



**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT
TO THE NINETEENTH MEETING
OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

**EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS
AND CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES**



December 2012, DUBLIN

MC.GAL/4/12
27 November 2012

Original: ENGLISH

1. Introduction and objective

This report is submitted in accordance with MC decision No. 7/11, on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC), adopted by the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council, held in Vilnius. The report provides an overview, in chronological order, of the efforts undertaken in the FSC in the field of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), during the period from November 2011 to November 2012.¹

The report also addresses the information exchanged in the FSC between participating States on the implementation of agreed CSBMs, normative initiatives and developments in the Forum, as well as other related activities carried out in the OSCE. The report reflects the discussions that took place and the decisions adopted in the FSC. Detailed information on implementation can be found in the Conflict Prevention Centre's (CPC) Summary Report on Recent Trends in the Implementation of the Vienna Document and Other Measures Addressed, which was submitted to the 2012 Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting².

2. Efforts by the FSC since the Vilnius Meeting of the Ministerial Council

The Vilnius Ministerial Council meeting, in 2011, tasked the FSC in 2012, to “give further impetus to negotiations on updating and modernizing the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures with the aim of increasing military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States”³.

¹ The deadline for inclusion of factual data was 16 November 2012.

² FSC.GAL/27/12/Rev.1

³ See MC.DEC/7/11/Corr.1 including a corresponding interpretative statement.

In the reporting period, the participating States continued negotiations in the FSC to update and modernize the Vienna Document.

On 31 November 2011, the Vienna Document was reissued by FSC decision No. 14/11 as the *Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures*⁴. The reissued Vienna Document incorporated nine VD Plus decisions⁵ and entered into force on 1 December 2011.

In the reissued Vienna Document 2011, the title and introduction of the Vienna Document were updated; the accuracy of geographical co-ordinates was improved; new modalities were defined for visits to military air bases operating multipurpose attack or specialized attack helicopters; and the possibility for the organization of a demonstration of new Types of Major Weapon and Equipment Systems before formal deployment takes place was provided for. Furthermore, participating

⁴ *Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures* reissued under the reference number FSC.DOC/1/11 according to the FSC decision on reissuing the Vienna Document (FSC.DEC/14/11) adopted at the 665th Special Meeting the OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation in Vienna on 30 November 2011 (see FSC.JOUR/671).

⁵ The VD Plus decisions included were: Decision No. 10/10 “*Taking national holidays into account when planning verification activities*”; Decision No. 11/10 “*Timing of a demonstration of new types of major weapon and equipment systems*”; Decision No. 12/10 “*Incorporating FSC Decision No. 1/10 into the Vienna Document Chapter XII*”; Decision No. 13/10 “*Updating the listing of Partners for Co-operation mentioned in Chapter XII*”; Decision No. 15/10 “*Eligibility of air bases for hosting visits*”; Decision No. 4/11 “*Updating the list of OSCE participating States mentioned in the introduction*”; Decision No. 6/11 “*Accuracy of co-ordinates of formations, combat units, air formations and air combat units*”; Decision No. 7/11 “*Amendments and additions to Chapter IX ‘Compliance and Verification’ Paragraphs 98 and 127*”; Decision No. 10/11 “*Updating the title and the introduction of the Vienna Document 1999*”.

States are now requested to take into account official national and religious holidays of the receiving State when requesting and conducting inspection activities and evaluation visits. Lastly, the quality of briefings at inspection activities and evaluation visits was also enhanced.

In December 2011, a Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres was held. The Meeting served to exchange experiences and information on technical aspects of implementation.⁶

In March 2012, the Twenty-Second Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting was held. The Meeting provided an opportunity for participating States to discuss present and future implementation of agreed CSBMs, and allowed experts to exchange experiences, make suggestions and assess the state of implementation. At the Meeting, more than 30 suggestions were made on ways of further improving the implementation of agreed CSBMs.⁷

In September 2012, the debate among participating States in the Forum was enriched by the holding of a Security Dialogue, focused on verification activities. In addition, several participating States made use of FSC meetings, in a spirit of transparency and confidence-building, to provide information about below-threshold military activities or military exercises.

On 17 October 2012, the FSC adopted Vienna Document Plus decision No. 9/12 on prior notifications of major military activities, which was the first Vienna Document Plus decision adopted since the reissuing of the Vienna Document in November 2011. FSC decision No. 9/12 entered into force upon adoption and requests participating States, in the absence of a notifiable

military activity in a calendar year, to provide at least one notification of a military activity or military exercise below the thresholds specified in the Vienna Document. Participating States will be guided, at their own discretion, by the criterion of military significance in determining the specific military exercise or military activity for which notification will be provided.

In addition, 20 proposals and draft decisions covering five chapters of the Vienna Document 2011 are under discussion in the FSC. The suggestions pertain to:

- Information on command organization and combat units;
- Information on military training establishments and military repair or maintenance facilities;
- Information on land forces and air forces deployed outside the national territory;
- Information on military transport aviation units;
- The notification of permanent changes in the command organization;
- Information on naval forces;
- The reporting of military expenditures;
- Risk Reduction Mechanism for Consultation and Co-operation as regards activities of military forces giving grounds for supposing preparations for offensive military operations;
- The creation of OSCE inspections for clarification on military activities giving rise to concern;
- The lowering of thresholds for prior notifications;
- The notification of deployment of multinational rapid reaction forces;
- The notification of large-scale military transits;
- The definition of *force majeure*;
- The scale of the specified area for inspections;
- Enhancing the inspection quotas and evaluation visit quotas;

⁶ A report on this meeting is available under FSC.GAL/161/11.

⁷ The survey of suggestions is available under FSC.AIAM/31/12.

- Enhancing the size of inspection teams and evaluation visit teams;
- The duration of inspections and evaluation visits;
- Financial responsibility for inspections and for evaluation visits;
- Devices used during inspections and evaluation visits;
- The definition of adjoining sea areas.

3. Overview of arms control and CSBM implementation in 2011-2012

During the reporting period, the OSCE participating States continued to implement their joint commitments under the Vienna Document 2011. The CPC maintained records of exchanges of information taking place as part of those commitments. These are regularly reflected in the CPC Monthly Reports and CPC Quarterly and Annual Surveys on CSBM Information Exchanged.

The level of CSBM implementation under the Vienna Document 2011 in the OSCE region remained, measured by the number of submissions under various information exchanges, such as the Annual Exchange of Military Information (AEMI), the Exchange on Defence Planning, or the Global Exchange of Military Information (GEMI), relatively steady during the past five years.

By 16 November 2012, 53 participating States had provided information under the AEMI in 2012. For defence planning and defence budgets, the numbers are significantly lower. So far, only 43 participating States have provided information on their defence planning in 2012, while 44 have provided information about their defence budgets. In addition, there are four participating States that have not submitted any information on their defence planning or defence budgets during the past five years.

In the reporting period, verification activities under Chapter IX of the Vienna Doc-

ument were also conducted. By 16 November 2012, 81 inspections and 34 evaluation visits had been conducted. Those numbers are significantly lower than last year's numbers, which were 93 and 36, respectively, by 7 November 2011.

In 2012, no activity took place under Vienna Document Chapter III – Risk Reduction.

In 2012, 51 participating States were connected to the OSCE Communications Network; only one participating State having military forces, remained unconnected. The reliability of the Network remained very high, with the central servers in Vienna available 100% of the time. In addition, over half (36) of the participating States were available at least 99% of the time, and the overall availability of all the end-user stations connected to the Network exceeded 98%.

The custom-designed OSCE software applications used to process notifications (the Integrated Notification Application, INA) and to prepare annual information exchanges (the Automated Data System, ADS) were updated and provided to participating States for their use.

Also in 2012, the Communications Network incorporated the use of the Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea. The Document joins another regional agreement, the Dayton Peace Accords, as well as the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the Open Skies Treaty, and the Vienna Document 2011, using the Communications Network to exchange information in order to enhance transparency amongst participating States.

The OSCE Communications Network remains a highly reliable, safe and secure tool for use by participating States in support of CSBMs and for complying with their mutually agreed commitments.

4. Other activities

In November 2011, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina organized a seminar on the implementation of CSBMs, at which members of the armed forces were informed about the reissued Vienna Document 2011. In addition, an update on politico-military commitments was presented to participants. During the seminar, the Annual Exchange of Military Information was also drafted and prepared.

In March 2012, RACVIAC – Centre for Security Co-operation, with the support of the CPC, organized a course entitled “*Vienna Document 2011: Efforts to Revitalize Confidence- and Security-Building, Compliance and Verification Course*” for inspectors of South East Europe. The course included a training evaluation visit and inspection, organized in co-operation with the Croatian Armed Forces.

In May 2012, the OSCE Centre in Astana and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Kazakhstan organized an annual regional training course on the Vienna Document 2011. The workshops brought together participants from Central Asia and the South Caucasus to discuss issues related to the Annual Exchange of Military Information as well as practical verification activities.

The OSCE Office in Tajikistan supported the Verification Centre of the Ministry of Defence to stay connected to the OSCE Communication Network, and provided training for the Vienna Document inspectors of the Verification Centre. From 30 May to 1 June 2012, a regional training workshop on the Vienna Document 2011 was held. Participants were able to improve their knowledge regarding the implementation of Vienna Document 2011 and to learn about the role of confidence- and security-building measures and their development. The need for enhanced military co-operation between the OSCE par-

ticipating States and regional co-operation on CSBMs was stressed at this meeting.

In addition, the CPC also provided regular lecturers on the reissued Vienna Document 2011 at courses of the NATO School in Oberammergau in February, September and November 2012.

5. Conclusion

The Vienna Document has the comparative advantage of politically binding all participating States of the OSCE to military confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), with the aim of providing for more stability, transparency and predictability in the military field. The Vienna Document has proven to be a well-balanced instrument with a high level of implementation.

The Vienna Document 2011 was adopted by the FSC on 20 November 2011 and entered into force on 1 December 2011. Its adoption constitutes a positive example of the ability of the participating States to negotiate and adapt important politically binding commitments in the first dimension of the OSCE. This adoption put an end to an 11-year deadlock in negotiations on CSBMs.

The reissued Vienna Document includes elements with political implications, notably the provision for a regular assessment, including its reissuing at intervals of five years or less. The participating States explicitly reaffirm in the introduction the political heritage of the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, as well as all subsequent CSCE/OSCE concluding documents.

The Vienna Document 2011 represents the first concrete achievement in the process now underway to review and reinvigorate CSBMs. Most of the participating States

underlined the necessity of taking a more strategic and forward-looking approach to modernizing the Vienna Document in order to adapt it to today's and to tomorrow's politico-military realities. The adoption of FSC decision No. 9/12 on prior notifications of military activities was a first important step in this direction.

Throughout 2012, the FSC engaged in active discussions on a great number of proposals, taking into consideration more substantive issues concerning both the improvement of current implementation modalities and the development of new CSBMs. As strategic issues are taken up, further modernization requires greater efforts, in-depth discussions and comprehensive negotiations. Substantial updates would increase military transparency, predictability and prospects for early warning, transforming the Vienna Document into a modern strategic tool and a substantial contribution to our common and indivisible security.

in the OSCE region, including their implementation and further development.

The outcome of the Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres held in December 2011 was considered to have fallen short of expectations. Therefore, in order to allow for more space for exchange of views, the concept of the 2012 meeting has been revised with the aim of facilitating focused technical discussions to further enhance the implementation of the VD2011.

In 2012, the participating States also made increased use of Security Dialogues in order to present significant military exercises below threshold, thereby using the OSCE as a platform to provide for transparency and confidence-building.

The OSCE Communication Network, which represents a CSBM in itself, continues to be a highly reliable tool and has been expanded for supporting regional confidence-building.

The Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) in 2012 proved to be a valuable platform for discussing CSBMs