Defence planning
      - (i)      Exchange of information
      - (ii)     Clarification, review and dialogue
    - Risk reduction
      - (i)      Mechanism for consultation and co-operation as regards unusual military activities
      - (ii)     Co-operation as regards hazardous incidents of a military nature
      - (iii)    Voluntary hosting of visits to dispel concerns about military activities
- 1–3 p.m.              Lunch break

- 3–6 p.m. Working session 1 continued if necessary
- Working session 2: Implementation of the Vienna Document, Chapters IV to XII: Clarifications, assessments and conclusions
- Contacts
    - (i) Visits to air bases
    - (ii) Programme of military contacts and co-operation
    - (iii) Military contacts, military co-operation
    - (iv) Demonstration of new types of major weapon and equipment systems
    - (v) Provision of information on contacts
  - Military activities
    - (i) Prior notification of certain military activities
    - (ii) Observation of certain military activities
    - (iii) Annual calendars
    - (iv) Constraining provisions
  - Compliance and verification
    - (i) Inspection
    - (ii) Evaluation
  - Regional measures
  - Communications Network

**Wednesday, 4 March 2020**

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Working session 2 continued if necessary
- Working session 3: Suggestions aiming at improvement of the implementation of CSBMs
- 1–3 p.m. Lunch break
- 3–4 p.m. Working session 3 continued
- 4.30–5.30 p.m. Closing session
- Discussion
  - Possible recommendations on the dates and the agenda and modalities of the 2021 AIAM
  - Concluding remarks
  - Closure



## II. Organizational modalities

1. The AIAM will last two days and will have opening and closing sessions and working sessions dealing with the topics contained in the agenda (Part I, above). The indicative timetable provides greater detail.
2. The organizational meeting of chairpersons, co-ordinators, rapporteurs, and the CPC is scheduled to be held on Monday, 2 March 2020, at 3 p.m. The working hours of the AIAM will be on the first day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m., and on the second day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 5.30 p.m.
3. Interpretation into the official languages of the OSCE will be provided at all sessions of the AIAM.
4. The sessions will be chaired by representatives of the participating States, in rotation, in accordance with French alphabetical order, following on from the chairing of the closing plenary meeting of the 2019 AIAM by Luxembourg. The chair of the opening session and working sessions will be held by Malta. The chair of the closing session will be held by Moldova.
5. Debates in the working sessions will be oriented towards problems and solutions and there will be no formal statements. Any national statements for the opening session should be presented in written form only and are to be distributed in advance. The working sessions are designed to be informal meetings of national experts with the objectives of answering questions, exchanging information and allowing for constructive debate between participating States. Delegations are strongly encouraged to provide detailed presentations and concrete examples of their own implementation experiences. Delegations are welcome to distribute written contributions prior to the Meeting, both on agenda items and on related matters for possible discussion. All delegations are strongly encouraged to provide national experts to participate in the AIAM.
6. To serve as a basis for preparatory work by delegations and co-ordinators, the CPC will circulate the following no later than 31 January 2020:
  - The revised Annual Survey on CSBM Information Exchanged and the AIAM Survey of Suggestions 2019;
  - A summary report on recent trends in the implementation of the Vienna Document and other measures;
  - A summary report on the Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres.
7. Each working session will have one designated co-ordinator and one rapporteur throughout. The task of the co-ordinators will be to facilitate and follow the discussion, while the immediate task of the rapporteurs will be to present brief written summary reports for use by the Chairperson of the closing session.
8. The co-ordinators will circulate a list of topics and questions designed to facilitate discussion in their working sessions no later than 14 February 2020. They will be supported by the CPC in this regard. They will ensure that all relevant areas are addressed. The

co-ordinators are also encouraged to focus discussions on suggestions that might be supported by the delegations.

9. Delegations that have volunteers to act as co-ordinators and/or rapporteurs for the working sessions should provide the names of the individuals to the Chairperson of the FSC as soon as possible, but no later than 3 February 2020. The names of the co-ordinators and rapporteurs for all the working sessions will be made known to all delegations no later than 4 February 2020.

10. At the first FSC plenary meeting following the AIAM, the Chairperson of the closing session will report to the FSC on the AIAM. Within one month after the AIAM, the Chairperson will provide the consolidated summary containing the Chairperson's statements and the presentations in the opening session, the reports of the rapporteurs of the working sessions and the Chairperson's closing remarks. Prior to publication, the rapporteurs are encouraged to circulate their draft reports to the delegations of those participating States that contributed to the relevant working session. Within a month after the AIAM, the CPC will circulate a written report on suggestions made during the Meeting aimed at improving the implementation of CSBMs.

11. In order to ensure the most productive discussion in the FSC when the participating States consider, as required, suggestions for improvement of the implementation of CSBMs made during the Meeting, the approach recommended is for delegations to bring forward suggestions or topics of interest by means of food-for-thought papers. Discussions on initial papers could lead to further work in the FSC.

12. Before the conclusion of the 2020 AIAM, the participating States are encouraged to consider recommendations for the agenda and dates for the 2021 AIAM. The agenda, modalities and dates of the 2021 AIAM should be adopted by a decision in the FSC before the end of 2020.

13. The Partners for Co-operation and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly are invited to attend all sessions of the 2020 AIAM.