



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS NUOLATINĖ ATSTOVYBĖ
PRIE EUROPOS SAUGUMO IR BENDRADARBIAVIMO ORGANIZACIJOS**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

**Statement by Ambassador Giedrius Čekuolis, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Lithuania, at the Closing Session of the FSC under the Chairmanship of
Lithuania,
24 July 2013**

Ladies and gentlemen, dear Colleagues,

Today is the last regular meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation under the Chairmanship of Lithuania. At the outset, permit me to say how grateful I am for all the outstanding co-operation and great support our Chairmanship has received from all of you.

Over the past four months, we continued implementation of this year's FSC Working Programme that had been jointly prepared by Liechtenstein, Lithuania and Luxembourg.

The Lithuanian Chairmanship facilitated negotiations on Vienna Document Plus proposals and draft decisions for updating and modernizing the Vienna Document 2011 on CSBMs. We are particularly pleased that the Vienna Document Plus decision on the duration of visits to air bases was adopted last week. In this regard, I would like to recognize the essential work done by the delegation of Austria and other co-sponsors, who pursued their proposal with determination.

The participating States still have to agree on the meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres, and on the agenda and modalities of the 2014 Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting. We hope that appropriate decisions will be reached without delay. With regard to all issues pertaining to the Vienna Document, we continue to rely on the huge experience and wisdom of our FSC co-ordinator, Pierre von Arx.

This year's Annual Security Review Conference once again provided us with a platform for exchanging views on many important issues of security. I am taking this opportunity to thank our *chef de file*, Zhanar Kulzhanova, who is no longer in Vienna, for preparing the agenda of the FSC-related session. I thank our rapporteur, Emilia Breuss from Liechtenstein, and, of course the delegations of the United States of America, Ukraine and Austria for providing excellent keynote speakers. At the Conference, we conducted useful discussions

on arms control and CSBMs, as was also the case in May during the FSC Security Dialogue especially devoted to arms control, led by the representatives of academia from Austria and Ukraine.

The second Annual discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security has been another highlight of this FSC session. Skillfully prepared by our co-ordinator Detlef Hempel, and by Fabian Grass from the Secretariat, this event once again provided an opportunity to discuss the quality of implementation of this valuable instrument as well as its outreach.

In planning the FSC Security Dialogues for the period of our Chairmanship, we concentrated on four themes:

- 1. SALW and SCA.** First, with help from the academic and NGO side, we looked at the OSCE from the perspective of broader international SALW-related commitments and developments. Later in the session, Simon Macrory-Tinning and László Szatmári provided us with highest quality visionary presentations on the current state of affairs and possible ways forward. Thanks to Simon Macrory-Tinning and Maria Brandstetter, the Informal Group of Friends on SALW has not only been resurrected, but has also started to be engaged in substantial analytical and norm-setting work. In the same vein, the practical work by László Szatmári and the colleagues from CPC with regard to SALW and SCA projects has produced tangible results. In this regard, in one of the FSC plenary meetings, we had an opportunity to listen to the useful experience of Albania.
- 2. Non-Proliferation and UNSCR 1540.** A highlight for this FSC session was the presentation by the 1540 Committee Chair, Ambassador Kim Sook, who came to Vienna from New York to speak on the role of regional organizations in assisting in the implementation of UNSCR 1540. The Ambassador's clear messages on co-operation with the OSCE hopefully will add to the sustainability of our work with regard to this issue. Thanks to the efforts by FSC co-ordinator Vasyl Pokotylo, we now have the draft of an updated text of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation, which will be further discussed in September, with a view to its successful adoption later this year.
- 3. Issues related to UNSCR 1325.** The Chairmanship was of the opinion that more discussions were necessary on this issue in the context of the FSC. Therefore, two substantive Security Dialogues on the issue of Women, Peace and Security were organized and excellent keynote speakers from the United States of America and the United Kingdom were invited. In June, our co-ordinator, Bilge Koçyiğit, provided us with an outstanding food-for-thought presentation on this issue. I would like encourage all of us to rely on her suggestions in the FSC's further work, including in the run-up to the Ministerial Council meeting in Kyiv.

4. Last and but not least: **National, regional and other multinational contributions to security and stability.** The highest quality presentations made by Germany, Sweden, France and the European External Action Service provided us with opportunities to consider conceptual and practical issues, as well as lessons learned and avenues for further interaction.

Dear Colleagues,

All our Security Dialogues were catalyzed by the Helsinki+40 process, which is an inclusive effort by all participating States to provide strong and continuous political impetus to advancing work towards a security community and to further strengthening our co-operation in the OSCE. Within the FSC, we asked ourselves how we could advance our work and strengthen co-operation. In answering this question we stressed the importance of not only implementing and reconfirming our commitments, but also of building on them.

I am certain that the work done during the second session constitutes a good beginning of the FSC's contribution to the Helsinki+40 process, and that it will certainly progress in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, let me once more thank our FSC troika colleagues Liechtenstein and Luxembourg, Secretary General Zannier, the Director of the CPC Ambassador Kobieracki, the Head of the FSC Support Section Mathew Geertsen and his dedicated team, as well as the Communications Network group for their co-operation, advice and strong support. I would also like to thank the Conference Services, in particular Sandra Sacchetti and Andrea Sekhavat, and the professional team of interpreters for helping us to navigate through the meetings.

May I avail myself of this opportunity to express our thanks to the Ukrainian Chairmanship-in-Office for their co-operation and to wish them the best success in preparing for the Kyiv meeting of the Ministerial Council.

Dear Colleagues,

Liechtenstein is about to leave the FSC Troika. During the period of Liechtenstein's Chairmanship, Ambassador Kothbauer and her dedicated team provided us with management of an outstandingly high standard, and we tried to continue to draw on this valuable experience in our work. Furthermore, we would like to welcome Malta most warmly to the FSC Troika.

And finally, I wish our dear colleagues and friends from Luxembourg every success during their FSC Chairmanship. These wishes are reinforced by the hand-over of the FSC

Chairmanship requisites. I hope that they prove to be as useful for your Chairmanship as they have been for ours.

Thank you!