

Azerbaijani Chairmanship

440th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 19 January 2005

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 11.55 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. P. Shahbazov

3. Subjects discussed — Statements — Decisions:

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

None

Agenda item 2: OPENING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FSC

Chairperson (FSC.DEL/9/05 Restr.), Luxembourg-European Union (with the candidate countries Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey in alignment) (FSC.DEL/7/05), Germany (Annex), France, Belarus, Switzerland (FSC.DEL/5/05 Restr.), Turkey (FSC.DEL/8/05 Restr.), Slovenia, Armenia, Poland, Ukraine (also on behalf of Georgia and Moldova), Ukraine, Russian Federation (FSC.DEL/6/05 OSCE+), Austria, United States of America

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Matters of protocol*: Belarus, Chairperson

(b) *Annual Survey on CSBM Information Exchanged in 2004*: Conflict Prevention Centre

- (c) *Report on the OSCE Assessment Visit on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) to Belarus held from 7 to 17 December 2004: Conflict Prevention Centre*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 26 January 2005, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



440th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 446, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, my congratulations go to Azerbaijan on assuming the chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). I should also like to extend an equally warm welcome to Belarus as the new member of the Troika. I should like to thank the Austrian delegation for its energetic and ambitious chairmanship during the last session.

In view of our many years of experience, we know that following the Ministerial Council meeting of the previous year it is the responsibility of the FSC chairmanship in the first session of the new year to take up and implement as quickly as possible the guidelines issued at the Ministerial Council. This is a great challenge for each new chairmanship. I should like to assure Azerbaijan in its capacity as the new chairman that my delegation offers its full support in this responsible undertaking and wishes you every success.

Looking back at what was achieved in 2004 gives us every reason to be satisfied. The four Ministerial Council decisions on the subjects of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition are clear steps in the right direction. At the same time, they also oblige us not to let up in our efforts. The implementation of these decisions must now be a priority for the FSC. The same applies to the other FSC decisions adopted last year — I mention by way of an example the decision regarding the modified exchange of information on landmines and explosive remnants of war.

The FSC is thus dealing with the double task assigned to it by the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century: on one hand to take responsibility for the complete implementation of the existing politico-military *acquis* and, on the other hand, to adapt existing instruments and to develop new arms-control agreements, confidence-building measures or other suitable instruments where necessary.

This task remains unchanged in the new year.

In that connection, I should like to express my hope that in the next few days a decision can be adopted regarding the high-level Seminar on Military Doctrines envisaged for May 2005. I am convinced that this seminar — 30 years after the signing of the Helsinki Final Act — can provide an opportunity to take stock and to impart a fresh impetus to the work of the FSC. In this way, an important matter of general concern can be dealt with.

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