

Chairmanship: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

700th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 21 November 2012

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 10.55 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador Z. Dabik

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Forum for Security Co-operation, welcomed the delegation of Mongolia to the OSCE as a participating State. The Ambassador of Ireland, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Permanent Council, welcomed Mongolia to the OSCE.

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE

None

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Issues related to the accession of Mongolia to the OSCE as a participating State: Spain (Annex 1)*
- (b) *Combined joint exercise, “Flotex Silver 2012”, being held in northern Norway from 19 to 28 November 2012: Norway (Annex 2)*
- (c) *Information on the participation of women in the Russian armed forces: Russian Federation (Annex 3)*
- (d) *Financial pledges to projects on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition in the OSCE area: Switzerland (Annex 4), Serbia (Annex 5), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary)*

- (e) *Financial pledge to the mélange project in Ukraine*: United States of America, Ukraine, Chairperson

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Planned military training exercises in 2013*: Belarus (FSC.DEL/138/12 OSCE+)
- (b) *Draft Ministerial Council decision on advancing the work towards an OSCE security community within the Helsinki+40 process (CIO.GAL/123/12/Rev.2)*: United States of America, Russian Federation, Chairperson
- (c) *Invitation to the Sankta Lucia celebration, to be held in Vienna on 12 December 2012*: Sweden

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 28 November 2012, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/706
21 November 2012
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

700th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 706, Agenda item 2(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN

Mr. Chairperson,

The Kingdom of Spain would like to welcome the Republic of Mongolia to the Forum for Security Co-operation in its new capacity as an OSCE participating State and welcomes the decision taken in due course by the Mongolian authorities and the Ministerial Council, which allowed its admission following the completion of the silence procedure established by the decision adopted by the Permanent Council on 8 November.

As indicated in the interpretative statement made by my delegation at the Permanent Council meeting and attached to Decision No. 1051, Spain has followed with great interest the decision-making process that has taken place and notes the implications in terms of military transparency of the fact that, on this occasion, the zone of application for confidence- and security-building measures of the Vienna Document, as defined in Annex I, shall not extend to the territory of Mongolia.

Spain attaches great importance to the principle of reciprocity in terms of military transparency so that no unbalanced relationships emerge in which some States assume obligations towards other States without a similar relationship in the opposite direction.

Thus, my delegation was initially opposed to the idea of not adhering strictly to the principle of reciprocity in the modalities for the implementation of the commitments set out in the Vienna Document. Nevertheless, on this occasion, we decided not to hinder the rapid decision-making process necessary to welcome Mongolia as soon as possible as a new participating State.

In making this decision, we have taken into account the specific geopolitical features of Mongolia that make this case the exception rather than the rule in the event that in the future other States follow Mongolia's example and seek admission to the OSCE as new participating States. Accordingly, Spain believes that this case should not set a precedent for future cases of other States applying to become participating States of the OSCE.

I would ask that this statement be attached as an annex to the journal of this plenary meeting.

Thank you very much.



700th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 706, Agenda item 2(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

Norway, too, would like to welcome Mongolia as the 57th participating State of the OSCE.

In a spirit of confidence and transparency, Norway would like to inform the Forum for Security Co-operation about a combined joint exercise that started in northern Norway on Monday, 19 November. This exercise is below the thresholds agreed in the Vienna Document. The exercise, named Flotex Silver 2012, will continue until 28 November.

The tactical exercise director will be the Commander of the Norwegian Task Group (NORTG) aboard the frigate KNM Fridtjof Nansen.

The exercise is a maritime exercise, with support from air-force units. Units from Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany and the host nation Norway will participate, and a total number of approximate 15 bigger vessels will take part.

The exercise area comprises the counties of Troms and Nordland.

Parallel to the Flotex exercise, there will be a brigade-level Norwegian land-force exercise, Rein II.

The purpose of the exercise is to provide training in basic combat capabilities and to produce maritime capabilities. In addition, a focus on joint tactical co-operation in coastal areas is planned.

This training will include live firing with the ships' main weapons systems, integration of the new naval strike missile (NSM), anti-submarine combat and mission-specific training for the Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 in 2013, as well as training in counter-piracy operations. There will also be training in practical co-operation with land forces during the exercise.

A total of 4,000 personnel will participate. It is planned that 70 sorties will be flown by fighter aircraft, maritime patrol aircraft and AWACS aircraft during the exercise. Parallel to this, Swiss aircraft will be training in the area; this is however not part of the exercise.

Mr. Chairperson,

Norway is fully committed to the idea of confidence and transparency in Europe. We will always welcome the sharing of information on military activities, but we also need to incorporate that sharing of information into our politico-military instruments, especially in the Vienna Document. A significant step along this path would include lowering the thresholds for notification of military activities, so that our CSBM instruments remain relevant and valuable in the twenty-first century.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Please attach this statement to the journal of the day.



700th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 706, Agenda item 2(c)

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Today, as a gesture of goodwill, our delegation would like to provide our distinguished partners with some information regarding servicewomen in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Russian Federation, men and women shall enjoy equal rights and freedoms and have equal opportunities to exercise them. Women play an active part in the public and political life of the country and they are represented at all levels and in all branches of government. In this connection, it is not belonging to a particular gender that is the decisive factor, but the managerial qualities of a specific person.

Women have traditionally also played a significant role in defending the motherland, particularly in times of war. The figure of the female warrior has a long-standing historical tradition in Russia. As early as 626 A.D. the ancient Byzantine chroniclers attested to this: during the siege of Constantinople the Greeks found women in suits of armour amongst the slain Rus. The first document dealing with women serving in army units has been traced back to Petrine-era Russia. Over 800,000 women with training in 23 military occupations joined the ranks during the Great Patriotic War (1941–1945).

Today women in Russia are not subject to military conscription, but they have the right to serve under contract. The particular features of the procedure for military service by women are determined by the fact that in addition to the established rights and privileges for all military personnel, servicewomen also enjoy social guarantees and compensation provided for by the legislative instruments regarding the protection of the family, motherhood and childhood.

According to the Main Personnel Directorate of the Russian Ministry of Defence, as of 1 October 2012 the number of female officers who were serving in military positions or under the command of commanding officers (superiors) stood at 2,702. They included:

- 11 junior lieutenants;
- 177 lieutenants;

- 559 senior lieutenants;
- 719 captains;
- 766 majors;
- 451 lieutenant colonels;
- 18 colonels;
- 1 higher-level officer

On the same date, 10,470 women were performing contractual service in the Armed Forces as warrant officers and midshipmen and 22,048 women as soldiers, sailors, sergeants and petty officers.

Thus, there were 35,220 servicewomen in total in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation on the date in question; this is approximately three times lower than five to ten years ago (connected with the overall reduction in the size of the Armed Forces), but still a very high number by European standards. According to the list of positions able to be occupied by servicewomen, of the more than 2,000 permanent appointments in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, 169 positions (8.4 per cent) may be occupied by women. The main reason for increased opportunities for the voluntary integration of women into the Armed Forces is the intellectualization of all spheres of military activity in view of their modernization and the increase in technical equipment. Experience shows that the presence of women has a favourable impact on mutual relations within the military collective and often stimulates its social and professional activity.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



700th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 706, Agenda item 2(d)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND

Dear Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

Switzerland considers the OSCE SALW and SCA assistance projects as important agents for reducing risks originating from degraded ammunition, for preventing unplanned explosions as well as for contributing to the combat against illicit trade in and misuse of small arms and light weapons. These projects are appropriate means for creating and enhancing security and stability in the OSCE region and hence for facilitating the establishment of the necessary framework for economic development and prosperity, where urgently needed. In order to help tackle current challenges, Switzerland has been investing in a number of projects in recent years. It is with great pleasure that I can announce today four additional pledges in support of the following assistance projects:

1. 200,000 Swiss francs (CHF) in Bosnia-Herzegovina for infrastructure refurbishment projects to enhance the safety and physical security of the SALW and CA storage sites;
2. 100,000 Swiss francs (CHF) in Serbia, of which 25,000 Swiss francs (CHF) are going to be allocated to intrusion detection systems, and 75,000 Swiss francs (CHF) to the destruction of surplus stocks of white phosphorus and napalm-powder-filled ammunition;
3. 40,000 Swiss francs (CHF) in Moldova, within the capacity-building project on physical security and stockpile management, as part of the training on SALW and SCA stockpile management and security;
4. 55,000 Euros in Georgia for the demilitarization of aircraft cluster bombs.

In recent years, many of the OSCE participating States have suffered from the global economic crisis. This crisis has put a lot of pressure on financial contributions to international organizations and initiatives. In this regard, such pledges are regularly called into question by parliaments and are under intense scrutiny. Professionalism and effectiveness are therefore of the utmost importance in the execution of projects. Moreover, we deem it also important that the FSC should be in a position to discuss issues related to SALW and SCA projects. The aim of such discussions would be to facilitate procedures for providing assistance under the SALW and SCA mechanism.



700th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 706, Agenda item 2(d)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

We would like to warmly welcome representatives of the Delegation of Mongolia in FSC as new participating State in OSCE.

On behalf of the Republic of Serbia I would like to express gratitude for the valuable contribution that the Switzerland intends to make for the practical implementation to the OSCE-UNDP Capacity Development Programme for Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management (CASM) in the Republic of Serbia.

Switzerland, second time this year, as well as Germany, Denmark, Spain, United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Norway, Czech Republic and Turkey have already contributed to this, for us, very important demilitarization project.

This project is in the stage of concluding the first part of the Component 1 disposal of napalm powder, for which the set deadline is end of February 2013, and beginning of second part of Component 1 – demilitarization of white-phosphorus-filled ammunition.

I use this opportunity to thank the Conflict Prevention Centre, FSC Support Section and Lt. Colonel László Szatmári, FSC co-ordinator on SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition projects for their tireless work on CASM Programme.

The Republic of Serbia is looking forward to close co-operation with all partners involved during implementation of the project.

I thank you for your attention and kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.