

**FSC Chairmanship: Denmark**

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-  
OPERATION TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALTA, CHAIRPERSON  
OF THE THIRTY FIRST MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE OSCE**

As Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), I have the honour to inform you about the Forum's work in 2024.

In preparing this letter, I have consulted the other 2024 FSC Chairpersonships, namely Cyprus and Croatia. In 2024, we worked in close co-operation to ensure continuity and efficiency in the implementation of the Forum's annual work programme.

This year marked the third year of the FSC operations under the unprecedented security situation and geopolitical tensions arising from the unjustified and unprovoked war launched on 24 February 2022 by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The war continues to negatively impact the whole security architecture in Europe and beyond, jeopardizing the Organization's underlying concept of co-operative security. In response to the severe security situation, the FSC Chairs, in close co-ordination with the Chair of the Permanent Council and the OSCE Secretariat, have led the FSC's work in the spirit of protecting and preserving the FSC as a platform for mandated dialogue focusing on the current security challenges. All three FSC Chairpersonships continuously highlighted the role of the FSC in upholding peace, security and democracy, by promotion of sustaining the dialogue amongst all OSCE participating States.

Regrettably, the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation has been affected by increasingly frequent and wide-ranging blocking of meetings. For two years running, one participating State made it its practice to disrupt the good order and smooth running of FSC meetings. This continuously escalated, to the point that the situation deteriorated and during the second trimester of 2024 one participating State was regularly blocking even the meetings with only standing items on the agenda. In this situation, the chairpersonship of Denmark took much needed steps aiming to preserve the mandated dialogue in the forum at future meetings.

Moreover, in 2024, the security situation precluded the conduct of the FSC-related politico-military annual meetings. Despite best efforts, the respective Chairs concluded that there was no agreement on the conduct of these Meetings in light of the current security situation.

By maintaining the FSC as an important platform for dialogue, in addition to the exchanges on the war against Ukraine, in total, eleven Security Dialogues including three Joint FSC-PC Meetings were planned and eight took place.

In the context of ongoing conflicts in the OSCE area, the FSC Chairs of 2024, with a focus on the war against Ukraine, prioritized the topics related to **international humanitarian law** and the **principles guiding inter- and intra-State relations in the OSCE area** with special emphasis on armed forces. In this regard, the FSC Chairpersonship of Cyprus planned the Security Dialogue on *Human Security in Armed Conflicts*, but since the agenda of the meeting could not be agreed upon, organized a side event on this topic focusing on protection against gender-based violence. Furthermore, the FSC Chairpersonship of Croatia organized the *Security Dialogue on Military education and the changing roles of military academies*, and the FSC Chairpersonship of Denmark organized the Security Dialogues on the *Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security* and a Joint FSC-PC Security Dialogue on the *Helsinki Decalogue*.

All three FSC Chairs prioritized the importance of the implementation of the **Women, Peace and Security Agenda** and the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, with several Security Dialogues dedicated to this topic that were planned in total, including one Joint FSC-PC Meeting under the Chairpersonship of Croatia, on the topic *Women's contribution to peace and security: lessons learned and challenges ahead*. Moreover, a side event on *Women, Peace, and Security – UN Security Council Resolution 1325 – Gender Equality in conscription* was organized under the FSC Chairpersonship of Denmark. In addition, Cyprus Chairpersonship together with the Maltese CiO organised a side event on the *Role of Men in Gender Equality*. Furthermore, throughout the year, the FSC Chairpersonships supported the 2024 OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security training programme on conflict prevention and resolution through arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation for youth, especially women. Thus far, amongst 785 graduates of the training programme, 88% are women.

In order to increase awareness of the destructive impact of war and its consequences, in particular when it comes to **mine contamination and explosive remnants of war**, the FSC Chairpersonship of Cyprus organized the Security Dialogue on *Humanitarian Mine Action - Victim Assistance*, and the FSC Chairpersonship of Croatia organized the Security Dialogue on *Humanitarian Demining – scope, challenges, and the way forward*.

Recognizing the need to widen the understanding of cross-cutting security issues related to the politico-military dimension and the impact of conflict, the FSC Chairpersonship of Cyprus organized a Joint FSC-PC on *Environment and Security*, drawing attention to the evolving role of military forces in responding to natural and man-made disasters and looking into ways to reduce the impact of military activities, including in conflict situations, on the environment and climate change.

All three FSC Chairpersonships continued to support the OSCE's work in the politico-military dimension of security on practical assistance in the area of the small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) controls. The **OSCE's assistance projects on SALW and SCA** continued to provide steady support in 2024 with a portfolio of 19 Assistance Projects in worth of 55.5 million EUR. Several projects are aimed at ensuring the secure and safe management of stockpiles through infrastructure, material, equipment upgrades at storage sites, as well as establishment of laboratories for chemical analysis of SCA stability and its surveillance. A

significant element of the projects was providing support to the efforts of combating illicit trafficking in SALW across the OSCE region. The assistance projects in Central Asia continuously provided support for countering the threat and risk of potential SALW, ammunition and explosives trafficking from Afghanistan, as well as strengthening life-cycle management of conventional ammunition. In the context of disposal of stockpiles, the last remaining toxic obsolete rocket fuel was removed from Kyrgyzstan. After successful implementation of assistance projects in South-Eastern Europe and Ukraine, they were reassessed to provide tailored assistance to the beneficiaries for the next phase 2025-2027. Further information and details are available via the OSCE SALW Portal (<https://salw.osce.org/>).

In 2024, the OSCE contributed with a report on the OSCE`s efforts in the field of SALW to the **UN 4<sup>th</sup> Conference** to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects held from 18 to 28 June 2024 in New York. Furthermore, the OSCE organized a side event to present the OSCE`s holistic and comprehensive approach when implementing critical assistance projects aimed at reducing risks related to uncontrolled spread of SALW/SCA and showcased achievements with the enhancement of SALW and ammunition management capacities in the Kyrgyz Republic. A similar side event was also held in the margins of the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime on 15 October 2024 in Vienna, highlighting the OSCE`s efforts in through-life management of weapons and ammunition in Central Asia.

The **military information exchange** remained at a high rate, although some participating States decided to continue not to exchange the information at all or not to provide it to all participating States in light of the current security situation. In recognition of the importance of the topic of the information collection, the FSC Chairpersonship of Croatia planned the Security Dialogue on *Emerging technologies and military data collection and Open-source intelligence (OSINT)*, but since the agenda of the FSC meeting could not be agreed upon, organized a side event on this topic instead. The OSCE Information Management and Reporting System (iMARS) was successfully expanded to support the States Parties to the Dayton Peace Accords in implementing the Sub-Regional Arms Control Agreement under Dayton Article IV. The iMARS CPC Dashboard was developed to manage the CSBM databases of exchanged military information to allow the CPC to update them in real-time as of Q1 2025.

The FSC Chairpersonships commend the work of the Conflict Prevention Centre in developing both introductory and in-depth **e-learning** modules covering FSC-related topics, which are aimed at systematizing the transfer of knowledge on, inter alia, military information exchanges pertaining to the conventional arms control. In 2024, the new FSC e-learning modules on Military Information exchange, the Vienna Document and Conventional Arms Control in English and Russian languages, as well as the module "Rules of Procedures for FSC Meetings" in English were launched. Thus far, over 140 participants from 18 OSCE participating States, including 32% women, have taken part in the new modules. Overall, 915 participants from 51 participating States have participated in the introductory and in-depth FSC E-learning modules.

In 2024, on average 31% women and 69% men participated in the FSC Plenaries. The panellists providing expertise for the Security Dialogues and FSC Chair`s side events in 2024 were comprised of 46% women and 54% men.

Finally, the FSC Chairpersonships would like to thank the CiO of Malta for the professional and outstanding cooperation as well as the Secretariat for their invaluable support.

In conclusion, against the security challenges in the region and unprecedented deterioration of constructive approach at the FSC, the Forum for Security Co-operation remains committed to serving as the key OSCE body for dialogue and decision-making in the first dimension, providing participating States with a platform to discuss politico-military security issues, raise security concerns, and keep each other accountable for adherence to the OSCE principles and implementation of their commitments.