



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Brussels 2006**

MC(14).JOUR/2
5 December 2006
Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Fourteenth Meeting
MC(14) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 10

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF
THE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION
TO THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BELGIUM,
CHAIRPERSON OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Your Excellency,

As Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), it is my pleasure to inform you about the Forum's activities since the Thirteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council.

In 2006, the FSC was chaired successively by Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Canada. The Chairpersons worked in close co-operation, to implement a balanced and realistic annual programme of work, ensuring coherency and efficiency in the Forum's undertakings. Consistent with this plan, the Forum continued to discuss a wide range of politico-military issues, including arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs). Its work took different forms, from engaging in special meetings, to developing best practice guides, receiving progress reports on a wide range of issues, continuing its involvement in projects relating to small arms and light weapons (SALW) and conventional ammunition, engaging in discussions of food-for-thought papers, and pursuing an ongoing Security Dialogue.

The high-level Seminar on Military Doctrine held on 14 and 15 February fully achieved its goal of examining changes in military doctrine derived from evolving threats, changing forms of conflict, emerging technologies, and their impact on armed forces and their defence structures. As the nature of the threats becomes more diffuse, the military response acts as a complement to civilian security measures. The participation of senior military and civilian defence experts contributed to a focussed discussion on a wide range of issues relating to military security in general and to FSC activities in particular.

As part of the FSC's work on existing OSCE commitments and new CSBMs, participating States engaged in a dialogue regarding two particular proposals introduced relating to prior notification of large-scale military transits and to the deployment of foreign military forces on the territory of an OSCE participating State in the zone of application of

CSBMs. Discussion led to a broader dialogue on the basis for these proposals, which is expected to continue.

The Security Dialogue proved to be an extremely useful platform to connect the Forum with other organizations and relevant actors, making the FSC aware of parallel initiatives and developments. Prompted by recent discussions on how the OSCE can best adapt in order to address new threats to security, topics for Security Dialogue presentations were selected with a view to learning and analyzing how these challenges can be tackled using existing FSC tools. The Security Dialogue was particularly useful in providing information about some areas highlighted by the Seminar on Military Doctrine, such as rapidly deployable forces. To this end, the FSC Chairperson invited representatives from the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Collective Security Treaty Organization to provide briefings on their respective rapidly deployable forces concept. Security Dialogue presentations also addressed a number of issues ranging from terrorism and counter-terrorism, civil-military emergency preparedness, to subregional efforts in the defence area.

The Sixteenth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) held on 7 and 8 March provided participating States with an opportunity to exchange experiences and assess various politico-military commitments. The purpose of the Meeting was to discuss the present and future implementation of agreed CSBMs, as established in Chapter XI of the Vienna Document 1999. At the Meeting, proposals were made for further implementation of OSCE documents. There was also a general agreement that a revitalization of the agenda and the modalities of the AIAM could have a positive impact on its efficiency. In this context, discussions were held later in the year to advance proposals for next year's AIAM.

The topic of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continued to be intensively discussed, pursuant to the decision adopted by the FSC on 30 November 2005 on examining the recommendations of the Committee Established Pursuant to UN Security Council resolution 1540 and on supporting the implementation of the resolution. Following presentations by the European Union on the EU strategy on non-proliferation, and by Ambassador Burian, Chairperson of the Committee established pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1540, the Forum decided in September to hold an OSCE FSC Workshop on the Implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540, on 8 November 2006. The Workshop afforded an opportunity for experts to discuss the implementation of the resolution and ways in which the OSCE may contribute in assisting participating States to fulfil their reporting and implementation commitments, as well as to share best practices.

On 17 May, the FSC held a special meeting on SALW with a view to preparing for the United Nations Review Conference on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All its Aspects taking place in New York from 26 June to 7 July 2006. This FSC meeting prepared recommendations for formal OSCE statements to the UN Review Conference. The OSCE had made contributions in the past, and therefore placed great emphasis on remaining engaged with the UN process at an appropriate level. The OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the FSC Chairperson delivered statements at the Review Conference and organized a side event to showcase OSCE activities and projects in the fields of SALW and conventional ammunition.

In November, the Forum adopted a decision to hold a special FSC meeting on 21 March 2007 on combating the illicit trafficking of SALW by air. Participating States will be expected to share views on the potential for developing a mechanism to exchange information on their national legislation and regulations on import and export controls relating to the air transport sector, for engaging in a dialogue with private business actors in the air transport sector and competent international organizations, and for developing a best practice guide.

Implementation of the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2000) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (2003) also continued to receive considerable attention. Progress reports on the further implementation of both documents have been forwarded to the Ministerial Council. The successful completion of the first phase of the project in Tajikistan and ongoing projects in Armenia and Ukraine (Novobohdanivka) underline the progress achieved on implementation of the two OSCE documents. Work is proceeding on project development in Kazakhstan and Belarus. A Memorandum of Understanding was concluded with the UNDP to allow for co-operation on SALW and conventional ammunition projects. The FSC was briefed regularly on these projects by heads of OSCE field missions, FSC co-ordinators, and the Conflict Prevention Centre. The Secretary General addressed the 26th Joint Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council on 15 November, providing an update and highlighting the implications of the surplus rocket fuel (melange) projects, notably in Ukraine, and inviting further attention and guidance from participating States.

In March, the FSC finalized a new Annex on National Procedures for Stockpile Management and Security of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS), attaching it to the Handbook of Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Annex is available in all the official OSCE languages, as well as in Arabic, both in hard copy and on CD-ROM, and is seen as reaffirming the Forum's commitment to complement and reinforce the implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW, as well as related OSCE outreach activities.

Moreover, two best practice guides related to the Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition have been completed and are ready for endorsement by the FSC. The guide on stockpile management recommends best practices to facilitate and enhance proper storage and control of conventional ammunition. The guide on transportation provides general recommendations and practical advice for transportation of conventional ammunition, with special consideration given to safety and security.

The Forum also prepared its contribution to the Annual Security Review Conference in June. This contribution was offered in the form of guidelines for the keynote speakers, in particular those in the session dealing with the politico-military aspects of security.

A special FSC meeting on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security was held on 27 September. The meeting focused on implementation of the Code, and discussed proposals for improving the implementation of these commitments, which may be taken up as a basis for further work. Experts from capitals joined in the discussions at the meeting, which recognized the Code as one of the most important normative cross-dimensional documents of the OSCE, and confirmed its continued relevance.

The Forum continued its co-operation with the Permanent Council and its sub-body, the Working Group on Non-Military Aspects of Security. The discussions in the Forum about security sector governance, which is seen to be linked with the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, attest to this ongoing collaboration on cross-dimensional issues. Furthermore, the briefings to the Forum by heads of OSCE field missions were particularly useful in linking politico-military activities with other dimensions.

The FSC's accomplishments in a broad range of politico-military activities attest to its contribution in enhancing comprehensive security across the OSCE area.