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**Chairmanship: Tajikistan****918th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 19 June 2019

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 1.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Kalandar

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE ON PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE  
PROJECTS IN CENTRAL ASIA IN THE FIELD OF SMALL  
ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF  
CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION

– *Presentation by Major General S. Bachabekzoda, Director of the Department  
of the Engineering Corps, General Staff of the Armed Forces, Tajikistan*

– *Presentation by Colonel A. Li, Head of the Main Department for Armaments,  
State Committee for Defence Affairs, Kyrgyzstan*

Chairperson, Major General S. Bachabekzoda, Colonel A. Li,  
Romania-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 country Liechtenstein, member of the  
European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in  
alignment) (FSC.DEL/133/19), United States of America, Turkey,  
Switzerland, Russian Federation (FSC.DEL/134/19 OSCE+), Belarus  
(FSC.DEL/135/19 OSCE+), FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to  
UNSCR 1325 (Italy), FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light  
Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary),  
Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light  
Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Latvia)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Situation in and around Ukraine*: Ukraine, Romania-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 and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/136/19), Russian Federation, Canada, United States of America
- (b) *Military exercises in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, being conducted from 17 to 20 June 2019*: Azerbaijan (Annex), Armenia

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Letter from the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the Chairperson of the Permanent Council (FSC.DEL/132/19/Rev.1 OSCE+) on the Forum's contribution to the 2019 Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC)*: 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 Forum's contribution to the 2019 ASRC.

- (b) *Eighth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, held in Vienna on 12 June 2019*: FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Romania)
- (c) *Financial contribution to the Project for the Safety and Security Upgrade of Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SAFE-UP BiH)*: Norway, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary)
- (d) *Matters of protocol*: Romania-European Union
- (e) *Closure of the project on the disposal of artillery shells and aircraft and cluster bombs in Georgia*: FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary), Georgia

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 3 July 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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**918th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 924, Agenda item 2(b)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to draw the attention of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the latest flagrant violation by Armenia of the norms and principles of international law as well as of the foundational principles and commitments of the OSCE.

According to the information shared by Armenian mass media, which included references to the Armenian Ministry of Defence, illegal military exercises on an allegedly “large scale” started in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan on 17 June and will last until 20 June. Around 10,000 troops, about 150 armoured vehicles, more than 400 vehicles, over 200 artillery installations and over 50 air defence systems are reportedly involved in these illegal exercises.

Regardless of the actual number of troops and amount of equipment involved, the above-mentioned exercises are a further addition to the long list of incontestable facts attesting to Armenia’s illegal military presence and illegal military activities in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. As such, these exercises serve as a vivid manifestation of Armenia’s blatant violation of its international obligations and the shared principles and commitments of the OSCE.

The illegal exercises also run contrary to the letter and spirit of all OSCE documents dealing with the military behaviour of participating States, including the Vienna Document and the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. As recently as last week, during the Eight Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct, we had the opportunity to discuss at length and expose Armenia’s gross violations of the Code’s provisions.

The current illegal military exercises also fit well into the pattern of Armenia’s recent subversive actions on the line of contact. It is no coincidence that these acts of provocation come at a time when negotiations under the auspices of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group are intensifying, including a meeting between the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan scheduled for tomorrow in Washington, DC. Such an attitude is illustrative of the real intentions of Armenia to hamper substantive negotiations while exercising and training its armed forces so as to consolidate the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan.

In view of the above-mentioned, Azerbaijan strongly urges the OSCE – in particular the OSCE Minsk Group and its Co-Chairs and the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship – to condemn Armenia’s egregious violations of our shared commitments and obligations, and to demand that Armenia put an end to its aggression against Azerbaijan, withdraw its armed forces from the occupied territories, and engage in substantive negotiations with a view to finding a lasting political solution to the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.