

**Chairmanship: Azerbaijan**

**997th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 19 January 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 11 a.m.

Closed: 12.55 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Sadigbayli

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

Agenda item 1: OPENING SESSION: OPENING STATEMENT BY  
H.E. MR. JEYHUN BAYRAMOV, MINISTER OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Chairperson, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan (Annex 1), Secretary General (SEC.GAL/8/22 OSCE+), France-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/6/22), United States of America (Annex 2), Switzerland (FSC.DEL/10/22 OSCE+), Turkey (FSC.DEL/8/22 OSCE+), Canada, Belarus (FSC.DEL/9/22 OSCE+), United Kingdom, Poland, Georgia (FSC.DEL/7/22 OSCE+), Ukraine (FSC.DEL/5/22), Finland, Russian Federation (Annex 3), Armenia (Annex 4), OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 26 January 2022, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

FSC.JOUR/1003  
19 January 2022  
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

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**997th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1003, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished ambassadors,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to inaugurate the Chairmanship of Azerbaijan in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) in the first trimester of 2022 and present our Chairmanship programme. Hopefully, this programme will provide effective guidance to the discussions among the participating States in this Forum in the next four months.

Let me thank our predecessor, Austria, for its leadership and competent FSC Chairmanship in the past trimester. I welcome Belarus to the FSC Troika.

Azerbaijan took the helm of the FSC for the first time in 17 years. Since we last chaired the Forum in 2005, a number of developments, including in the politico-military domain, have taken place, complicating the overall security environment in the OSCE area. It became characterized more and more by distrust and lack of confidence rather than co-operation as it was envisioned. Rivalry among politico-military blocs continued to grow and manifest itself detrimentally on the work within the OSCE. These developments put at risk the indivisibility of security underpinned in fundamental OSCE documents. The pursuance of comprehensive and co-operative security – a unique asset of our Organization – has been challenged.

What has not changed, however, is the basis for our co-operation both within the OSCE as a whole and the FSC in particular. That is unconditional respect for the fundamental norms, principles and commitments enshrined in the core OSCE documents, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, in particular, respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of States.

The outlook and approach of Azerbaijan on the co-operation within the OSCE, including on the topics covered by the FSC, has been largely shaped by our experience in the last nearly three decades. As a result of blatant violations of the core principles of inter-State conduct, our sovereignty, territorial integrity and internationally recognized borders were undermined, before being restored in the autumn of 2020. Thus, we are of the strong view that violations of foundational OSCE principles and commitments pose the most adverse

threats and challenges to the overall security environment in the OSCE area and jeopardize the very foundation for our co-operation. Azerbaijan remains unwavering in its unequivocal support to these principles and proceeds from an understanding that it should be our common highest endeavour to uphold these principles and ensure strict compliance with them whenever they are threatened or challenged.

The FSC, as the main body of the Organization focusing on the politico-military dimension, is no exception in this regard. The FSC is an important pillar of the overall OSCE structure comprised of a set of politico-military commitments and instruments, which do not exist in a vacuum, but rather reflect a broader politico-military context. The implementation of politico-military commitments in good faith could substantially contribute to peace, security and stability in the OSCE area only if accompanied by unconditional respect for the fundamental principles and commitments that our Organization is built upon.

Thus, our major task and cross-cutting priority during the FSC Chairmanship will be to uphold and strengthen compliance with fundamental OSCE principles along with enhancing implementation in good faith of politico-military commitments. We are deeply convinced that only such an approach by participating States could restore trust and confidence among them, reinvigorate the application of politico-military instruments, enhance predictability and transparency, avoid threat multiplication effects and the aggravation of threat perceptions, and by so doing underpin peace and stability in the OSCE area.

In our Chairmanship agenda we aimed to strike a balance between established and relatively new topics within the FSC, which address a spectrum of issues of high importance and relevance to the Organization. To this end, we included in our Chairmanship programme the following Security Dialogues.

We will start next week with a Security Dialogue on compliance with international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians. Despite a solid framework of legally binding rules, civilians continue to suffer as a result of violations of the provisions of international humanitarian law related to the protection of civilians. We aim to use this Security Dialogue as an opportunity to promote and strengthen the commitment of States to ensure compliance with obligations under international humanitarian law and related OSCE commitments, as well as to dwell on the importance of accountability for their violations.

Azerbaijan will keep high on its Chairmanship agenda the issue of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SALW and SCA), one of the core FSC topics. We regard our FSC Chairmanship as an opportunity to further contribute to the full and effective implementation of these commitments by participating States. With this in mind, we will dedicate two Security Dialogues to different aspects of SALW and SCA. One will cover the topic in general, focusing on the implementation of relevant OSCE commitments and lessons learned. The other Security Dialogue will focus on the issue of mine action.

The OSCE participating States have undertaken a number of commitments on SALW and conventional ammunition, including in the area of mine action. The practical assistance mechanism is of particular value in this regard, as it can play an essential role in addressing the negative repercussions of SALW and SCA-related threats on security and stability, as

well as on the safety of populations in participating States. Implementation of assistance projects could produce effective practical results and have the soonest positive impact. Thus, it should be our collective resolve to ensure that the SALW and SCA commitments on the practical assistance mechanism are being implemented in an impartial and depoliticized manner. Speaking from the perspective of the OSCE's comprehensive and cross-dimensional concept of security, the realization of practical assistance projects is also of primary importance for the implementation of our commitments in other dimensions of security, such as facilitating the return of internally displaced persons to their homes in safety and in dignity.

Being a non-aligned OSCE participating State, Azerbaijan has always regarded the OSCE as a major pillar of the pan-European security architecture and valued the Organization's role as indispensable for the realization of the vision for Europe without dividing lines and zones of influence. Amidst the continuing erosion of multilateralism and growing rivalry among politico-military blocs, the indivisibility of security underpinned in fundamental OSCE documents needs to be upheld. Thus, one of our Security Dialogues will be dedicated to the place and role of countries that do not belong to any politico-military alliance in the European security architecture, as well as their approach and experience in contributing to security and stability in the OSCE area.

The next Security Dialogue will be devoted to countering terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Based on its unique comprehensive concept of security, the OSCE is well suited to combating and preventing terrorism through a holistic approach, including addressing the financing of terrorism, the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, as well as the linkages between terrorism, separatism and violent extremism, organized crime, corruption, money laundering and other illicit activities. The OSCE participating States have undertaken a number of wide-ranging commitments in this field, starting from the 2001 Bucharest Plan of Action, which remains a founding and guiding document of the OSCE in the area of counter-terrorism. Identifying and addressing the structural root causes of terrorism and the triggers for increased radicalization in the OSCE area is essential. Of no less importance is the strengthening of the cohesion of our societies and promotion of education, inclusive societies and peaceful coexistence, religious tolerance and mutual understanding, intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

Gender equality, the equal and balanced participation of women in social and public life, is among the priorities of our government's policies. In the same vein, Azerbaijan considers the advancement of women as an important element of the maintenance of international peace and security, and continues to be a proponent of a cross-dimensional approach on the women, peace and security agenda. With this in mind, together with the Polish Chairmanship, we will organize a joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325. It is important to use this opportunity to contribute to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and follow-up resolutions in all their aspects.

Our next Security Dialogue will cover the issue of conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs). Based on its experience, Azerbaijan is well aware of the threats and challenges existing in this sphere. In the past nearly three decades, we witnessed the deliberate disregard and evasion of all applicable arms control and CSBM regimes. Proceeding from this experience, we are convinced that the implementation

of arms control and CSBM commitments under existing regimes both in letter and spirit could indeed provide a significant contribution to peace, security and stability in the OSCE area. At the same time, the primary purpose of these regimes should be to sustain peace and stability, giving effect and expression to our shared foundational principles and commitments laid down first and foremost in the Helsinki Final Act. Only such an approach could yield the intended outcomes.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished ambassadors,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

The start and a large part of my address today dwelled upon the threats and challenges that we face. I wish to conclude on a more positive note, underlining our final Security Dialogue, which will be dedicated to post-conflict rehabilitation and will draw on lessons in the OSCE area. The OSCE's conflict cycle toolbox provides a basis for the Organization's engagement in post-conflict rehabilitation activities in a broad and comprehensive manner, extending, *inter alia*, to the politico-military aspects of security. Participating States adopted a number of commitments reflecting their will to develop relevant capabilities with a view to contribute to long-term and sustainable post-conflict rehabilitation. Some of the elements of post-conflict rehabilitation resonate directly with the work of the FSC, such as assistance in the demilitarization, destruction and disposal of SALW and conventional ammunition, including demining. The Organization has gained experience in post-conflict rehabilitation since the early 1990s and there is a necessity to further develop and ensure the discharge of the OSCE's capabilities at this phase of the conflict cycle tailored to the specific needs of each post-conflict situation. Thus, amidst the current threats and challenges to our security and stability, it is high time to engage in meaningful and frank discussions drawing on the experience across the OSCE area in order to contribute to its peaceful future.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that during our Chairmanship we are looking forward to working together with other participating States with a view of promoting and enhancing the implementation of our shared politico-military commitments, while ensuring respect for the foundational principles that our Organization rests on. Let me express our readiness to co-operate with the Polish OSCE Chairmanship as well as the members of the FSC Troika – Austria and Belarus – in our endeavour to strengthen the work of the FSC and provide a contribution to military security and stability in the OSCE.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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**997th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 1003, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Mr. Chairperson,

The United States warmly welcomes Foreign Minister Bayramov on the occasion of Azerbaijan assuming the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) Chairmanship. Since this is my first appearance in this Forum, I would like to acknowledge the history and contributions of the FSC to comprehensive security in the OSCE area. The 1992 Helsinki Summit Declaration envisaged the FSC as a negotiating and consultative body on politico-military issues that would build trust and reduce the risk of conflict in the OSCE area. The FSC was mandated to convene “Goal-oriented dialogues and consultations aimed at enhancing security co-operation, including through the further encouragement of responsive and co-operative norms of behaviour on politico-military aspects of security.”

Thirty years later as the FSC prepares to mark its 1,000th session this February, we’re facing one of the most acute crises in European security in the post-Cold-War era. After invading and occupying Georgia in 2008 and invading and occupying Ukrainian territory in 2014, Russia is massing roughly 100,000 troops on the Ukrainian border today, and the numbers of these strike forces are increasing. We are potentially on the brink of both a security crisis and a humanitarian catastrophe. That is why, difficult as it might be to find a way forward, the United States is absolutely committed to pursuing a dialogue to build confidence and reduce the risk of conflict.

The United States fully endorses the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office’s call in the Permanent Council last week for a reinvigorated dialogue on European security. The OSCE is the most inclusive venue for discussing concerns about conventional military forces and for enhancing military transparency, deconfliction and confidence-building. These are areas in which the FSC has made indelible and important contributions for three decades now, including through its development of the Vienna Document, and a reinvigorated European Security Dialogue will rely heavily on the expertise that resides in this Forum.

The United States continues to hope that Russia will choose the path of diplomacy and de-escalation and that it will pull back its forces from Ukraine and sit down at this table where all 57 participating States have an equal voice to discuss how to enhance European security. We must give diplomacy a chance.

Diplomacy has the best chance of success in a climate of de-escalation, including of military forces, of rhetoric, and of activities below the threshold of the use of force, including those directed at destabilizing Ukraine and other participating States.

Mr. Chairperson, the Ukraine conflict will continue to be a key focus in weekly discussions in the FSC, as it is in the Permanent Council. We welcome Azerbaijan's FSC programme of work and look forward to forthcoming security dialogues on core topics. Some of the security dialogues, for example, on the role of non-aligned countries in the European security architecture and on arms control confidence- and security-building measures would help inform the broader European Security Dialogue. Our verification agency and policy experts will contribute to the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting for the Vienna Document.

We strongly support OSCE commitments on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SALW and SCA) that will be the subject of the 1,000th FSC plenary, and we are the leading donor to OSCE projects in this field as well as to humanitarian demining worldwide. Since 1993, the United States has provided 489 million US dollars for conventional weapons destruction initiatives throughout the OSCE area, which has helped secure and safely dispose of at-risk conventional arms and munitions in 16 OSCE participating States. The FSC's depoliticized work on SALW and SCA has contributed to the security of the OSCE area for decades. Security dialogues on international humanitarian law, terrorism and post-conflict rehabilitation should be geared toward enhancing security co-operation in accordance with the FSC's mandate.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, we look forward to the joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, which is a cross-cutting issue since the full, equal and meaningful participation of women is integral to our work in this Forum and the OSCE as a whole.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson and again congratulations. We ask that you please attach this statement to the journal of the day.





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

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**997th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1003, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Ambassador Sadigbayli,

Please accept our warmest congratulations on the start of Azerbaijan's Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We welcome His Excellency Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and thank him for having presented the FSC work programme for the first trimester of 2022.

The latest round of negotiations in the Forum is beginning against the backdrop of growing turbulence in geopolitical processes. Contrary to fundamental OSCE principles, there continue to be attempts to use force to impose one's interests and to strengthen one's own security at the expense of the security of others. The situation in Europe is not becoming more stable, with the continent's main problems stemming from the doctrines of the United States of America and NATO on military "containment" of Russia. Demonstrative training in missile strikes against Russian targets by the Alliance's strategic bombers, regular offensive operation exercises on the Russia-NATO line of contact, "grinding up" the lands bordering on Russia to suit the Alliance's needs, coupled with the propaganda campaign unleashed by the Western media against our country, are fuelling a "game of nerves" and making a new spiral of escalation more likely. It cannot go on like this.

Diplomatic efforts are about finding solutions that are based on a balance of interests, their mutual recognition and respect. This is why, at the end of last year, the Russian side presented draft treaties with the United States and NATO on security guarantees, the substance of which was laid out in detail during talks in Geneva and Brussels and at the OSCE Permanent Council meeting in Vienna. I assume that those present in this room are familiar with their content. We expect a detailed response in writing to our proposals within a very short time. Once that response has been carefully studied in Moscow, among other things, we will know whether the FSC can be incorporated into the work on these security guarantees. I will come back to this at a later stage.

Mr. Chairperson,

The quality of pan-European security depends on the ability of States to join forces against common threats across formal dividing lines. In this regard, we set great store by the Azerbaijani Chairmanship's commitment to fruitful work within the politico-military dimension of our Organization. We believe there is a need for the FSC's work to be carried out in strict accordance with its politico-military mandate approved in 1992 at the Helsinki Summit and improved in 1999 in Istanbul. I would recall that arms control, disarmament, confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) and the issue of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition form the core of this mandate. We welcome the fact that our esteemed Azerbaijani colleagues plan to give the closest attention to these topics.

We have taken note that the Chairmanship intends to "revitalize" the Forum's agenda with topics such as the politico-military problems of countering terrorism, along with post-conflict rehabilitation and peacebuilding in the OSCE area. We look forward with interest to the plenary meeting and side event on humanitarian mine action in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 2365. In that context, we note the importance of taking into account the specific circumstances and actual capacities of the OSCE, which has traditionally seen it as its task to facilitate the implementation of United Nations global commitments and to provide assistance to its participating States.

The key event in the current round of negotiations will be the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (dealing with the Vienna Document 2011), during which military professionals will have an opportunity to discuss in detail ways of improving practical implementation of agreed CSBMs. We consider such a discussion to be extremely useful, especially since, with the tacit consent of Western countries, some participating States are still failing to implement the provisions of up to ninety paragraphs of this document.

In response to the perfunctory calls by Western delegations for the modernization of the Vienna Document, I should like to draw attention to the fact that their governments have still not bothered laying the groundwork for this process. This suggests that the issue of updating the CSBMs is part of their toolkit for exerting pressure on Russia. If the NATO countries had a real interest in the development of the Vienna Document 2011, they would have long since abandoned their policy of "containment" of our country and withdrawn the multinational forces from Russia's borders. Otherwise, their calls would remain nothing more than empty talk.

We regard as categorically unacceptable any aberrations relating to the erosion of the foundations of the Forum's politico-military mandate through the discussion of "gender" or climate issues. Incidentally, our Organization has met its objectives with the approval of the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality in 2004.

Mr. Chairperson,

The past few decades have exposed the flawed nature of Europe's security architecture, in which non-alignment is, it would seem, becoming the most reliable guarantee for stability. The principle of the indivisibility of security has now been appropriated by NATO, which bases it on the logic not of "standing together" but of "standing against

artificially created external enemies”. This is leading to fragmentation of the pan-European space and is extremely detrimental to the credibility of the OSCE, which has been held to ransom by the narrow agenda of the collective West. Under these circumstances, we will henceforth discuss at the FSC only those topics that are in our national interests.

The proposals submitted by Russia on legal security guarantees are aimed at creating a new system of arrangements based on the rejection of attempts to achieve military superiority and on the principle of the indivisibility of security in its original sense, which was endorsed by the leaders of all OSCE States in the 1990s. The focus of these proposals is on ruling out any further eastward expansion by NATO and the deployment near Russia’s borders, especially in Ukraine, of weapon systems that pose a threat to us, and also on refraining from the conduct of provocative training exercises near State borders. These are our “red lines”, which we have spoken about repeatedly at the FSC. These are absolutely necessary and indispensable elements in the absence of which we will be forced to note that the other side is displaying the highest degree of unco-operativeness.

In the meantime, the news of the possible deployment to Estonia of up to 5,000 troops from NATO’s rapid reaction force and the Polish request for the Alliance to deploy a multi-echelon network of logistics and technical support near the borders of the Union State only confirm our concerns and prove that Russia is not the one ratcheting up tensions.

The moment of truth is approaching when the West either accepts our proposals or other ways will be found to ensure Russia’s security. I am confident that, with goodwill and a willingness to compromise, mutually acceptable solutions can be found in any situation. Time is running out. What is at stake is the minimization of military threats and the resolution of pressing security issues, not only for Russia, but for all the States of the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Your Excellency Minister Bayramov,

All that has been said today only confirms the relevance of the Forum as a unique permanent international platform on the issues of ensuring stability in Europe. We confirm our readiness in principle for close and productive co-operation with our esteemed Azerbaijani colleagues in strengthening the foundations of this autonomous OSCE decision-making body. We sincerely wish the Chairmanship team every success.

In closing, I should also like to thank the delegation of Austria, which has completed its Chairmanship functions, for its professional, spirited and innovative approach to handling FSC affairs. We welcome the delegation of Belarus as the incoming member of the FSC Troika and cordially thank Armenia, which is leaving the Troika.

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



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**997th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1003, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

The delegation of Armenia has taken note of the statement delivered by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan.

Almost eight months have passed since the last appearance of the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan at the OSCE Permanent Council. Unfortunately, during this time there have been no changes either in Azerbaijan's State policy towards Armenia and Armenians or in its statements. Today, we have once again witnessed an attempt to portray Azerbaijan as a country committed to the OSCE's principles and values and a responsible member of the international community. Unfortunately, the actions of Azerbaijan on the ground completely contradict declared intentions and statements about Azerbaijan's adherence to international law and OSCE principles.

Distinguished colleagues,

In violation of the provisions of the Vienna Document, Azerbaijan continues to conduct large-scale offensive military exercises without notification and refuses to provide information on the parameters of these exercises.

Azerbaijan continues to escalate the situation along the Armenian border and on the line of contact with Artsakh, making various provocations which have often resulted in casualties among both civilians and military personnel.

Since 12 May 2021, in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Armenia, the armed forces of Azerbaijan continue their illegal presence in the Syunik and Gegharkunik provinces of the Republic of Armenia.

In violation of international humanitarian law and the provisions of the trilateral ceasefire statement of 9 November 2020, Azerbaijan refuses to release all Armenian prisoners of war and civilian captives and conducts mock trials on the basis of bogus charges and confessions obtained under duress.

Azerbaijan continues to distort the provisions of the trilateral ceasefire statement in order to justify its aggressive policy against Artsakh and Armenia.

Azerbaijan also continues to use aggressive and belligerent rhetoric against Armenia and Armenians at the highest level.

All these phenomena – ranging from aggressive statements to real provocations on the ground and refusal to engage in good faith in dialogue and negotiations under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs – indicate that Azerbaijan is not interested in a peace agenda but, rather, is trying to remove the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict from the international agenda and promote its expansionist policy in the region.

The so-called new realities created through the use of force against Artsakh and its people, as referred to by some delegations, can never become the basis for the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Distinguished colleagues,

Now let me turn to the programme of the current Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) Chairmanship. Regrettably, the programme presented is nothing but a mixture of propagandistic narratives and plain plagiarism.

The delegation of Armenia had no illusions about the current FSC Chairmanship and the challenges it would create for the Forum. An OSCE participating State that has systematically violated the OSCE politico-military commitments for decades and is in breach of the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, advocating the use or threat of force as a means of resolving conflict and a basis for inter-State relations, has turned its FSC Chairmanship programme into an extended right of reply to Armenia. Azerbaijan's overall performance on the international arena clearly indicates that it cannot be considered as a credible Chairmanship to lead the Organization's politico-military dimension and contribute to the implementation of OSCE commitments and principles.

In closing, given the obvious and frequent discrepancy between Azerbaijan's statements and its real actions, I would like to put a direct question to the Foreign Minister. Will Azerbaijan ensure the full implementation of its OSCE politico-military commitments? In particular, will Azerbaijan comply with the provisions of the Vienna Document regarding the prior notification of its military exercises and the provision of accurate information on the parameters of those exercises in line with the Vienna Document?

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