



PC.DEL/1122/07
13 November 2007

ENGLISH only

STATEMENT

By Ambassador Vesko Garcevic, representative of Montenegro
At the 687th meeting of the Permanent Council,
8th November 2007

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Although my delegation has aligned with the Statement of the European Union, we would like to add few words in our national capacity.

My delegation warmly welcomes High Commissioner for national minorities, Ambassador Vollebaek in his first appearance at the Permanent Council in his new role and thanks him for his written and oral Report. We also welcome our dear colleague Ambassador Moran at today's PC meeting.

We welcome the positive assessment in the report regarding the process of adoption of the new Constitution of Montenegro, in which the Office of the High Commissioner has given its valuable support. Montenegro has demonstrated, throughout the years, its commitment and willingness to adopt and implement the highest international standards in protection of national minorities.

We don't need to emphasize how important for us is to preserve our multiethnic tradition and improve existing harmony among various ethnical and religious groups living in Montenegro. This well known fact and positive example in the Western Balkans has been highly regarded by many international actors active in the Region as well as recognised by the last European Commission's report on Montenegro. Undoubtedly that serves an incentive both for our EU integration goals and good neighbourly relations to which we are especially devoted.

At the end, allow me to express readiness of Montenegro to continuing the fruitful cooperation with the High Commissioner and his Office, and we would like to use this opportunity to wish Ambassador Vollebaeck and his able team all the best in his future work.

Thank you Mr. Chairman