



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

Statement by Ambassador Barbara Žvokelj, Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the International Organizations in Vienna, at the 966th Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation Vienna, 27 January 2021

Thank you, Madame Chairperson,

Additionally to what we said in EU statement, allow me few remarks from our national perspective as well.

I would like to thank the key-note speakers for their valuable contributions to today's discussion on the NATO's enhanced Forward Presence in the Baltic States and Poland, as well as commend FSC Chairpersonship of the United States for dedicating one of the Security Dialogues to the topic that's worth to be discussed to increase transparency and reduce risks.

Engagement of the Slovenian Armed Forces in the eFP is one of our priority missions, with continuous contribution with up to 50 troops through six months rotations. This is our second biggest deployment.

We are currently participating with the eighth rotation. The bulk of contingent consists of engineer platoon with a detached pioneer squad from the Armed Forces of Montenegro and a national support element.

Slovenia has been participating in the Canadian-led battle group in Latvia since June 2017, more than 2 years together with our close Ally Montenegro.

Let me also mention that the commander of our second contingent in 2019 was a female major of the Slovenian Armed Forces, who has after that received a medal for her contribution to the mission.

The eFP has been an extremely positive, valuable and useful mission to us, contributing to improved interoperability, combat readiness and close cooperation with Allied armed forces.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank to our Host Nation Latvia for warm hospitality and friendliness of their people, alongside with the Lead Nation Canada for providing us with the excellent support, which enables our forces to perform their duties effectively and safely as well as to Montenegrin members of our joint units.

In conclusion, Madame Chairperson, let me once more underline that we believe that the FSC is the right platform for all participating States to engage in meaningful dialogue on all relevant topics for the sake of increased reciprocal military transparency and reduced risks.

Thank you.