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United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Report by Brigadier General Sampaolo

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
September 6, 2007

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Article IV of the Dayton Peace Accords provided a necessary framework for the crucially-important sub-regional arms control agreement concluded in Florence 11 years ago. Since it came into force 10 years ago this November, it has been a critical tool for ensuring the peace and growing prosperity for the countries and peoples of that region.

The United States appreciates the leadership of the government of Italy and its support for these efforts over the years, including its crucial contribution of providing distinguished soldiers such as General Claudio Sampaolo to serve as personal representative of the Chairman-in-Office on Article IV.

We thank General Sampaolo for his report today. In his three years in this position he has, in our view, masterfully combined the resolution of the soldier with the patience of a diplomat.

We are impressed most favorably with the progress General Sampaolo and his office have made in updating the Agreement and we have noted with appreciation and interest his efforts to realize the accession of Montenegro to the Article IV Agreement.

The United States certainly wishes General Sampaolo every success in his next posting and looks forward to working with his successor, General Periotto.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.