

**Chairmanship: Belarus**

**1009th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 11 May 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.  
Closed: 10.45 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Dapkiunas

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

*Current security situation in the OSCE area*: Russian Federation (Annex 1) (FSC.DEL/206/22), France-European Union (Annex 2), Switzerland (FSC.DEL/201/22 OSCE+), Canada (Annex 3), United Kingdom (Annex 4)

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Announcing and Reminding Mechanism pursuant to FSC Decision No. 10/02 (FSC.DEC/10/02)*: Chairperson (FSC.DEL/203/22 OSCE+)
- (b) *Update on the OSCE extrabudgetary project “Forum for Security Co-operation E-Learning Programme”*: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 18 May 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/1015

11 May 2022

Annex 1

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

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**1009th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1015, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to begin my statement today with the words addressed by the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, to the Russian armed forces on the occasion of the 77th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War: "Russia urged the West to engage in honest dialogue, to look for reasonable compromise solutions, to take each other's interests into consideration. It was all in vain ... Preparations were openly undertaken for yet another punitive operation in Donbas, for an invasion of our historical lands, including Crimea. Statements were made in Kyiv about the possibility of acquiring nuclear weapons. The NATO bloc set about the active military assimilation of territories that are adjacent to us ... This aggression was pre-emptively repulsed by Russia. It was a forced and timely decision – the only right one."

Russia's special military operation in Ukraine should be seen as the consequence of NATO's aggressive expansionist policy under the leadership of the United States of America, which in violation of its OSCE politico-military commitments has been striving to achieve military supremacy. The North Atlantic Alliance is continuing to radically alter the politico-military situation in Europe and to undermine the strategic balance of forces, disregarding our repeated warnings about the danger posed by such an approach to the European security system. It is increasing its troop concentrations in Eastern Europe – among other ways, by transferring contingents from the North American mainland. As part of the multinational "DEFENDER-Europe 2022" exercise it is engaging in fully fledged preparations for military operations in the east. In Ukraine it is counting upon neo-Nazis and Banderites, and US intelligence forces have been deployed to assist them.

As the US statesman Henry Kissinger said: "To be an enemy of America can be dangerous, but to be a friend is fatal." For now, Ukraine, which considers the US Government to be its main protector and ally, is being cynically exploited to wage a proxy war against Russia "down to the last Ukrainian" and the US military-industrial corporations continue making a fortune from the spilling of blood. At the end of February, the shares of Lockheed Martin surged by 18 per cent, those of the Raytheon Technologies Corporation by 14 per cent and those of General Dynamics by 12.5 per cent. The US Government is also profiting from the implementation of the Lend-Lease Act signed by President Biden on

9 May, which is designed to facilitate the procedure for arms supplies to Ukraine. No wonder that the NATO countries are seeking to persuade the Ukrainian Government to abandon the negotiation process, the only alternative to which is prolongation of the bloodshed – and, by implication, enrichment of the Western war machine. Such are the ethics of a “civilized” community of States.

In that same vein, the leaders of the G7 countries have stated their determination to ensure that Russia “does not triumph” in Ukraine. We regard such rhetoric as supporting aggressive militarism and neo-Nazism in Europe. There is otherwise no way of explaining the fact that the Western world overlooked President Zelenskyy’s congratulatory message on 9 May, Victory Day, which he accompanied with a photograph of a Right Sector nationalist wearing the insignia of the Third SS Panzer Division “Totenkopf” – of that very division which was responsible for the brutal massacre of around one hundred British prisoners of war during the 1940 campaign in France. What bitter irony. What a vile insult against historical memory. Have our Western colleagues stopped to think how their heroic ancestors would have felt about the way they are now in league with Nazism, against which the United Kingdom, the United States and France battled in the Second World War?

Mr. Chairperson,

The Ukrainian nationalists and foreign mercenaries continue to wage war against the civilian population of Ukraine and the Donbas republics. The authorities of the European Union and NATO countries are abetting these war crimes. The global media under their control are not concerned with the real state of affairs: they are merely carrying out political orders to whip up anti-Russian hysteria. However, they will not succeed in causing an information “iron curtain” to descend in Europe.

The Western “civilized” community will have to hear about the daily indiscriminate shelling of settlements in the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) and the Luhansk People’s Republic (LPR) by cluster rounds from multiple-launch rocket systems and by large-calibre artillery. Between 17 February and 10 May of this year, 108 civilians were killed in the DPR, including four children. No fewer than 470 citizens sustained injuries of varying degrees of severity. A total of 3,216 residential buildings and more than 670 civilian infrastructure facilities were damaged. Children’s cemeteries have sprung up on European territory because the Ukrainian Government has so willed it. This is how Donbas has been living for eight years now.

The Western “civilized” community of States will have to hear about the Kyiv regime’s large-scale violations of the norms and principles of international humanitarian law, specifically of the Geneva Conventions as regards the prohibition of the deployment of heavy weapons in residential areas and the use of civilians as human shields and of civilian infrastructure facilities for military purposes. The Ukrainian neo-Nazis are deliberately using inhumane combat tactics. We will circulate a list of medical facilities and educational establishments for children in which Ukrainian Nazis have cynically set up strongpoints. It will keep being expanded.

At the instigation of a Western minority, the European media are hushing up the facts that have come to light of the nationalist Kyiv regime’s gross violation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Convention) of 1997. MON, PMN and OZM mines have been

discovered in the fields around the settlement of Velyka Novosilka, and PMN mines in the village of Makarivka. A whole depot containing MON-50 and MON-90 mines was found at the liberated Ilyich iron and steel works in Mariupol; it had been abandoned by the Ukrainian nationalists during their retreat. Our colleagues probably remember how the delegation of Ukraine assured the OSCE participating States year after year that the Ukrainian armed forces were not using such ammunition, and that the Ukrainian Government was fulfilling its obligations under the Ottawa Convention in a transparent manner and in good faith. It was a lie. We are outraged by this latest striking example of how Ukrainian official representatives have for years been misleading the international forums in Vienna and Geneva.

The Western “civilized” community of States is disregarding the fact that the criminal Kyiv regime is not ruling out the possibility of carrying out a dangerous provocation within the so-called chemical industry triangle. More than 30 enterprises are concentrated in that area, which is inhabited by over 300,000 people. Neo-Nazis have mined containers holding hazardous chemicals (ammonia, ammonium nitrate, nitric acid) at the Azot plant in Sievierodonetsk with a view to blowing them up immediately should they be forced to abandon their positions. Units of the Ukrainian armed forces have set up D-30 howitzers and multiple-launch rocket systems at an experimental cement plant and an experimental coke-chemical plant in Kharkiv, which house a large number of tanks containing poisonous industrial fluids. Knowing full well that civilians will be the victims of their cynical actions, these fighters are provoking the Russian armed forces to open retaliatory fire so that they can then lay the blame for possible civilian casualties on our military.

It is embarrassing for the “civilized” West to admit that the Ukrainian radicals’ teachers from NATO countries are known by sight. All the more so since new evidence is emerging of the Canadian armed forces’ involvement in the training of the nationalists of the Azov regiment, which has been integrated into the structures of the National Guard of Ukraine. On 28 April, the CTVNews.ca website published an analytical piece by one of its correspondents, Christy Somos, in which it is argued that the screening and monitoring of Ukrainian trainees to establish whether they held Nazi or fascist views was not part of the mandate of Operation UNIFIER. The delegation of Canada at the Forum for Security Co-operation tried to convince us otherwise. Moreover, the article cites instances of Azov fighters having been provided with educational services outside the framework of the programme. The “cordial” relations that developed with Ukrainian nationalists are reflected in a photograph from 2019 in which a member of the Azov regiment, Kyrylo Berkal (nicknamed “Kirk”), posed for the camera together with some Canadian instructors.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned facts, the “civilized” West feels no shame at sullyng its hands in a proxy war that redounds to its discredit and at participating in anti-Russian military provocations. Starting on 7 May, at Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s behest and with the involvement of advisers from the United States and the United Kingdom, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine tried to carry out a foolhardy plan to capture Zmiinyi Island (Snake Island), which is of great importance for controlling the north-western part of the Black Sea. The Russian military personnel on the island thwarted that provocation. The enemy suffered significant losses among its troops (more than 50 saboteurs) and to its military equipment (three Su-24 bombers, one Su-27 fighter aircraft, ten helicopters, 30 unmanned aerial vehicles, including nine Bayraktar TB2 combat drones, and three Project 58181 Centaur armoured assault craft). We must issue a firm warning that similar efforts to gain revenge on Snake Island will be ruthlessly quashed.

Mr. Chairperson,

The armed forces of the Russian Federation are fighting side by side with the DPR and the LPR for a world in which punitive squads and Nazis have no place. All the tasks that were set with regard to the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine will be accomplished.

At present, heavy fighting is going on around Iziium in the direction of Kharkiv. Russian troops are continuing their offensive in the area of Krasnyi Lyman, forcing Ukrainian units out of their bridgehead on the left bank of the Seversky Donets River. Clashes are taking place near Novoselivka, Bilohorivka and Shypylyivka. There has been an advance of Russian troops along the southern flank of the Sievierodonetsk-Lysychansk “semi-cauldron”. At the same time, starting from the area of the settlement of Popasna, an offensive has begun in the area of the settlements of Zolote and Hirske. The Russian and DPR forces continue to advance towards the settlements of Avdiivka and Niu-York.

As part of the demilitarization of Ukraine, 164 airplanes, 125 helicopters, 798 unmanned aerial vehicles, 302 anti-aircraft air missile systems, 2,983 tanks and other armoured vehicles, 351 multiple-launch rocket systems, 1,440 field artillery pieces and mortars, and 2,796 special operations tactical vehicles have been destroyed since the start of the special military operation.

The armed forces of the Russian Federation continue to destroy systematically any shipments of military goods to the criminal Kyiv regime, and the same goes for Western instructors and mercenaries. Last week, air-launched high-precision missiles and Iskander tactical ballistic missile systems were used to destroy arms shipments from the United States and European countries near the railway stations at Sil, Bohodukhiv, Krasnohrad and Karlivka. Long-range precision weapons destroyed six traction substations near the railway stations at Pidbirtsi, Lviv, Volovets, Tymkove and Piatikhatka, by means of which weapons and ammunition were being delivered to the Ukrainian battle group in Donbas. The Western countries that are determined to pump “iron” into Ukraine should be in no doubt that all other military goods will meet with the same fate.

In closing, we consider it extremely important to note that, contrary to the insinuations by Western countries, the territories liberated from the nationalists are returning to a calm and peaceful life. Monuments to the heroes of the Great Patriotic War are being restored. Schools and shops are being opened in Mariupol, public transport there is working. Almost 19,000 tonnes of humanitarian aid have been delivered to the inhabitants of the DPR, the LPR and a number of Ukrainian regions. This year they were able, for the first time in eight years, to celebrate Victory Day, to wear without fear the ribbon of Saint George and honour the memory of their ancestors – the Soviet soldiers who fell fighting for the future of Europe without Nazism. It is for this, too, that the armed forces of the Russian Federation and the allied troops of the LPR and the DPR are fighting.

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



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**1009th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1015, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The delegation of France, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

In response to the intervention by the Russian delegation let me state the following on behalf of the European Union and its Member States:

Today, it is the 77th day of Russia's premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified and barbaric war of aggression against Ukraine. We condemn this war in the strongest possible terms.

Today, we were again exposed to distortion of truth, disinformation and propaganda by the Russian delegation. The truth is straightforward: Russia is the aggressor, Ukraine is the victim of the aggression. There is no justification for this war, neither in the present nor in the past. We also deplore the complicity of Belarus in enabling the Russian military aggression by providing its territory for the attack of its neighbour. We will continue to stand in full solidarity with the victim and actively support Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. Under international law, pursuant to Article 51 of the UN Charter, Ukraine has the right to defend itself as it is under armed attack from Russia. Ukraine is exercising its inherent right to self-defence, and all States have the right to assist Ukraine.

Russia bears full responsibility for unspeakable human suffering and tragedies, the loss of so many lives, massive displacement and destruction across Ukraine. Those responsible for all these atrocities, including war crimes or crimes against humanity, must be held to account.

We reiterate our demand that Russia immediately and unconditionally cease its military actions and withdraw all its troops and equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine, including the illegally annexed Crimean peninsula. We also reiterate our call on Belarus to stop enabling the Russian aggression and to abide by its international obligations.

We reiterate our principled support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and the right to choose its own future.

We will never recognize any illegal entities nor annexation of Ukraine's territory.

I request, Mr. Chairperson, that this right of reply be attached to the journal of the day.



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

FSC.JOUR/1015

11 May 2022

Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

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**1009th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1015, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Colleagues,

Russia would have you believe that their war of aggression against Ukraine is somehow justified, necessary for the defence of Russia, or because they were somehow threatened, however, nothing could be further from the truth. There was no threat to Russia, no need for intervention, only fears built on lies and false pretexts. Despite repeated underperformance in combat operations and an effective and persistent resistance by Ukrainians, bravely fighting to defend their country, defend their homes and secure a democratic future for their families, Russia wants you to believe that this illegal and violent invasion of its sovereign neighbour is going according to plan, but again nothing could be further from the truth.

In the face of such unrelenting propaganda and blatant disinformation, we must stay true to the truth, and that truth remains incontrovertible: Ukraine and its people have done nothing to provoke or instigate this conflict. Ukraine is not the aggressor. Quite the contrary. There was no threat to Russia. This is a war of aggression driven by Russia's repressive imperial ambition and fuelled by Russia's denial of Ukrainian identity and appropriation of its sovereignty. (Russia has done this time and time again: Georgia 2008, Ukraine 2014, and Ukraine again this year.)

Russia bears full responsibility for the violent acts it is committing against the civilian population of Ukraine and the widespread destruction its medieval tactics of indiscriminate use of artillery and unguided bombing is causing to civilian infrastructure. Particularly grotesque are the recent reports of the bombing of a school in Bilohorivka where 90 people had been sheltering and 60 people were reported killed.

It also bears recollection that this war of aggression represents an act of unprecedented disregard for our shared OSCE principles and commitments and for international law. Russia, enabled by Belarus, committed an act of aggression which was planned and initiated under the very noses of this Forum, with the Russian Federation and Belarus making a mockery of our shared confidence- and security-building measures, with bold, but blatantly false statements in this very room. Belarus remains complicit in this conflict having allowed not only the staging of Russian combat forces but also the conduct of combat operations from its territory. We were repeatedly told that Russian troops "on



exercise in Belarus posed no threat to Ukraine”, “that they would return home”, that “Russia had no intention to invade Ukraine.” All of this was simply an outright lie, an attempt at deception, and a gross abuse of this Forum to do it. These actions of Russia (enabled by Belarus) remain completely incompatible with our shared OSCE principles and a direct affront to the international rules-based order.

Last week we once again heard a briefing on “snap exercises” under way in Belarus, however, not unlike similar briefings in February we note that we are told that these exercises pose no threat to anyone, however, a lack of detail regarding the number of troops involved and their operating locations continues the trend of minimalist transparency, casting a cloud of doubt over the genuineness of this effort. We have seen this game before.

Canada reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. We have, and will be, along with our allies and partners, continuing to forcefully and collectively respond to these reckless and dangerous acts of aggression by the Russian Federation. Our efforts to support the people of Ukraine continue as we work to step up our military support for Ukraine as noted in recent announcements regarding of the provision of M777 artillery pieces, drone camera, satellite imagery and additional small arms and ammunition. We are also providing an additional 25 million dollars in humanitarian assistance through mechanisms such as the world food programme, focused on food security for Ukraine. As Prime Minister Trudeau stated during his recent visit to Kiev, “We will continue to do whatever is necessary to stand with Ukraine, not just because it’s the right thing or because Ukrainians are our friends, but because it is also standing for the principles of democracy that keep Canadians safe.”

We must remain stewards of the principles of open and honest dialogue which remain fundamental to the value of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We will not allow the FSC to be an unfettered tool for the spreading of Russian propaganda. Russia’s need to overwhelm its own population with lies, to present them with an alternate reality, and to control the information they receive is despicable and clearly shows the Kremlin’s fear that its own people would find out the truth. But, they will. The truth will prevail.

For our part we will continue to stand up for the truth and hold Russia accountable for its prosecution of this unjust war. We remain resolute in our call for Russia to stop this war of aggression, withdraw from the territory of Ukraine and return its soldiers to Russia, where they belong. Russia started this war and Russia can stop it.

Thank you.



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

FSC.JOUR/1015

11 May 2022

Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

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**1009th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1015, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson.

Once again, as Russia continues its unprovoked, premeditated and barbaric attack on Ukraine, our Russian colleagues also continue to persist in peddling the Kremlin's blizzard of lies.

As we watched the brave Ukrainian fighters repel an out-manoeuvred and frustrated Russian military on its attempted advance from Belarus to Kyiv, we also witnessed a systemic refusal to report the true situation on the ground up the Russian military chain of command. Why else would Russian commanders have pushed more and more forces north of Kyiv into what became the world's longest traffic jam where they were vulnerable to attack and quickly ran out of food and fuel, even days after it was clear that the strategy had failed?

Those same exhausted and poorly equipped Russian troops are now supporting Putin's attempted "land grab" in eastern Ukraine. An example that the failure of Putin's plan A has manifested into a disgraceful display of self-preservation, doubling down on failure, anger, dishonesty and scapegoating. The Russian general staff have shown that their own self-preservation comes first. War crimes, targeting civilians, and the casualty rates in their own battalion tactical groups are all secondary concerns.

The myth of the great power, the great Russian military, has been unmasked. They are poorly equipped, poorly trained and poorly led.

Through their invasion of Ukraine, Putin, his inner circle and generals are repeating the errors of last century's totalitarian regimes. They are showing the same disregard for human life, national sovereignty, and the rules-based international system.

Their unprovoked, illegal, senseless, and self-defeating invasion of Ukraine; their attacks against innocent civilians and their homes. Their widespread atrocities, including the deliberate targeting of women and children; they all corrupt the memory of past sacrifices and Russia's once-proud global reputation.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have been clear that normal business cannot resume whilst Putin wages his horrific and barbaric war of choice on our Ukrainian friends. And we again condemn in the strongest possible words, Belarus' ongoing support for Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine, including permitting the use of its territory by Russia to launch the barbaric attacks against the Ukrainian people.

In this regard we express our upmost concern regarding last week's announced combat readiness check or so-called "snap exercise". Whilst we acknowledge the announcement in this Forum, we note that little detail or necessary levels of transparency were given, including dates, locations, troop numbers, units and equipment involved. Although our Belarusian colleagues stated that the exercise presents no threat, in the absence of real detail, perhaps they will forgive our suspicions given they assured us of the same back in February.

Furthermore, we also note yesterday's announcement by Belarusian Armed Forces General Staff Chief Major General Viktor Gulevich. His claims that the checks were in part a response to Exercise DEFENDER-Europe 22, an exercise where full transparency has been provided (including in this Forum), distracts from the fact Belarus has provided little transparency of the combat readiness check during a time of extreme tension and crisis in the area.

Of most concern is that, as part of the check, Major General Gulevich has announced the deployment of units from the "special operations forces" to the "southern areas" in response to the presence of Ukrainian armed forces deployed on the northern Ukraine border. To suggest that it is Ukraine that poses a threat to Belarus along the same border areas that Belarus allowed Russia to launch its ill-fated advance on Kyiv is absurd and unnecessarily risks further escalation.

Mr. Chairperson,

Our primary focus remains to work – for however long it takes – to ensure that the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the independence of Ukraine is restored. The United Kingdom stands in solidarity with our Ukrainian friends, including through the ongoing provision of military assistance, as they defend their homeland and fight for the simple right to a free, peaceful and prosperous future.

Thank you. And I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.