

Chairmanship: Turkey

939th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 29 January 2020

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 3.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. E. Soysal

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation for the condolences offered in connection with the earthquake that occurred in the province of Elazığ in Turkey on 24 January 2020.

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE ON THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE OSCE ISTANBUL SUMMIT

- *Presentation by Mr. H. Göğüş, Ambassador (retired), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey*
- *Presentation by the OSCE Secretary General*
- *Presentation by Captain (Navy) M. Cenk, Chief of the European Security Strategy, Disarmament and International Security Branch, Turkish General Staff*

Chairperson, Mr. H. Göğüş, OSCE Secretary General, Captain M. Cenk, Croatia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/29/20), Canada, Azerbaijan, Albania, Russian Federation, United States of America

(FSC.DEL/27/20 Restr.), Belarus (FSC.DEL/26/20 OSCE+), Switzerland, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, FSC Co-ordinator for Matters Related to UNSCR 1325 (United Kingdom), Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Latvia) (Annex), Croatia-European Union

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine, Croatia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/30/20), Russian Federation, Canada, United States of America

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Young Scholars' Competition on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures:* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Germany
- (b) *Financial contribution to the Project for the Safety and Security Upgrade of Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina:* Bosnia and Herzegovina
- (c) *Military exercise "Cold Response 2020", to be conducted from 2 to 18 March 2020:* Norway

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 5 February 2020, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

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Annex

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939th Plenary Meeting
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**STATEMENT BY
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF
FRIENDS ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND
STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION (LATVIA)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Dear colleagues,
Distinguished speakers,

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), I should like to start by thanking the speakers for their valuable contributions and thoughts on the topic of today's Security Dialogue.

The 20th anniversary of the OSCE Istanbul Summit, which we celebrated last year, has served to remind us of a number of important areas of our work. I wish to focus here on the field of SALW and SCA.

At Istanbul in 1999, the Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States acknowledged that "the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons" posed "a threat and a challenge to peace and security, in particular as an element in terrorist activity and armed conflicts". They expressed their determination "to co-operate more actively and closely with each other" to meet those challenges, which they would do on the basis of "a broad and comprehensive approach". The Heads of State or Government welcomed (I quote):

"[T]he decision of the FSC to launch a broad and comprehensive discussion on all aspects of the problem of the spread of small arms and light weapons and to study concrete measures to deal with this issue, in order to respond to the challenge to peace and stability stemming from the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of these weapons."

As a result, the topics of SALW and SCA became an integral part of the agenda of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), and the OSCE participating States began to develop norm- and standard-setting measures that took into account all aspects of SALW.

This year we are marking the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Document regulates all aspects of SALW, including the production, transfer, storage, collection and destruction of such weapons, and also export controls. Accordingly, the FSC has adopted several SALW- and SCA-related decisions and approved a number of Best Practice Guides on those topics, which we are currently in the process of updating.

The OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, adopted in 2003, commits the participating States to the safe and secure storage of their national stocks of conventional ammunition. It provides indicators that participating States can use to assess whether they have a surplus of conventional ammunition, explosive material and/or detonating devices, and if so, to initiate the process of destroying any such surpluses.

Dear colleagues,

I believe that we can tackle SALW and SCA issues more effectively by strengthening the link between norms and standards, on the one hand, and the practical implementation of assistance projects, on the other, and also by drawing on the lessons learned from our practical work. This could be achieved, for example, by incorporating the lessons learned from specific assistance projects into our Best Practice Guides.

We should also consider how to make better use of the existing information exchanges on SALW-related issues. This would include such measures as improving communication on participating States' needs for assistance in strengthening their national legislation; analysing statistics on the export and import of SALW, which could help strengthen arms transfer control (and thus also prevent illegal transfers); working more effectively with the existing points of contact to ensure continuity and consistency; and creating a unified database with analytical tools that participating States can use.

We should be mindful of the ever-accelerating technological developments that have occurred since the Istanbul Summit, such as 3D printing, and their implications for the illicit trafficking of SALW. In that respect, some relevant work has already been carried out on the deactivation of SALW. As for manufacturing, marking, record-keeping, common export criteria and export controls, we could consider developing a new Best Practice Guide specifically on combating the illicit trafficking of SALW and/or updating existing guides to reflect technological developments.

To summarize, I believe that strengthening the implementation of SALW- and SCA-related norms and regulations further by linking them to our practical work, making better use of information exchanges, and examining the new technologies used for illicit trafficking would all help enhance the FSC's ability to tackle existing and emerging challenges in the field of SALW and SCA.

Thank you for your attention.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.