



Chairmanship: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

695th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 17 October 2012

Opened: 10.35 a.m.

Closed: 11.30 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador Z. Dabik

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE

Presentation by the Co-ordinator of the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS), Dr. Patrick McCarthy: Chairperson, Mr. P. McCarthy (FSC.DEL/122/12 OSCE+), Cyprus-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/123/12), Turkey, Austria

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

None

Agenda item 3: VIENNA DOCUMENT PLUS DECISION ON PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR MILITARY ACTIVITIES

Chairperson

Decision: The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 9/12 (FSC.DEC/9/12) on the Vienna Document Plus decision on prior notification of major military activities, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Albania (Annex), Luxembourg

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Distribution of a work programme on conventional arms transfers, United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition for the period 2012–2015 (FSC.GAL/122/12 OSCE+)*: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (b) *Recent activities of the Conflict Prevention Centre related to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540*: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Italy, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Belarus, Moldova
- (c) *Issuance of a maintenance patch for the Integrated Notification Application on 15 October 2012*: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 24 October 2012, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



695th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 701, Agenda item 3

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ALBANIA

On behalf of the delegation of Albania, I would like to make the following statement with respect to FSC Decision No. 9/12.

Albania supports the decision to provide for the prior notification of major military activities. We have endorsed the rationale behind this decision on several occasions, including through the intervention of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania, delivered at the fourth working session of the 2011 Annual Security Review Conference and distributed under reference number PC.DEL/674/11, dated 4 July 2011.

Furthermore, we were a party to the interpretative statement attached to Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11 on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation (MC.DEC/7/11/Corr.1 dated 7 December 2011) that, *inter alia*, called for substantial update to the Vienna Document including “informing our partners of at least one below threshold military exercise every year”. We continue to believe in the need for greater transparency and confidence-building. This decision is an important step in this regard. It also contributes to advance the ongoing process of revitalizing, updating and modernizing the Vienna Document. Albania remains fully committed to this process, as demonstrated by our early co-sponsorship of proposals aimed at lowering thresholds for prior notification of major military activities and initiating an OSCE inspection for clarification on military activities giving rise to concern.

We note that the decision allows participating States to be guided by their own discretion when it comes to the interpretation of what constitutes major military activity and, given the size and cyclical nature of our military activities, Albania reserves the right to report accordingly. Albania will be in a position to play its part in achieving the increases of transparency that this decision provides, although there may be periods in which no significant activity occurs.

Mr. Chairperson, I hereby request to append this statement to the journal of the day.

695th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 701, Agenda item 3

**VIENNA DOCUMENT PLUS DECISION No. 9/12
ON PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR MILITARY ACTIVITIES**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Emphasizing the significance of the OSCE's politico-military agreements and the Vienna Document for strengthening security and stability in Europe,

Reaffirming the OSCE participating States' commitment to the full implementation of agreed confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs),

Implementing Ministerial Council Decision No. 16/09, which calls on the FSC, *inter alia*, to strengthen the Vienna Document,

Guided by FSC Decision No. 1/10 establishing a procedure for incorporating relevant FSC decisions into the Vienna Document,

Using the text of the Vienna Document 2011 as a basis for amendments and additions,

Decides to:

Add to Chapter V "Prior notification of certain military activities" new paragraphs (46*)¹, (46*.1) and (46*.2) containing the following wording:

(46*) In the absence of any notifiable military exercise or military activity in a calendar year, the participating States will provide notification of one major military exercise or military activity, which is below the thresholds provided for in paragraphs (40.1.1),

(40.1.2), (40.2), (40.2.1), (40.3) and (40.3.1), held on their national territory in the zone of application for CSBMs;

1 46* – The asterisk signifies that this paragraph in the new version of Chapter V "Prior notification of certain military activities" will follow paragraph 46 – the last paragraph of Chapter V in the current version. This way of numbering the new paragraphs introduced into Chapter V means that there will be no need, when discussing their content, to change the existing numbering of the paragraphs of Chapter VI "Observation of certain military activities", the first paragraph of which is number (47).

- (46*.1) The participating States will be guided, at their own discretion, by the criterion of military significance in determining the specific military exercise or military activity for which notification will be provided;
- (46*.2) Notification of such military exercises or military activities will be consistent with paragraphs (38), (39), (42), (43), (44), (45) and (46).