



Chairmanship: Germany

962nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 25 November 2020 (via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 11.10 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador G. Bräutigam

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson reminded the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) of the technical modalities for the conduct of that FSC meeting during the COVID-19 pandemic, as outlined in FSC.GAL/109/20.

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/313/20) (FSC.DEL/313/20/Add.1), Germany-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/314/20), United Kingdom, Canada, United States of America, Russian Federation (Annex 1), France (also on behalf of Germany) (Annex 2)

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Announcing and Reminding Mechanism pursuant to FSC Decision No. 10/02:* Chairperson

(b) *Meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), to be held on 10 December 2020:* Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW and SCA (Latvia)

- (c) *Location of the military exercise “Defender Europe 2021”, to be held from 1 May to 14 June 2021: Serbia (Annex 3), United States of America*

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



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

FSC.JOUR/968
25 November 2020
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

962nd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 968, Agenda item 1

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

Madam Chairperson,

Let me be clear from the outset: I have no intention of commenting on the Ukrainian and Western fantasies about Crimea. Everything has already been said before. I would once again suggest familiarizing oneself with our statements, which are attached to the journals of meetings.

The current momentum of the negotiation process for the settlement of the crisis in Ukraine is discouraging, and the situation on the ground unstable. The number of violations of the truce in Donbas is picking up; weapons prohibited by the Minsk agreements are once again being used in the region. The Ukrainian Government is subjecting peaceful towns and settlements to provocative shelling. Such is the price that the inhabitants of Donbas are having to pay for expressing their disagreement with the course pursued by the politicians who came to power after the anti-constitutional coup d'état in Ukraine in 2014.

The lack of a critical response from our Western partners to the systematic attempts by Ukrainian officials to disavow the foundations for a peaceful internal Ukrainian settlement process continues to be puzzling. On 12 November of this year, in an interview with the television channel "1+1", the plenipotentiary representative of Ukraine at the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG), Leonid Kravchuk, described the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements as "a tremendous mistake – a political millstone round Ukraine's neck and one of the obstacles that is preventing decisions from being taken across the board".

It is not difficult to guess what kind of decisions are being referred to here: one has only to open the recent reports by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM). Against the backdrop of the Ukrainian Government's calls for the country's army to be comprehensively modernized, heavy weapons and military equipment belonging to the Ukrainian armed forces are being actively transferred to a region torn apart by confrontation. Between 16 and 18 November of this year, the SMM monitors spotted around a hundred weapons systems and pieces of equipment proscribed by the Minsk agreements at railway junctions situated in areas of Donbas that are controlled by the Ukrainian Government. They include tanks, multiple-launch rocket systems, self-propelled howitzers and anti-tank guns.

These statements and actions by the Ukrainian side, together with the recent draft laws on internment of Russian citizens and criminalizing denial of the mythical “fact of [Russia’s] aggression”, add up to an increasingly clear picture of what the “plans B and C” repeatedly announced by the Ukrainian leadership consist of. It would seem that over in Kyiv they have simply forgotten about the promise they made to the Ukrainian people to end the conflict in Donbas by the end of 2020 on the basis of the Minsk agreements.

Further prolongation of the armed confrontation in eastern Ukraine is unacceptable. The Ukrainian Government should put an immediate stop to the punitive operation against the civilian population of Donbas, withdraw its weapons and move them to the designated storage sites, disarm all illegal groups, and pull the foreign military equipment and mercenaries out of Ukraine. Political and security measures are closely interlinked and should be implemented simultaneously. We wish to draw attention to the direct responsibility of the Ukrainian Government for the practical implementation of all aspects of the Minsk Package of Measures and the instructions issued at the “Normandy format” summit in Paris on 9 December 2019.

We emphasize that participating States that provide military and technical assistance in any form to the Ukrainian Government are thereby encouraging the “war party” with its belligerent aspirations towards Donbas and share responsibility with the Ukrainian security forces for the casualties among the civilian population and the further destruction in eastern Ukraine.

We call on our international partners and Ukraine’s external “minders” to finally stop misrepresenting the true causes of the internal Ukrainian crisis and, with a view to swiftly halting the armed confrontation in Donbas, to bring maximum influence to bear on the Ukrainian leadership so as to ensure implementation of the Minsk Package of Measures of 12 February 2015, in a full and co-ordinated manner, through direct dialogue between the Ukrainian Government and the authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk. In its capacity as a mediator alongside the OSCE, France and Germany, our country stands ready to facilitate this in every possible way.

Madam Chairperson,

Finally, I cannot but respond to the statement by the representative of the European Union. I would point out that the saying “Don’t take your rule to another monastery” is of Russian, not Eastern origin. Besides, Crimea is a Russian “monastery” and I advise others not to try to impose their “rule” in anything that concerns it.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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

FSC.JOUR/968
25 November 2020
Annex 2

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

962nd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 968, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE (ALSO ON BEHALF OF GERMANY)**

Madam Chairperson,

On behalf of France and Germany, I wish to exercise my right of reply to the statement delivered by the representative of the Russian Federation at the previous meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation.

The commitment of France and Germany to resolving the conflict in eastern Ukraine remains unchanged and undiminished.

The Minsk agreements continue to be the sole framework for settling this conflict. All of these agreements were signed on behalf of the Russian Federation by its official representative. Russia has thus accepted in a clear and binding manner its responsibility with regard to a peaceful settlement of the conflict and the implementation of these agreements' provisions. Moreover, the Heads of State or Government of the Normandy Four countries declared in February 2015 that they would "use their influence on relevant parties".

In the Minsk Package of Measures only paragraphs 9, 11 (decentralization, legislation on the special status) and 12 (local elections) explicitly provide for consultations or co-ordination with the representatives of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The Minsk Protocol is unambiguous – I quote: "the Trilateral Contact Group, consisting of representatives of Ukraine, the Russian Federation and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe". It is the latter, that is the OSCE, that chairs the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG). The same wording is also to be found in the Minsk Memorandum.

In our country's capacity as a mediator, we consider that it is not our task to comment on either the content of the negotiations at the TCG or the statements by politicians from the States participating in these. We call on Russia to desist from calling into question the impartiality of France and Germany.

We reject the Russian allegations to the effect that Ukraine did not co-ordinate the opening of the crossing points at Zolote and Shchastia within the TCG. We urge Russia to bring its influence to bear so as to enable the opening of Zolote, Shchastia and other crossing points in due course.

France and Germany welcome the progress achieved on the ground since the end of July and the sharp reduction in the number of ceasefire violations. We call on the parties to keep up this momentum and to make further headway in the full implementation of the Minsk agreements.

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

Thank you.



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

FSC.JOUR/968
25 November 2020
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

962nd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 968, Agenda item 2(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA

Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

On 16 November 2020, in accordance with the Vienna Document 2011, the United States of America, through the OSCE Communications Network, gave notification of the exercise “Defender Europe 2021” lasting from 1 May to 14 June, in the agreed format under message number CBM/US/20/0018/F30/O. In the notification it was stated, in Points 3(A) (1C) and Point 4, that the defined location for conducting the exercise also includes the territory of the Republic of Serbia, that is, of its Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija, as the territory of the self-proclaimed and unrecognized State of “Kosovo”.

Kosovo and Metohija is an Autonomous Province of the Republic of Serbia and is under the interim administration of the United Nations, subject to the legally binding United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

The affirmation in the above-mentioned OSCE format of the illegal and unilaterally declared independence of so-called Kosovo is absolutely unacceptable while the applicable United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) guarantees the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia.

We would also like to recall that the OSCE was established as a regional arrangement in the sense of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

In addition, we would like to remind you that the OSCE has proclaimed its neutrality regarding the future status of the Serbian southern province. Compliance with and implementation of the Vienna Document 2011 must be in line with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), and the Vienna Document 2011 must not be misused.

Dear colleagues,

Accordingly, the Republic of Serbia strongly opposes making reference to, and prejudging, the status of Kosovo in the formats of OSCE notifications.

I thank you for your attention and kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.