

**Re-vitalize the CFE Treaty Regime**  
*Russian Academic and Public Leaders Appeal*

Recently international media published an appeal by prominent scholars and retired diplomats from Europe and North America. They noted with concern that Russia suspended implementation of the 1990 Conventional Armed Forces (CFE) Treaty, and called on the governments of the Treaty states-parties to preserve the CFE regime, and to bring into force the 1999 Adapted CFE Treaty as soon as possible.

For many years we know many of those who signed up to this appeal as experienced negotiators, and we highly esteem their contribution to the CFE Treaty and its adapted version. And we know other undersigned as excellent scholars, well aware of the Treaty details and its history.

We share the authors concern of the fate of the CFE Treaty, and we are ready to join their appeal for the soonest ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty. It is worth mentioning that Russia already did it in 2004.

Yet we highlight the fact that the current CFE Treaty crisis had been developed for at least several years before Russia's decision to suspend the Treaty implementation.

The 1990 Treaty had considerably lost its vital force in the mid 1990s, due to serious changes in the European political and military landscape, - which made it necessary to adapt the Treaty. The Adapted CFE Treaty, signed in 1999, was to eliminate the initial version's shortcomings, and was able to breathe life into the Treaty. However, its entry into force was prevented by the decision of NATO member states, and of some other states-parties, not to ratify the Treaty, due to reasons anyway far less important than a substantial positive effect the enacted Treaty could have.

Meanwhile, NATO has twice performed enlargement acts, thus increasing its quota, as stipulated by the Treaty, at the expense of the former Warsaw Pact member states, who joined the alliance. Thus certain states-parties did not meet their obligations neither to the original, nor to the Adapted CFE Treaty, for years.

Despite the fact, Russia has been implementing the Treaty through all these years, by applying the Treaty restrictions to its troops and conventional weapons, exchanging information, and inviting inspection missions. The same goes for Russia's political commitments, as agreed upon at the Istanbul Summit in 1999.

In the meantime, the Russian side was warning its partners to the CFE Treaty that such unfair situation could not last forever. When it became clear that certain states-parties were not going to ratify the Treaty anyway, Russia decided on the necessity to suspend the CFE Treaty implementation, - but not to withdraw from the Treaty, as is sometimes being suggested. The suspension of the Treaty is not a goal in itself for Russia, who repeatedly denied an intention to start immediate conventional weapons upgrade.

However, we believe that, despite the long lasting CFE Treaty crisis, we all should agree on the main thing in common, - Europe needs modern, truly effective and mutually beneficial conventional forces control regime. We fully support our colleagues' appeal, and hope that the experience and authority of both Russian and Western public and academic leaders could persuade the politicians to find the way out of the CFE process deadlock. We do also hope that the CFE Treaty ratification, as well as reduction and elimination of conventional weapons in Europe, will be continued. We herein call upon our colleagues to facilitate this process, to the extent possible.

March 20 2008, Moscow

*The document being signed by (on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2008):*

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*U.M. Kolosov* - Professor of Moscow State Institute for International Relations (earlier - participant of a Joint advisory group of a Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, on an Istanbul summit of an Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 1999)

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