

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO ENGLISH only

STATEMENT

By

H. E ŽELJKO PEROVIĆ

ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER OF SERBIA AND
MONTENEGRO AT THE OSCE ANNUAL SECURITY
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Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to congratulate representative of Chairman in Office of the OSCE on his remarks made in the opening statement. I take this opportunity to also thank Chairman of the Forum for Security Cooperation of the OSCE, Ambassador J. Tibibian for his important report, which contains valuable assessments.

We are all aware of devastating consequences of terrorism on international peace and security. Terrorism makes no distinction among its victims and recognizes no boundaries. However, despite intensified efforts and all activities undertaken so far by the international community, a lot more needs to be done to effectively deal with this evil. In doing so, the existing principles of international law as well as the respect for human rights and values should be preserved. As we know, there are many causes of terrorism and all of them need to be addressed properly, including the economic and social ones.

Serbia and Montenegro supports all international efforts and activities in combating terrorism that has become the gravest threat to the international community. Therefore, preventing and combating terrorism, which is a global problem, cannot be fully effective without the coordination of efforts of major international organizations or integrative structures such as UN, OSCE, NATO, EU, Council of Europe and other regional organizations and initiatives. In this context, Serbia and Montenegro consistently complies with all international obligations in this field. In its activities, Serbia and Montenegro is guided by the OSCE Strategy to Address threats to Security and Stability in the 21st Century, where terrorism and organized crime have been identified as the main threats. In this respect, I would like to point out that Serbia

and Montenegro attaches great importance to the dangerous nexus between terrorism and organized crime.

Mr. Chairman,

Serbia and Montenegro has acceded to ten of the twelve major international conventions dealing with terrorism. The procedure is under way to accede to the remaining two.

Serbia and Montenegro regularly submits reports to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and to the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee on the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1455 (2003), respectively. We support the strengthening of cooperation between the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and regional and sub-regional organizations through the exchange of relevant information, especially in order to avoid duplication of efforts and overlapping of activities.

We are cooperating closely with other countries of Western Balkans in an effort to work out joint response to the problem of terrorism, which poses a serious threat to the stability of our region. In this context, my country pursues an active cooperation with SECI and INTERPOL.

Measures aimed at preventing access to small arms and light weapons by terrorists have been successfully implemented. Serbia and Montenegro have in cooperation with SEESAC (South-East Europe Clearing House for Small Arms and Light Weapons) and NAMSA (North Atlantic Maintenance and Supply Agency) destroyed significant amounts of small arms and light weapons. At the beginning of 2004, in cooperation with US Department of State via the United States Embassy in Belgrade, a total of 1200 MANPADS have been destroyed.

Mr. Chairman

At the domestic level, we are in the process of amending national legislation in order to bring it fully in line with international legal framework in this area. Special emphasis is placed on tightening control over financial transactions in order to detect and prevent the financing of terrorism, which will be criminalized in the amended Penal Code of the member states of the state union of Serbia and Montenegro. Furthermore, new organizational governmental structures have been set up in the member states of the state union of Serbia and Montenegro to suppress money laundering as well as financing of terrorism.

Despite all efforts undertaken to fight terrorism, Serbia and Montenegro is facing continuing acts of terrorism in Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija. Terrorist acts in this Serbian Province, in collusion with organized crime, including trafficking in human beings, drugs and arms, represent a growing threat. March events in the province have clearly showed that it is necessary for the international presences in Kosovo and Metohija to enforce additional measures to combat efficiently terrorist acts and human rights abuses.

Mr. Chairman,

Serbia and Montenegro is of the view that more still needs to be done in order to create a global response system against international terrorism. In that context it stands ready to work with other member states of the OSCE in the pursuit of this goal.