
Chairmanship: Netherlands**813th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 24 February 2016

Opened: 9.05 a.m.
Suspended: 10.40 a.m.
Resumed: 10.45 a.m.
Closed: 12.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador D. Kopmels

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN LAW AND THE CODE OF CONDUCT
ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY

- *Brigadier General (retired) J. P. Spijk, President, International Society for Military Law and the Law of War*
- *Ms. P. Ditrichová Ochmannová, Senior Legal Adviser, International Law Department, Ministry of Defence, Czech Republic*

Chairperson, Mr. J. P. Spijk (FSC.DEL/41/16 OSCE+)
(FSC.DEL/41/16/Add.1 OSCE+), Ms. P. Ditrichová Ochmannová
(FSC.DEL/45/16 OSCE+), Netherlands-European Union (with the candidate
countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro
and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and
potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade
Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the
European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine,
in alignment) (FSC.DEL/48/16), United States of America, Canada,
Switzerland, Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre,
Netherlands-European Union, FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on
Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Czech Republic), Austria

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (Annex 1) (FSC.DEL/47/16), Netherlands-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/49/16), United States of America, Russian Federation (Annex 2), Chairperson

Point of order: Canada, Chairperson, Ukraine, Russian Federation, Netherlands-European Union, United States of America

Agenda item 3: LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL ON THE DATES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE

Chairperson

The Forum for Security Co-operation agreed to forward the letter from the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the Chairperson of the Permanent Council on the dates of the 2016 Annual Security Review Conference (FSC.DEL/37/16/Rev.1 Restr.).

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Matters of protocol*: United States of America, Chairperson
- (b) *Large-scale military exercise conducted by the Russian Federation in the Pskov region near the Estonian and Latvian borders from 15 to 20 February 2016*: Latvia (Annex 3), Russian Federation
- (c) *Announcement of the military exercise “Cold Response 16”, to be conducted from 29 February to 11 March 2016*: Norway (Annex 4)
- (d) *Informal meetings on the joint OSCE-UNDP Capacity Development Programme for Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management for the Republic of Serbia (CASM), to be held on 26 February 2016; and on the project on the security upgrade of ammunition and weapons storage sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SECUP), to be held on 1 March 2016*: Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (Slovenia) (on behalf of the FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (United States of America))

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 9 March 2016, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/819
24 February 2016
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

813th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 819, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Madam 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 by military force 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".

We call on the Russian Federation to return to the tenets of international law and reverse the illegal occupation and 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, Madam Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/819
24 February 2016
Annex 2

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

813th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 819, Agenda item 2

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

Dear Madam Chairperson,

In connection with the reference to Crimea in the statements by a number of delegations today, the delegation of the Russian Federation feels obliged to make the following observations.

The proclamation of independence of the Republic of Crimea and its incorporation into the Russian Federation was a legal expression of the right of the people of Crimea to self-determination at a time when Ukraine, with outside support, was in the throes of a *coup d'état*, with radical nationalist elements exerting a forceful influence on the decisions adopted in the country, which in turn resulted in the interests of the Ukrainian regions and Russian-speaking population being ignored.

The multi-ethnic population of Crimea took the corresponding decisions by a huge majority in a free and fair expression of its will. The status of the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as constituent entities of the Russian Federation is not open to reconsideration or discussion. Crimea is and will remain Russian. This is a fact that our partners will have to come to terms with.

This position is based on and fully complies with international law.

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/819
24 February 2016
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

813th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 819, Agenda item 4(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF LATVIA

According to the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, Russian airborne troops conducted a planned large-scale exercise in the Pskov region near the Estonian and Latvian borders from 15 to 20 February, involving 2,500 paratroopers and 300 military vehicles. Information about the start of that exercise was published only on Sunday, 14 February.

According to Chapter V of the Vienna Document entitled “Prior notification of certain military activities”, a military activity is subject to notification if there will be at least 3,000 heliborne or parachute assault troops involved in that engagement.

In a statement to the Munich Security Conference, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg also invited the Russian Federation to publish a schedule of exercises on a website as NATO countries do.

In the light of that and although the numbers involved in this exercise do not reach the necessary threshold for notification, in the interests of transparency and openness and in connection with proximity to other countries’ borders, we would be grateful if such offensive-type exercises involving numbers very close to the notification thresholds would be published much further in advance and with more detailed information.

We hope that in the future, the Russian Federation will send information in advance about planned exercises involving numbers very close to the thresholds, thus contributing to a more secure regional environment.



813th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 819, Agenda item 4(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Forum about the biannual large-scale exercise Cold Response 16 (CR16). This is the exercise notified last year by Norway as the biggest one taking place in our country in 2016.

Cold Response 16 will be conducted in the Trøndelag counties in central Norway from 29 February to 11 March. Approximately 15,000 military personnel from 12 nations are expected to participate.

The number of participating troops notifiable in accordance with Chapter V of the Vienna Document is 12,910. The envisaged number of aircraft sorties to be flown in the course of the activity is 640. The exercise will be organized and commanded by the Norwegian Joint Headquarters in Bodø.

Details about CR 16 have been notified in accordance with the Vienna Document. The latest notification is numbered CBM/NO/16/0003/F25/C, dated 23 February.

The main purpose of Cold Response 16 is to train personnel in how to conduct combat operations under cold weather conditions. Norway is ideally suited for winter activities, and its geography and climate offer unique opportunities to practise these skills.

The aim of the exercise is to maintain and further develop military capabilities in high-intensity, joint and combined operations in a changing environment. This includes the maintenance and further development of interoperability between participating forces, integrating the Connect Force Initiative.

Madam Chairperson,

Within the framework of the Vienna Document, this exercise falls below the threshold for observation. Nevertheless, voluntarily and in the spirit of promoting transparency and confidence, Norway has chosen to invite countries close to us to observe this exercise. The following States will participate with observers: Belarus, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Information regarding the exercise can be found on the web pages of the Norwegian Armed Forces.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.