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## Swedish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 772  
Vienna 3 September 2009**

### **EU statement in response to the Personal Representative of the CiO for Dayton Art. IV, Brigadier General Costanzo Periotto**

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The European Union warmly welcomes the Chairman in Office's Personal Representative for Article IV, General Periotto, and thanks him for his address to the Permanent Council.

The European Union congratulates all parties involved in the improvement of the security situation in the Balkans through the implementation and fulfilment of the Dayton Peace Accords, especially the implementation of the Agreement of Sub-Regional Arms Control in accordance with Article IV, Annex 1 B.

We welcome the fulfilment of the obligations by the four Parties to reduce their holdings of heavy armaments and their intentions to make further reductions. We note the impressive reductions of military manpower and their subsequent confirmation in the expected new statements on voluntary limitations of military manpower. We commend the professional functioning of the information and inspection regime of the Agreement in an environment of trust, openness and transparency.

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The European Union notes with particular satisfaction the statement by the Parties at the 6<sup>th</sup> Review Conference “to explore the modalities for further strengthening of their ownership over the implementation of the Agreement for the purpose of gradual achievement of full autonomy in its implementation”.

Therefore we welcome the “Ownership plan” of the Personal Representative with its gradual approach and recommend him to further develop and implement the plan in close contact with the four Parties. In this regard we strongly encourage the Parties to contribute to the refinement of the plan and assume further practical responsibilities as envisaged in it.

The European Union is determined to continue supporting the process of arms control and confidence building in the region and thanks you, General Periotto, for your excellent professional and dedicated work as the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman in Office.

The candidate countries TURKEY and FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country ALBANIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA and GEORGIA align themselves with this statement.

\*Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.