

Courtesy translation

ДЕЛЕГАЦИЯ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
НА ПЕРЕГОВОРАХ В ВЕНЕ
ПО ВОПРОСАМ ВОЕННОЙ
БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ
И КОНТРОЛЯ НАД ВООРУЖЕНИЯМИ



DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION
TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS
ON MILITARY SECURITY
AND ARMS CONTROL

Erzherzog Karl Strasse 182
A-1220 Vienna, Austria

Telephone:
(+43 1) 282 27 49

Telefax:
(+43 1) 280 20 08

E-mail:
rfms@chello.at

STATEMENT
BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY SECURITY
AND ARMS CONTROL
AT THE 1023RD PLENARY MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY
CO-OPERATION

(September 28, 2022)

Agenda item: Any other business

Topic: On the cancellation of the 3rd Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA

Distinguished Mr. Chair,

First and foremost, we would like to express our gratitude to the Belgian Chairpersonship for their efforts to reinvigorate the work of the FSC and their readiness to hold traditional politico-military meetings of the OSCE annual cycle within its framework.

That said, in regards to your Letter FSC.DEL/311/22 of September 21st 2022, the Russian delegation expresses its disappointment about the lack of consensus on the organisation of the third Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA).

The news about the cancellation of this important politico-military meeting in the OSCE annual cycle elicits a puzzled reaction in the light of the productive outcome of the 8th Biennial Meeting of States on the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (New York, June 27th-July 1st 2022). Why, on the one hand, are the pS ready to find common ground on the UN platform, but on the other hand, are diplomatically powerless on the European track?

We see the cause of the current state of events in the unwillingness, unpreparedness, and even the inability of the participating States of OSCE to do what they are tasked to do in accordance with the SALW and SCA Documents, as well as some 20 thematic decisions of the Ministerial Council.

We understand that the initiative to cancel this central event of the OSCE politico-military dimension came, among others, from those participating States responsible for the grossest violations of European principles and obligations preventing transfer of conventional arms and ammunition into armed conflict zones. In a year we have seen how one could run all around the world with the idea of minimising MANPADS exports and accounting for every piece of equipment given away, just to throw all those benign ideas away and start uncontrollably pumping a corrupt Eastern European country with dangerous weapon systems, only for them to turn up on the black market. It is evident that our colleagues do not wish to evaluate this daunting challenge to international security, as they will not be able to spin this story to blame Russia for everything that is wrong in the world.

We have to state with regret that the lack of consensus on organising the Meeting also testifies to the existence of an artificial crisis in the FSC, which is used, contrary to its mandate, by some participating States to exact their political revenge, as well as to reinforce non-consensual approaches and individual preferences to the detriment of the discussion on relevant security challenges. Such actions do not help in improving the politico-military framework of the FSC. We call on the representatives of the West to think about the adverse ramifications of their actions for the integrity and sustainability of our Forum.

Thank you for your attention.