
Chairmanship: Norway

800th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 21 October 2015

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 12.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Kvile

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE ON NORDIC DEFENCE
CO-OPERATION

Presentations on Nordic perspectives on the current security situation in Europe and the importance of confidence- and security-building measures and transparency by Mr. S. Efstad, Policy Director, Ministry of Defence of Norway, and Mr. J. Lagerlöf, Deputy Director General, Head of Department for Strategy and Security Policy, Ministry of Defence of Sweden: Chairperson, Mr. S. Efstad (FSC.DEL/195/15), Mr. J. Lagerlöf (FSC.DEL/196/15 OSCE+), Luxembourg-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/192/15), Finland (also on behalf of Denmark, Iceland and Sweden) (Annex 1), Iceland (Annex 2), Canada, United States of America, Russian Federation

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

(a) *Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (Annex 3) (FSC.DEL/194/15), Luxembourg-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Norway, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/193/15), United States of America, Canada, Russian Federation*

- (b) *Briefing on the military exercise Trident Juncture 2015*: Chairperson, Spain
- (c) *Briefing on the military exercise Dragon-15, conducted from 13 to 23 October 2015*: Poland (Annex 4), Russian Federation, Chairperson

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Appointment of Mr. R. Stražičar as chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons*: Chairperson, Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (Slovenia)
- (b) *Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres, to be held on 15 December 2015*: Chairperson
- (c) *High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar, to be held on 16 and 17 February 2016*: Netherlands (Annex 5)
- (d) *Matters of protocol*: Netherlands, Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Chairperson
- (e) *Austrian National Day on 26 October 2015*: Austria, Russian Federation, Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 28 October 2015, at 10 a.m., in the Ratsaal



800th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 806, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FINLAND (ALSO ON
BEHALF OF DENMARK, ICELAND AND SWEDEN)**

Mr. Chairperson,

Speaking also on behalf of Denmark, Iceland and Sweden, I am very pleased that Nordic defence co-operation was chosen as the theme for today's security dialogue. We believe this is an excellent way to celebrate the 800th meeting of this forum.

We thank Mr. Svein Efstad, Policy Director at the Ministry of Defence of Norway, and Mr. Johan Lagerlöf, Deputy Director General, Head of Department for Strategy and Security Policy at the Ministry of Defence of Sweden, for presenting truly interesting Nordic perspectives on the current security situation in Europe. It is also significant that we can focus on the northern part of the OSCE area under the Norwegian Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We also want to highlight that the Nordic Council Session will take place this year in Reykjavik, Iceland on 27–29 October. The themes of the session and the meetings will be the development of Nordic co-operation, environmental challenges, and foreign and security policy.

We believe that the Nordic model of defence co-operation, which has resulted in peaceful coexistence for more than 100 years, can serve as an example of best practice. The Nordic countries are small, and it therefore makes sense to co-operate in order to make full use of our resources and capabilities. Moreover, co-operation is an arena for learning and exchanging experiences. It also leads to increased transparency between our countries.

Although the Vikings were already co-operating more than a thousand years ago, the Nordic defence co-operation of today was officially launched in the 1960s and formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding signed on 4 November 2009. The Nordic Defence Co-operation (NORDEF) agreement is based on the idea that we can gain much through joint solutions, joint actions and cost sharing. It is not a military alliance and does not affect Member States' obligations in relation to organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union and NATO.

The Peace Support Operations education and training programme is a Nordic success story and an example of co-operation among the Nordic countries. By dividing the responsibility for the different types of courses between the Nordic countries, it has been possible to reach the highest international level.

As a very practical example, since the 1960s, tens of thousands of soldiers and civilians from all over the world have taken the various courses at the Nordic training centres: military police and civil-military co-operation specialists in Denmark; military observers, liaison officers and military advisers in Finland; staff officers in Sweden; and logistic specialists in Norway.

The Nordic countries share similar histories, culture and languages. Our societies are not markedly different when it comes to politics. Defence co-operation can also lead to positive synergies in these and other areas. We would especially like to mention our gender co-operation here.

Once again, we thank the Norwegian FSC Chairmanship for putting this subject on the agenda, and we are looking forward to developing our co-operation and good relations in the future.

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

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.



800th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 806, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND

Mr. Chairperson,

First, allow us to convey our deepest appreciation to you, Mr. Chairperson, for putting this important issue on the Forum for Security Co-operation agenda today.

Iceland thanks Mr. Sven Efjestad and Mr. Johan Lagerlöf for their presentations that describe well and in an enlightening manner the security situation from the Nordic perspective.

Iceland subscribes to the joint Nordic statement presented by Finland on behalf of the Nordic countries and aligns itself with the European Union statement, but we would like to add a few words in our national capacity.

Iceland, as you know, is a country without armed forces. Despite that, we conduct regular bilateral consultations on security and defence with our Nordic neighbours as well as participating in NATO military co-operation as one of the organization's founding members.

Since 2009, Iceland has been part of Nordic Defence Co-operation (NORDEFECO). This adds another dimension to our already excellent Nordic co-operation, strengthening it and enabling the five Nordic countries to be more than the sum of our parts.

If I may mention a practical example of this co-operation, it was the Iceland Air Meet held last year. Iceland, with NATO consent, invited Sweden and Finland for an air defence exercise with Norway while Norway was conducting regular NATO air surveillance and air policing missions over Iceland. A few other NATO countries also participated in the air meet. It was a notable example of a cross-border exercise so important for the NORDEFECO spirit of co-operation.

This exercise improved interoperability and situational awareness and was in our opinion a successful venture, one that we hope to repeat at some point in the future.

I would also like to use this opportunity to mention that Iceland intends to increase its defence expenditure from 2016 onwards. This will be devoted to enhanced air surveillance, to support more periodic deployments by NATO to the air policing missions in Iceland and to second more personnel to NATO as well as to the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention and we kindly request to have this statement attached to the journal of the day.



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

FSC.JOUR/806
21 October 2015
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

800th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 806, Agenda item 2(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with today's statement by the Russian delegation on the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC), the delegation of Ukraine wishes to emphasize the following.

International law prohibits the acquisition of part or all of another State's territory through coercion or force. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which remains an integral part of Ukraine, was illegally occupied and annexed by the Russian Federation in violation of OSCE principles and commitments and norms of international law. Illegitimate actions on the part of the Russian Federation do not have any legal consequences with regard to the status of the ARC as an integral part of Ukraine. The territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders is safeguarded by international law and UN General Assembly resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014, "Territorial integrity of Ukraine".

The Russian Federation is now in breach of such fundamental principles of the Helsinki Final Act as sovereign equality and respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty, refraining from the threat or use of force, inviolability of frontiers, territorial integrity of States, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-intervention in internal affairs, and fulfilment in good faith of obligations in international law.

We call on the Russian Federation to return to the tenets of international law and reverse the annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this statement be registered in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



800th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 806, Agenda item 2(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF POLAND

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,

Poland strongly believes that in order to build a common security area in the OSCE, we need to continue building confidence among the participating States regardless of current difficulties and problems. One of the most essential steps towards this goal is the promotion of the greatest possible transparency with regard to the activities of our armed forces. In this context, we would like to provide you with some information on the Dragon-15 military exercises currently being conducted in Poland.

Two notifications have been made with regard to the Dragon-15 military exercise. The first was in November 2014 in accordance with Chapter VII of the Vienna Document 2011 on annual calendars (CBM/PL/0054/F30/O), and the second was this year, in accordance with Chapter V of the Vienna Document 2011 on prior notification of certain military activities (CBM/PL/0029/F25/O).

Dragon-15 is being conducted from 13 to 23 October 2015. Its general purpose is to verify the capacity of the 11th Armoured Division Headquarters to plan, organize and execute tactical activities as the reserve of a land component during a joint defensive operation.

The exercise follows a fictional scenario, which is purely defensive in nature.

Dragon-15 involves about 7,000 military personnel, mostly from Poland and also from the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States of America and Canada.

The level of command for organizing and commanding the exercise is the General Command of the Polish Armed Forces.

- Area of activity: covering the Masuria region – Land Forces Training Centre in Orzysz;
- Total number of battle tanks involved in the exercise: 30;
- Total number of armoured combat vehicles (ACVs) involved in the exercise: 66;

- Total number of artillery pieces and multiple rocket launchers (MRLs) involved in the exercise: 32;
- Total number of helicopters involved in the exercise: 14;
- Total number of aircraft sorties involved in the exercise: 10.

More detailed information on these exercises is available for the benefit of participating States in the two above-mentioned Polish notifications under the Vienna Document.

Thank you for your attention and I kindly request you, Mr. Chairperson, to attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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

FSC.JOUR/806
21 October 2015
Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

800th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 806, Agenda item 3(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE NETHERLANDS

Mr. Chairperson,

As the incoming Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation and designated Chair of the High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar, we are keen to make this event a success. Military to military contacts at a high level among all participating States have become a rarity these days. The OSCE and its politico-military instruments offer a unique platform and toolbox for addressing politico-military security-related issues in the larger Euro-Atlantic and Central Asian area. It is for this reason that we want to make this event worthwhile, from the point of view of both participation and organization. We are therefore pleased to announce that we have secured the participation of our Chief of Defence, 4-star General Tom Middendorp, as one of the keynote speakers. Furthermore, we announce today that the Netherlands will make a pledge in the amount of up to 20,000 euros to cover part of the costs of the seminar, as estimated in extrabudgetary project No. 1101664. We call upon other participating States to do likewise and to support this event both through high-level participation and financial contributions.

Mr. Chairperson, may I ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the day?
Thank you.