



DELEGATION OF GREECE

ENGLISH only

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GREECE

With reference to the Chairman's statement on the question of the 1999 Istanbul commitments, I would like to make a statement on behalf of the following countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The text of the statement reads as follows:

"We remain committed to the CFE Treaty as a cornerstone of European security, and reaffirm our attachment to the early entry into force of the Adapted Treaty. It is essential for the Russian Federation to complete withdrawal of its military forces from the Republic of Moldova as soon as possible. We also urge a swift resolution of the outstanding issues between Georgia and Russia as set out in their Istanbul Joint Statement of 17 November 1999, and to this end, call upon the parties to resume negotiations. Fulfilment of these remaining Istanbul commitments, undertaken in 1999, on the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Moldova will create the conditions for NATO Allies and other States Parties to move forward on ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty. We will continue to assist in this process."

The countries subscribing to this statement request for its inclusion to the official documents of this Ministerial Meeting.

Sofia, 7 December 2004