



Rappresentanza Permanente d'Italia
OSCE

MIN. COUNS. MASSIMO DREI

ITALIAN STATEMENT AT THE SIXTH CFE TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE.

Vienna, 15 October 2021

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Chairperson, the Netherlands, and the CFE Treaty Depositary, the Netherlands, for their organization of this conference.

The CFE Treaty Review Conference has always been a valuable opportunity for dialogue between the States Parties. This is especially true today, when the security environment in Europe is facing multiple challenges.

I am grateful to the delegations that have spoken before me for their insight, and for restating the value of the Treaty in spite of the current difficulties. This bears witness to the common will to preserve the acquis resulting from it.

The Vienna Document, the Treaty on Open Skies and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe have provided us with important security gains for many years and are among the pillars of the European security architecture.

Transparency, reciprocity and consensus on which the CFE Treaty is based remain essential as principles for the peaceful relations among our States.

Since 1992, the CFE Treaty has permitted an unprecedented reduction in Treaty-limited armaments and equipment as preconditions for a more secure and stable Europe. It also acts as a valuable model for the development of sub-regional arms control regimes such as the one established in the Western Balkans in accordance with the Dayton Accords, whose implementation Italy is proud to have contributed to.

The choice by the Russian Federation to suspend application inflicted a severe blow to the Treaty, as did its subsequent decision not to participate in the work of the Joint Consultative Group. The absence today from this Conference of a fundamental partner is a stark reminder of the deterioration of the security environment in Europe.

It would be a mistake to consider the CFE Treaty as an outdated instrument that has not been able to survive changes and crises. The benefits of the Treaty have not been exhausted. We need to relaunch and strengthen the conventional arms control regime. As noted in the Brussels Summit Communiqué of last June, we remain committed to conventional arms control as a key element of Euro-Atlantic security. We are determined to preserve, strengthen, and modernize conventional arms control in Europe, based on key principles and commitments, including reciprocity, transparency, and host nation consent.

In order for the CFE Treaty to continue to be an effective instrument, it must be implemented by all the countries that have ratified it, supported by new commitments and made part of a strategic security vision. It must be made more dynamic and functional, supplemented by commitments relating to the control of new arms systems and take into account new capabilities and military strategies. We need to resume dialogue, rebuild mutual confidence and seek innovative solutions.

I hope that this Conference will help to revive the importance of the Treaty, stimulate more extensive discussion on the conventional arms control regime and restore, also among us, a belief in the contribution of our efforts to collective security.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.