

5) Promoting Security Dialogue

The above areas of activity demonstrate the FSC's positive record in fulfilling the first aspect of its mandate: "goal-oriented negotiation" in the area of arms control and confidence-and-security-building measures. In so doing, it has provided the OSCE with an interesting array of tools for coping with new security challenges.

However, the second part of the mandate – "goal-oriented continuing dialogue and co-operation" – has been largely untapped. At the Lisbon Summit in 1996, there was a call for the FSC to further develop its security dialogue function, particularly in the areas of conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation. This was followed by similar calls noted in the report of the 1999 review conference. Despite the apparent interest in this course of action, the results thus far have not been encouraging. The FSC Journal records for 1999 and 2000 suggest that the Forum has yet to tackle these larger issues.

VI. The Evolution of Security within the FSC

Over the course of the past decade, the OSCE has evolved from a *process* focused on overcoming Cold War rivalry, to an *institution* dedicated to building co-operative security. As stated in the 1998 SIPRI Yearbook: "While the tasks defined for the OSCE during the Cold War period have been largely fulfilled or have outlived their relevance, it has conducted significant activities in the areas of conflict prevention, crisis management and resolution of disputes." Indeed, the new Charter for European Security agreed in Istanbul is designed to bolster the operational capabilities of the OSCE in these areas.¹⁸

On the surface, the mandate of the FSC fits well within the future vision of the OSCE. As the new Charter states: "Security and peace must be enhanced through an approach that combines two basic elements: we must build confidence among people within States and strengthen co-operation in pursuing comprehensive and indivisible security". The FSC's role in fulfilling this agenda is perceived in roughly the same terms as it was at Helsinki: on the one hand, to build greater confidence and military transparency, and on the other, to continue a "substantial security dialogue". With respect to the first task, the FSC is expected to launch a comprehensive discussion on the accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons, to continue implementation of CSBMs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to pursue further opportunities for regional arms control.

¹⁸ The key outputs of the Summit are as follows: 1) the creation of a Platform for Co-operative Security (which commits participating states to partnership with other international security organisations); 2) further development of the OSCE role in peacekeeping under the auspices of Chapter VII of the UN Charter; 3) creation of the Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Teams (which will allow the OSCE to respond to requests from states for civilian/police expertise); 4) expansion of the OSCE's police-related activities; 5) establishment of an Operation Centre at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna to facilitate emergency planning; and 6) creation of a Preparatory Committee under direction of the Permanent Council to strengthen consultation within the OSCE.