



Chairmanship: United Kingdom

598th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 9 December 2009

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Closed: 10.20 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. I. Cliff

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE

None

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Closing remarks by the Chairperson of the FSC: Chairperson (Annex), Greece

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Workshop on data exchange under the Vienna Document 1999, to be convened on 11 December 2009:* United States of America

(b) *Organizational matters:* Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 16 December 2009, at noon, in the Neuer Saal



598th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 604, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Introduction

I would like to say a few words, as this is the last meeting of the FSC that I shall chair. Our plan is of course that there should be a further meeting next week, followed by a special buffet lunch, but Berenice will chair that one, as I will be on my way back from the Mediterranean Partners meeting in Cairo. This is an opportunity for me to reflect on the last four months and to have a forward look. One thing that our Chairmanship has reminded me is that arms control experts do not come from another planet. The FSC is very much part of the overall OSCE structure, and of course an important decision-making body of the OSCE. I am particularly pleased that during the period of the UK Chairmanship the need for the Forum's expertise to be injected into the wider discussions on the Corfu Process and the future of European security more generally has been underscored. I am very pleased that Ambassador Marinaki is here today, and I wish to pay tribute to the excellent co-ordination between the Chairman-in-Office and the FSC Chairmanship.

Looking back

Looking back over the period from September until now shows just how much work we have accomplished, and how many subjects we have discussed, in this Forum. At the first FSC of the UK Chairmanship, Paul Johnston, the British Security Policy Director, set out our views on where the FSC might go under our care – I think, looking back at his speech, we can be pleased with our progress.

In September we were able to hold a meeting of experts in order to review the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), something that was long overdue. The lively discussion at that meeting and the interesting recommendations emanating from it have already begun to drive work forward: in particular I am thinking of Decision No. 11/09, adopted by the FSC on 25 November, which updated Decision No. 15/02 with expert advice on implementation of Section V of the Document on SALW.

We were able to welcome two senior British speakers for the Security Dialogue – Generals McColl and Dutton, both of whom concentrated our minds on the enormous tasks we continue to face in Afghanistan, and other areas relevant to the OSCE, and set out how the OSCE could be involved in helping there. We also used the Security Dialogue to discuss the issues that face cluster-munition victims, and the ways in which women's involvement in

hard security can benefit progress towards settlement of conflict. In addition, we had a session dedicated to UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) and the ways in which work on implementation of that resolution could best be furthered through the OSCE. It was also our pleasure to be able to chair two joint meetings of the FSC and the PC.

We also saw the adoption of a number of decisions, including that of a Best Practice Guide (BPG) on UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), regarding Export Control and Transshipment. Another BPG was adopted, on Vienna Document 1999, Chapter IV, Contacts. We managed to decide on a date and venue, and then later, on the agenda and modalities, for the Annual Implementation Assessment meeting for 2010.

Importantly too, we were able to help delegations bring together two important decisions for the Ministerial Council meeting in Athens: one on “SALW and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA)”, and a second one on “Issues Relevant to the FSC”. I was very pleased too that the Forum, under our Chairmanship, was able to assist in bringing about agreement on a wide-ranging declaration on non-proliferation. This is the first such declaration made by OSCE Ministers, and one that will help focus the Forum’s efforts in this field over the coming years. I would like to thank the Ukrainian delegation for their initiative in this regard.

Looking forward

I predict that 2010 will see a full programme of events and discussions in the FSC. Some discussions will be driven by events, and some by the tasks we have received from our Ministers in Athens. The two decisions I mentioned will be of particular relevance in guiding the FSC’s work in 2010. On SALW and SCA the Forum will need to get into gear early in the new year in order to develop the Plan of Action required as a result of the suggestions made at the Meeting to Review the Document on SALW. It will also need to engage in preparations for the OSCE’s contribution to the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States on the UN Programme of Action on SALW, which will take place in New York in July, and to deliver on the task assigned to it to review the implementation of Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/08 on the establishment or reinforcement of a legal framework for lawful brokering activities.

On the projects side, there will continue to be pressure on budgets as a consequence of the international financial crisis. Raising adequate funding from participating States to continue the important work being done on the ground will continue to be hard – or get harder still. I am particularly grateful, therefore, to the participating States that took the opportunity of the SALW side-event in Athens to announce their contributions to individual projects on SALW and SCA. I urge all participating States to examine how they might contribute to the OSCE’s projects, as this is one area where assistance can bring about real practical progress in improving security and stability in our area.

The FSC’s contribution to the Corfu Process discussions will afford an interesting opportunity for this Forum to re-engage with the wider political discussions in the OSCE. Ministerial Council Decision 16/09, on Issues Relevant to the FSC, ensures that this Forum will be able to contribute to discussions on improving OSCE procedures in respect of crisis management. But the decision also tasks us to undertake work in a number of areas that constitute the core function of the Forum, as set out in its original mandate in the Helsinki

Document of 1992. We particularly look forward to discussions on how to strengthen the wider OSCE politico-military toolbox, including the Vienna Document 1999.

Thanks

I owe a particular debt of gratitude to a whole list of people without whom our Chairmanship would not have gone so smoothly.

Firstly, I would like to mention the Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW normative work – a slot that has been empty since Colonel Walter Schweizer left Vienna at the end of September. Walter's work in organising the SALW document Review meeting was enormously helpful to the Chairmanship. Next year, in particular, in view of the recent Ministerial Council Decision on SALW, there is even more work to be done, and having someone to co-ordinate that work will make the lives of the 2010 Greek, Hungarian and Irish Chairmanships of the FSC very much easier. It therefore gives me great pleasure to announce that the Chairmanship has accepted the very kind offer from the Delegation of Sweden for Colonel Anders Byren to take over this critical role with immediate effect. I thank him, wish him well, and confirm my delegation's support for his work.

I should also like to thank the Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, Colonel Anton Eischer. He too has worked tirelessly to ensure that progress on this valuable document has been made, both through our outreach programme of seminars, and through the adoption earlier in the year of the decision to update the Code of Conduct's questionnaire. I anticipate that, as a result of this decision, the 2010 information exchange will show a qualitative improvement and quantitative increase in the information provided.

Also deserving of my thanks is Lieutenant Colonel Niels Petersen. He has driven forward the work on SCA in a range of projects, including, as we were most recently informed at the side-event in Athens, the OSCE's largest ever project for the disposal of 3,000 tonnes of liquid rocket fuel, or *mélange*, which has now commenced in the Ukraine.

Last, but not least, my thanks go to Colonel Steve Hartnell for his continuing work as my Co-ordinator for SALW Projects; 2009 has seen the successful completion of a comprehensive SALW programme in Tajikistan, and the destruction of 324 man-portable air defence systems in Cyprus. The SALW project in Belarus continues to progress, and we anticipate that a new project in Kyrgyzstan will shortly be uploaded onto the OSCE system.

I would like also to extend thanks to the CPC, to Conference Services and, of course, to the interpreters, for their continued hard work. And let me wish the incoming Greek Chairmanship of the FSC a very hearty welcome, and say farewell to Georgia, which leaves the FSC Troika at the end of this session.

Finally, I would like to convey my very best Christmas and New Year's wishes to you and your families, and I look forward to our work in the FSC in 2010.

This statement will be attached to the journal of the day.