

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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19 August 2004

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**LETTER DATED 26 JULY 2004 FROM THE PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE  
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING  
THE TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON 20 JULY 2004**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 20 July 2004 in connection with the ratification of the Agreement on Adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

I should be grateful if the press release could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to the delegations of all member States of the Conference and non-member States participating in its work.

*(Signed):* L. SKOTNIKOV  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of the  
Russian Federation  
to the Conference on Disarmament

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\* / Re-issued for technical reasons

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Ratification of the Agreement on Adaptation of the Treaty  
on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe**

On 19 July President V.V. Putin of the Russian Federation signed the federal Act on ratification of the Agreement on Adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which had been adopted by the State Duma on 25 June 2004 and approved by the Federation Council on 7 July.

The Agreement on Adaptation of the CFE Treaty is fully in keeping with the interests of the Russian Federation. It should make a major contribution to strengthening European security. The Agreement provides for a major correction to the system of limits and other provisions of the Treaty in the light of the changed military and political situation on the continent, and opens the way to expansion of the number of States parties to the CFE Treaty.

The Agreement has already been ratified by Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. It will enter into force once all the CFE States parties deposit their instruments of ratification with the depositary (the Government of the Netherlands).

Russia has played its part - it has complied with the flank limits, fulfilled its obligations in relation to Treaty-limited conventional weapons in Georgia and Moldova and ratified the CFE Treaty Adaptation Agreement. In so doing it has reaffirmed that we have opted for joint efforts to ensure security through multilateral instruments for arms control. The future fate of the CFE Treaty is in the hands of the parties. Those who continue to delay ratification of the CFE Adaptation Agreement on a variety of pretexts will bear full responsibility for the adverse consequences of their approach.

The attitude of the new members of NATO, especially the Baltic countries, to the CFE Treaty is crucial. "Grey areas" which are not covered by arms control regimes must be eliminated. In this context, we note the intention of the Baltic countries and Slovenia to accede to the modified Treaty once it has entered into force; this intention was placed on record in the Russia-NATO Council. In this regard we understand that these countries will act in accordance with the purposes and principles of the CFE Treaty until such time as they become parties to it.

We are convinced that there is no constructive alternative to the speedy entry into force of the CFE Adaptation Agreement. It is our expectation that our partners will promptly carry out domestic ratification procedures and thus comply with one of the key obligations they entered into in Istanbul when signing the Agreement in 1999.

20 July 2004

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