

Chairmanship: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

691st PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 19 September 2012

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 11.50 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador Z. Dabik

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE

Presentation by the Bundeswehr Verification Centre – today, tomorrow and a possible way ahead for implementation – given by General J. Beyer, Bundeswehr Verification Centre, Lt. Col. M. Schlimm-Rebasti, Ministry of Defence, and Lt. Col. (GS) O. Gründer, Bundeswehr Verification Centre: Chairperson, General J. Beyer (FSC.DEL/106/12 OSCE+), Lt. Col. O. Gründer (FSC.DEL/106/12 OSCE+), Lt. Col. M. Schlimm-Rebasti (FSC.DEL/106/12 OSCE+), Cyprus-European Union (with the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/107/12), Russian Federation, Sweden, Belarus, Spain

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

“Caucasus 2012” military exercises, held in the Russian Federation from 17 to 23 September 2012: Russian Federation (Annex), United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Germany

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON THE USE OF THE OSCE
 COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK BY PARTICIPATING
 STATES OF THE DOCUMENT ON CONFIDENCE- AND
 SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES IN THE NAVAL
 FIELD IN THE BLACK SEA (not adopted)

Chairperson, Armenia

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Participation of the OSCE in the Second Review Conference of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 27 August to 7 September 2012: Latvia*
- (b) *Matters of protocol: Slovakia, Romania, Chairperson*
- (c) *Update on issues related to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre*
- (d) *Gender Issues Section Power Breakfast, to be held on 21 September 2012: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 26 September 2012, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/697
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Annex

ENGLISH
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691st Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 697, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

At the last meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) our delegation spoke about the aims, objectives and general parameters of the “Caucasus 2012” training exercises. In view of the interest shown in this measure, we should like in the spirit of transparency to continue to inform our distinguished colleagues about it.

The “Caucasus 2012” strategic headquarters exercise began in accordance with the Russian Federation Armed Forces Training Plan the day before yesterday, 17 September. A brigade exercise was carried out at the training complex of the Rayevskiy 7th Guards Air Assault (Mountain) Division stationed near Novorossiysk, during which a motorized infantry brigade practised a defensive manoeuvre at a temporary position on the sea coast. The troop activities were supervised by Vladimir Putin, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Armed Forces.

Mock-strength military units also carried out practical exercises on the Prudboy, Kapustin Yar and Ashuluk ranges in the Southern Military District.

Apart from units and subunits of the land forces, the “Caucasus 2012” exercise also involves in particular subunits of the Airborne Forces, the Black Sea Fleet and the Caspian Flotilla.

Practical operations have commenced on the Ashuluk range in Astrakhan Oblast with the participation of formations and units of the 49th Army of the Southern Military District and also subunits of the 5th Independent Motorized Infantry Brigade of the 20th Army of the Western Military District and an air assault battalion of the 7th Air Assault Division.

During the exercises the methods of working of the command staff in the planning and conduct of special operations in flat steppe terrain, the management of forces and material and the conduct of military operations will be fine-tuned.

The practical military operations on the Ashuluk range will be carried out in several stages. On 17 September the forces were concentrated in the area where the military operations are to take place.

For the purpose of the exercise, the 5th Independent Motorized Infantry Brigade stationed in Podmoskovye has been put under the command of the 49th Army of the Southern Military District. On 17 September the army command and subunits of the independent motorized infantry brigade moved into the staging area.

The air assault battalion of the 7th Air Assault Division, part of the enemy forces, completed its movement to the location of the military operations and started setting up its defensive positions.

During the route march the negotiation of mined sectors and contaminated, destroyed and burning areas was practised. After concentration in the designated areas, the command bodies and forces set about preparing for the military operations.

On the first day of the exercises crews from the Army Air Corps in Mi-35, Mi-28N and Mi-24 helicopters were called upon to take to the air and provide barrage fire on detected enemy forces and cover for the military strike formations of the land forces. Crews from the Tactical Air Fleet in Su-24M and Su-25SM aircraft attacked detected enemy columns and reserves, and strategic Tu-160 bombers and missile carriers fired on critically important enemy targets.

Altogether over 50 aeroplanes and helicopters were involved in the operation. Other air force crews carried out planned weapons training exercises on the ranges of the Southern Military District.

While carrying out their tasks in the "Caucasus 2012" exercises the air force crews will be practising operational assembly, redeployment, air support for tactical operations of land forces, airborne landing of personnel, air reconnaissance and missile strikes on sites where the simulated enemy are located.

Strategic long-range bombers of type Tu-160 and Tu-22MZ and military transport aircraft of type IL-76 will be deployed in the airspace within the area in which the exercise is being conducted.

Helicopters of type Mi-8, Mi-24 and Mi-28N, tactical bombers of type Su-24, attack aircraft of type Su-25, fighter aircraft of type Mig-29 and Su-27 and also unmanned drones will provide direct armed support for the troop units.

Air crews from practically all air force commands will be called upon this year to carry out military training tasks.

Vessels from the Caspian Flotilla will also be taking part in the "Caucasus 2012" exercises. They have started to move into the area where the exercises are taking place in the central part of the Caspian Sea from bases in Astrakhan and Makhachkala.

Naval and coastal forces will have a number of military training tasks to perform in maritime and terrestrial ranges in the Republic of Dagestan and Astrakhan Oblast.

According to the plan, navy units from the Caspian Flotilla will carry out practical operations to rebuff an air attack by the enemy by firing at airborne targets and carrying out missile and artillery strikes on a group of enemy vessels. The exercise scenario envisages the landing of marines and the conduct of defensive and offensive operations.

Great attention will be paid during the exercises to the consideration of the way in which vessels of the Caspian Flotilla and Bal missile system carry out simultaneous missile strikes while conducting naval combat on the one hand and destroying groups of vessels and landing units of the simulated enemy on the other.

Altogether as many as 1,000 troops from the Caspian Flotilla along with the *Tatarstan* and *Dagestan* missile-launching vessels, assault landing craft, support vessels and up to 50 pieces of military and special equipment will be taking part in the “Caucasus 2012” exercises.

On 17 September itself the Iskander and Tochka-U missile systems carried out training missile launches at the Kapustin Yar range. The missiles were designed to attack targets in support of the motorized infantry subunits. Subunits of the Smerch salvo-fire missile systems also took part in the strikes. More than 100 rounds of missile ammunition were used by the missile crews from the Southern Military District to provide salvo fire at this stage of the exercises.

Mr. Chairperson,

Regarding the utterances heard on occasion claiming that Russia did not officially inform its partners of the aims and scenario of the “Caucasus 2012” strategic headquarters exercise, I should like to draw attention to the following facts. The preparations for the exercise were carried out with maximum openness. The progress of the preparations, including the organization of the supply of materiel to the troops was communicated on the official website of the Russian Ministry of Defence. The Ministry’s press service and information department conducted briefings for the media. Material on the preparations for the exercise was regularly published in the newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* (Red Star). As Nikolay Korchunov, acting permanent representative of Russia to NATO, stated: “The diplomats and military attachés of our partners in Moscow were fully informed of the objectives and nature of the exercise in southern Russia.”

I would ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day of the FSC meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.