

Bosnia and Herzegovina's Review Compliance with the OSCE Politico-Military Commitments

Madame Chairperson,

As part of the continues exchange of information about best practices in the OSCE area, I would like to bring to the attention of the FSC, the results of the Conference entitled "*Review Compliance with the OSCE Politico-Military Commitments*", which took place on the Olympic Mountain Jahorina, in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 11-12 March this year.

The Conference was jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense, with the support of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Twenty-five officials of the State's Ministries of: Foreign Affairs, Defense, Civil Affairs, Security, Foreign Trade, Parliamentary Committee for Defense and Security and both entities' Ministries of Interior engaged hard in constructive dialogue.

The participants in the Conference succeeded to analyze Bosnia and Herzegovina's implementation of the OSCE commitments and engaged to improve their respective institution's mutual cooperation on future implementation activities.

On that occasion, it was concluded that the confidence in the development of the country's security sector is continuously gaining importance due to the improved demonstration of fulfilling its commitments towards the OSCE. In addition Bosnia and Herzegovina has made significant progress in reporting on the implementation of its OSCE politico-military commitments.

Nevertheless Bosnia and Herzegovina is strongly committed to endorsing the necessary principles to maintain the democratic features of its security sector and to foster its partners' confidence in the proper operations of its security forces.

To achieve these commitments, all relevant institutions and agencies of BIH must continue to put great efforts at fostering co-operative and professional relationships.

As a Participating State of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Bosnia and Herzegovina has agreed to implement a series of commitments, which are based on values and principles shared by its partners in this organization. These values include, among others, the democratic control of the Armed Forces, Internal Security Forces, the Intelligence Agency, the various police services as well as the prevention of the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons.

All participants agreed that such a Review Conference would be organized every six months to ensure that challenges and best practices are identified and dealt with accordingly.

In this occasion I would like to express our gratitude to the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina / Department of Security Co-operation for their indispensable support and for our joint work in shaping the secure future in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Thank you Madame Chairperson