



Chairmanship: Estonia

542nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 16 April 2008

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 11.35 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ms. T. Parts

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Determination No. 2008-15 of the President of the United States of America on the Eligibility of Kosovo to Receive Defense Articles and Defense Services: United States of America (Annex), Russian Federation

Agenda item 2: SECURITY DIALOGUE

(a) *Presentation on the Baltic Naval Mine Countermeasures Squadron (BALTRON) by Commander A. Leit, COMBALTRON: Chairperson, Commander of the Baltic Naval Mine Countermeasures Squadron (FSC.DEL/71/08 OSCE+), Germany, Latvia, Sweden, France*

(b) *Presentation on the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA): Director of the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (FSC.DEL/72/08 OSCE+), Armenia, Russian Federation, Germany, Turkey*

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON TAKING NATIONAL HOLIDAYS INTO ACCOUNT WHEN PLANNING VERIFICATION ACTIVITIES

Chairperson

Decision: The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 2/08 (FSC.DEC/2/08), the text of which is appended to this journal, on taking national holidays into account when planning verification activities.

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Eleventh International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers, held in Ljubljana, from 13 to 18 April 2008: Slovenia (FSC.DEL/73/08 OSCE+)

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 23 April 2008, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/548

16 April 2008

Annex

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542nd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 548, Agenda item 1

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

The President's determination of 19 March 2008 under section 503 of the US Foreign Assistance Act that Kosovo is eligible to receive US defence articles and services is a routine part of establishing bilateral relations with a country. The United States has similar arrangements with Serbia, as well as with many other countries around the world, all of which have benefited from developing militaries that are more professional and respectful of civilian authority and human rights.

As many States represented in this room know well from their own experience, United States defence co-operation with Kosovo will assist it in developing a transparent and professional security establishment. This assistance will be consistent with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the Ahtisaari plan. We note that the Ahtisaari plan calls for a functioning ministry of defence and a small lightly armed force with the ability to participate in civil-military affairs and humanitarian relief efforts under the strict control of a civilian oversight ministry. We need to recognize the importance of Kosovo, as an independent State, being able to provide for its own defence and to contribute to efforts to achieve lasting regional security.

In September 2001, United Nations Security Council resolution 1367 (2001) terminated the arms embargo that was in effect against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including at that time Kosovo. Accordingly, the provision of defence co-operation is not contrary to that resolution.

It is a utter distortion to claim that any future United States defence co-operation would in any way violate or suppress "human rights and fundamental freedoms," in contravention of the OSCE Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers, or would otherwise be used for "internal repressive measures," as alleged by a participating State at the Forum for Security Co-operation meeting on 9 April. On the contrary, the international effort to improve the training, education and professionalism of the Kosovo security establishment will only enhance security and stability for all of Kosovo's citizens.



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

FSC.DEC/2/08

16 April 2008

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542nd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 548, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 2/08
TAKING NATIONAL HOLIDAYS INTO ACCOUNT WHEN
PLANNING VERIFICATION ACTIVITIES**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Attaching great importance to the effective implementation of existing confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs),

Seeking to improve the implementation of these measures in light of the experience gained and the predominant practice of the participating States,

Decides:

Without prejudice to the right of each participating State under the Vienna Document to request and to conduct inspections and/or evaluations at a time determined by the inspecting/evaluating State, when preparing a request for an inspection or an evaluation visit, participating States will take into account the information that the participating States exchange on an annual basis on officially recognized national and religious holidays of the receiving State.