

964th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 970, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 8/20
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES FOR
THE OSCE HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY DOCTRINE SEMINAR**

(Vienna and/or via Zoom, 9 and 10 February 2021)

The OSCE will hold a High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar (HLMDS) in Vienna on 9 and 10 February 2021, the eighth of its kind within the OSCE, to discuss doctrinal changes and their impact on defence structures in the light of the present European security situation.

This Seminar will be held in accordance with FSC Decision No. 6/20 (FSC.DEC/6/20) dated 4 November 2020. Such seminars are encouraged in the Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures by fostering the process of transparency, openness, and predictability.

I. Agenda and timetable

Tuesday, 9 February 2021

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| 10–11 a.m. | Opening session |
| | – Opening remarks |
| | – Keynote speeches |
| 11 a.m.–1 p.m. | Session 1: Security situation in the OSCE area and operational trends (with coffee break) |
| | – Introduction by session moderator |
| | – Kick-off speaker(s) |
| | – Review of intersessional process |
| | – Overview of strategic and operational trends |
| | – Brief introductions by panellists |

- Discussions with panel and participants from the floor
- Moderator’s closing remarks
- 1–3 p.m. Lunch
- 3–4.15 p.m. Session 2: Conventional deterrence panel
 - Introduction by session moderator
 - Kick-off speaker(s)
 - Assess participating States’ views on the role combat-credible military has in deterring armed conflict
 - Brief introductions by panellists
 - Discussions with panel and participants from the floor
 - Moderator’s closing remarks
- 4.15–4.30 p.m. Coffee/tea break
- 4.30 p.m.–6 p.m. Session 3: Competition panel
 - Introduction by session moderator
 - Kick-off speaker(s)
 - Discuss the re-emergence of long-term strategic competition among States and its impact on military doctrines to include competition below the threshold of armed conflict
 - Brief introductions by panellists
 - Discussions with panel and participants from the floor
 - Moderator’s closing remarks

Wednesday, 10 February 2021

- 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Session 4: Co-operation panel
 - Introduction by session moderator
 - Kick-off speaker(s)
 - Within the context of increasing security challenges, how can doctrine address the need for co-operation among States?

- Brief introductions by panellists
 - Discussions with panel and participants from the floor
 - Moderator’s closing remarks
- 1–3 p.m. Lunch
- 3–4.15 p.m. Session 5: Crisis response panel
- Introduction by session moderator
 - Kick-off speaker(s)
 - Highlight the need for military forces to support civilian authorities during crisis response and how the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic is shaping doctrine development
 - Brief introductions by panellists
 - Discussions with panel and participants from the floor
 - Moderator’s closing remarks
- 4.15–4.30 p.m. Coffee/tea break
- 4.30–5 p.m. Closing session: Concluding remarks
- Conclusion and topics identified for further discussion or possible OSCE engagement
 - Concluding remarks by FSC Chairperson

II. Organizational modalities

Preparation for the Seminar

Chiefs of defence/general staff or other senior officials and relevant academics from participating States will be invited to attend the Seminar. Following appropriate consultations, the FSC Chairperson will invite relevant international organizations, institutions and personalities. The Partners for Co-operation will be invited to attend the Seminar.

The FSC Chairperson will nominate a moderator and rapporteurs for each session. The FSC Chairperson will also select keynote speakers and panellists for each session from among the names proposed by participating States.

The deadline for online registrations will be 5 February 2021.

The incoming FSC Chairperson will announce on 17 December 2020 whether the meeting will be held in a virtual or blended (1+2 at minimum) format.

Keynote speakers will be requested to submit their presentation for circulation to delegations no later than Monday, 1 February 2021.

A final preparatory meeting will be organized on 8 February 2021 (possibly via Zoom) between the FSC Troika, moderators, keynote speakers, rapporteurs and panellists to discuss in detail the conduct of the Seminar and how to best to manage it to achieve the desired results.

The Secretariat, in accordance with its departmental responsibilities, will support the FSC Chairperson in administrative and budgetary preparations for the Seminar.

A welcome reception and/or dinner might be organized by the OSCE/FSC Chairmanship, depending on the seminar's conduct modalities blended or fully virtual.

Other necessary organizational arrangements will be dealt with by Working Group A of the FSC.

Conduct of the Seminar

Due to the exceptional circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 situation, the Seminar will be held remotely via Zoom/in a blended format.

A key objective of the Seminar is to have interactive dialogue inspired by the keynote speakers and panellists. Therefore, delegations are encouraged not to read out prepared general statements during the Seminar.

Each working session will be introduced by the session moderator, followed by presentations by up to three kick-off speakers (up to fifteen minutes each), after which discussions will take place. The debate will be stimulated by appropriate interventions from up to four panellists per session (up to five minutes each). Interventions from the floor will be very welcome and should be limited to a maximum of three minutes per speaker. If a delegation (participating via Zoom) wishes to make an impromptu intervention, it can use the chat function to request to take the floor. In order to ensure the effective conduct of the Seminar, the moderator of each session will facilitate and focus the discussions and stimulate an interactive debate by introducing questions related to the topics dealt with by that session or by reordering the sequence of interventions. The moderator is also responsible for ensuring equal access to the floor and for providing all participants with the opportunity to intervene within the established time frame of the session. During each session, the moderator may adjust time limits depending on the number of requests for the floor and the time available. Speakers who exceed the time limits will be notified by the moderator.

Prior to the closing session of the Seminar, each rapporteur, after appropriate consultation with the relevant session moderator, will submit a bulleted briefing to the FSC Chairperson covering the issues addressed during their respective working sessions.

On the basis of the reports provided by the rapporteurs for each of the five sessions, the FSC Chairperson will present a summary report of the discussions (after the completion of the Seminar) that will be brought to the attention of the FSC.

Interpretation will be provided between the official languages of the OSCE.

Rooms for informal meetings will be provided in form of breakout rooms via Zoom.

Other OSCE rules of procedure and working methods will, *mutatis mutandis*, be applied to the Seminar. The guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (PC.DEC/762) will be taken into account and participants are strongly encouraged to read the procedural and technical guidelines for remote meetings (SEC.GAL/45/20) and the addendum on naming conventions (SEC.GAL/45/20/Add.1/Rev.1).