



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MIROSLAVA BEHAM,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SERBIA TO THE OSCE,
IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF
BRIGADIER GENERAL COSTANZO PERIOTTO,
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OSCE CHAIRMAN-IN-
OFFICE FOR ARTICLE IV,
ON BEHALF OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA,
MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA
AT THE 772nd MEETING OF
THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 September 2009

Madame Chairwoman,

Since Serbia is currently chairing the Sub-Regional Consultative Commission allow me to make the following statement on behalf of the parties to Article IV of Annex 1-B of the Dayton Agreement - Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia:

We warmly welcome Brigadier General Costanzo Periotto, Personal Representative of the OSCE CiO for Article IV, to the Permanent Council and thank him for his report, which presents the results achieved in the period under review and outlines plans for activities in the future as well as new challenges to be faced by the Parties and by the Personal Representative for Article IV in the period ahead in a comprehensive and analytical way.

We share the view of Gen. Periotto that the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control or Article IV of Annex I-B of the Dayton Peace Accord – or the Florence Agreement - is a unique regional success, and we believe that it is truly a model for regional solutions. As such, we believe, it should be promoted by the Article IV Personal Representative together with representatives of the Parties, under modalities to be agreed upon commonly.

Madame Chairwoman,

Let me use this opportunity to express the gratitude of the Parties to the participating States for the financial and technical assistance in creating conditions for the inclusion of this Agreement in the Integrated Notification Application

(INA) project within the single OSCE Communication Network, which made informations concerning the agreement accessible to all and helped to increase the transparency of the implementation process.

Let us also use this opportunity to thank the staff of the Personal Representative's Office, and all others involved, for the financial and organizational support with respect to the exhibition presented in early February this year at the Hofburg to mark the 300th mission under the Agreement.

We thank General Periotto, as well, for having paid much attention in his report to the activities undertaken by the parties themselves, with the expert assistance of the staff of the Personal Representative's Office, in improving the Agreement's implementation - projects such as an Updated Version of the Agreement, a Historical Compendium and a Handbook. This has shown that the Parties had the capacity not only to implement the Agreement successfully in the field, but also to upgrade it further.

In this context, I would like to re-emphasize again the importance of Amendments VII to XI that the Parties signed in October 2008 at Przno/Montenegro, which were preceded by a bilateral Agreement that Serbia's and Montenegro's Foreign Ministers signed at Podgorica on 6 July 2007. Experts from two countries have agreed in a short period of time on five categories of weapons subject to limitation under the Agreement and thus demonstrated that even complex issues can be easily solved, if there is a political will.

Madam Chairwoman,

We are opening a new chapter in our cooperation and the implementation of the Agreement, a chapter of transferring the ownership of the Agreement to the Parties. We are grateful to Gen. Periotto for the significance that he attached to this issue in his Report and for the way he presented this stage in our activities.

We would like to reiterate on this occasion our commitment relating to the ownership transfer, as defined in the Final Document of the VI. Review Conference. However, new, unforeseen circumstances have made it impossible for us to take over new obligations in compliance with the intended dynamics, for reasons explained by Gen. Periotto in his report. Together with Gen. Periotto we will work on finding appropriate modalities and reaching agreement for an appropriate schedule of assuming new commitments. This issue will be discussed at length in our forthcoming meetings of the Standing Working Group, as well as at the forty-third meeting of the Sub-Regional Consultative Commission to be held in Serbia at the beginning of November 2009.

Madame Chairwoman,

We believe that we can already speak of a new qualitative phase in the relationship between the Parties and the Office of the Personal Representative for Article IV. It is evident that is not only a one-way street in terms of providing assistance to the Parties, but that foundations have been laid also for the full cooperation with the Personal Representative's Office with a view to preserving and further promoting the Agreement's implementation.

Finally, Madame Chairwoman, let me, on behalf of the Parties, thank General Periotto and his dedicated team for the excellent cooperation and wish them all the best in their endeavors.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.