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DECISION No. 4/04
MIGRATION TO THE NEW OPERATING SYSTEM AND THE SIMPLIFIED NETWORK ARCHITECTURE

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Recognizing the agreed technical requirements for the OSCE Communications Network remain valid (FSC.DEC/3/98),

Acknowledging the necessity for all participating States to procure the requisite hardware and software,

Decides to agree to the recommendations on the migration to the new operating system and the simplified network architecture agreed upon by the 34th meeting of the OSCE Communications Group (CG) as contained in the annex.

REPORT OF THE CCB CO-ORDINATOR AT THE 34th CG MEETING ON THE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK UPGRADE

At its 37th CCB Meeting on the basis of the Report of the Network Development Subgroup (NDS) (see CCB Workspace/CCB Meeting/CCB37 NDS Report) the CCB decided to recommend the migration to the simple client network architecture, consisting of Windows XP Pro (for EUS) and Windows 2003 Server (for CMS). It was noted then, that to adopt a final decision in the course of the Communications Group Meeting, additional consideration should be given to certain issues, such as:

— Verification of delivery of the message to the CMS as well as the EUS;
— The connection between the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the MFA;
— Analysis of the previous decisions of the FSC and technical requirements of the Communications Network.

The NDS (USA, Italy, NMT and Russia as leading delegation) has carried out additional studies in regards to these issues. The results of the study have shown that the delivery of the message to the CMS as well as the EUS can be verified with the help of third party software with insignificant expenses for the EUS (about $20 per computer). The communication between MoD and MFA can be established through the VPN by means of the OSCE Communications Network, with only one user, i.e., the political user, having the right to submit notifications. According to the Communications Group Chairman's Report, the previous decisions of the FSC do not contradict the upgrade and provide for the technical requirements of the Communications Network (FSC.DEC/3/98).

Based on the above study results the NDS confirms the recommendation of the CCB, that the Communications Group approve the migration to a simple Client Network Architecture under Windows XP Pro. Implementation should begin immediately. Upon approval of the migration recommendation by the CG, the NDS suggests the following implementation concept:

The project could be implemented and monitored according to a phased plan established by the Network Development Subgroup (NDS). Similar to the PMT for the Virtual Private Network, one NDS representative could provide ongoing guidance to the NMT throughout the implementation.

In view of the advantages in time, cost, efficiency, security, standardization, and configuration control, the following could be supplied by the Network Management Team:

— MS – Outlook 2003;
— MS – Outlook Delivered to EUS confirmation add-on (if required);
— MS – Windows User Licenses on the Central Mail Server (150);

— All required hardware and software for the Central Mail Server (including Microsoft Exchange Enterprise Edition);
— User Documentation (English);
— PIX–501 procurement and configuration for MOD VPN Connections;
— Common Virus Protection Software.

The following could be provided by delegations in capitals:

— XP Pro compatible End User Station PC (one per PIX connection) in accordance with an approved standard configuration;
— XP Professional Operating System with latest Service Pack;
— Static IP address for a MOD connection (if required);
— Any additional PC's to be used in a peer-to-peer network attached to the EUS (if required).

The Network Management Team could arrange to manage the following tasks:

— Upgrade of the Central Mail Server;
— INA Testing on XP Professional;
— Testing of New Network Infrastructure;
— Configuration of the VPN as required;
— Development of User Instructions for the Upgrade;
— Project Implementation Plan.

Once the Project Implementation Plan is developed, detail design and testing is completed and necessary procurements are made, the phased transition could begin by mid-2005. Transition of EUS could be on a scheduled, first-come, first-serve basis. The total project duration would depend greatly upon the co-operation of end users in capitals during the entire project.

Further to the CCB recommendation to migrate to a simple client architecture for the modernized OSCE Network, the Network Development Subgroup (NDS) proposes the following minimum hardware configuration:

— PC with 2.4 GHz or higher processor clock speed recommended; 800 MHz minimum required; Intel Pentium 4/Celeron family, or AMD Athlon family;
— 256 megabytes (MB) of RAM;
— 20 Gigabytes (GB) hard disk;
— Removable storage (3.5" Disc drive or USB Memory Stick);
— Super VGA (1024 x 768) or higher-resolution video adapter and monitor;
— CD-RW or DVD-R/RW (for simple back-up);
— Keyboard and Mouse or compatible pointing device;
— 10/100 Ethernet RJ-45 Network adapter.

It is planned to perform works related to the Network upgrade in compliance with the Project Implementation Plan that will be elaborated after the relevant CG decision is adopted. The Plan will include provision for the relevant orientation for the EUS users.