



**Chairmanship: Denmark**

## **1094th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 11 December 2024 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 11 a.m.  
Closed: 11.15 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador C. Grønbech-Jensen

The draft agenda (FSC.GAL/71/24/Rev.1 OSCE+) was not agreed upon by the Forum for Security Co-operation.

Chairperson (FSC.DEL/417/24 OSCE+), Russian Federation  
(FSC.DEL/404/24)

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

None

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 29 January 2025, at 11 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference

## **CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE ON THE 1094th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

Thank you. I take it that the Russian delegation has reservations as regards to the agenda of this meeting.

Let me inform you that we have been in continuous bilateral dialogue with the Russian delegation throughout most of this trimester to find a way forward that would allow us to hold our weekly meetings without this threat of blocking hanging over our heads. I want to thank the Russian delegation for their preparedness to engage. As it stands, however, we have not been met with much readiness for real compromise. This, I believe, is evident from the statement which the Russian delegation just made.

Colleagues, we have been here before. Frankly, this comes as no surprise, as the Russian delegation has made a habit of blocking meetings whenever they do not get preferential treatment, or when they wish to punish the Chairmanship.

Now, as you have heard many times throughout this trimester, the position of the Danish Chairmanship is that an agenda with only standing items will not be subject to renewed weekly agreement in Vienna.

However, today's agenda contains a non-standing item, that is, the closing session. Even though this agenda item does not contain any controversial language or confrontational content, it has to be agreed upon as stipulated in the Rules of Procedure. We respect that.

While I understand this blockage seeks to punish the Danish Chairmanship for acting on a reading of the OSCE's rules during this trimester which is not shared by the Russian Federation, I am bound to conclude that there can be no FSC meeting today.

Since normal practice at an FSC closing session is that there are no speakers under the remaining items on the agenda at the closing session, I will not reissue an agenda containing only standing items. As we have a special guest here today, we will instead mark the end of the Danish trimester with a Chairmanship's event.

Before closing the meeting, allow me a moment to remind us all what it actually is that the Danish Chairmanship has sought to insist on this trimester:

– Weekly meetings; between all 57 participating States; to discuss matters of regional security; under an agenda containing only “general statements” and “any other business”.

Beyond the fact that this is all enshrined in our consensus documents, this is also not radical, it is not biased, nor is it aggressive. Agreeing to this should be perfectly uncontroversial – in fact, it should be too trivial to even spend time on.

Yet, we see how one participating State systematically wields consensus as a weapon of veto, using it to pressure or punish, while simultaneously throwing accusations at others of creating an institutional crisis.

Seen from the vantage point here at the head table in the Neuer Saal, it looks like it is the Russian delegation seeking an institutional crisis.

We are 57 States in this room. The rules are not there to ensure that one can prevent the remaining 56 from doing what they came here to do. Week after week.

In the immortal words of the great Canadian artist Alanis Morissette:

Isn't it ironic, that, the Russian Federation repeatedly calls for dialogue, while continuously preventing such dialogue from taking place?

Isn't it ironic, that, a delegation which professes to have a deep respect for the Rules of Procedure has such a selective reading of them?

Isn't it ironic, that, the Russian delegation repeatedly invokes alleged "grave violations of the Rules of Procedure" by the Danish Chairmanship, while the grave violations of the Helsinki Final Act and the UN Charter committed by their own government and army in Ukraine seem of no consequence?

Now with that, for those participating States still interested in dialogue, I invite you to a Chairmanship's event in 15 minutes to continue with discussions as outlined in the draft agenda circulated. The Chairmanship's event will not be accessible on Zoom.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FSC Support Unit, Meetings Assistance Unit, documents distribution centre and interpreters for their help and support to the Chairmanship throughout this trimester in ensuring the good order and smooth running of the meetings.

This concludes today's plenary meeting of the FSC. The date and time of the next FSC plenary meeting will be circulated in due time by the incoming Spanish Chairmanship.

The meeting is closed.