



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 712 Vienna, 13 March 2013

EU Statement on "Montenegro Demilitarization Programme - MONDEM"

The European Union (EU) warmly welcomes H.E. Prof. Milica Pejanovic-Djurisic, Minister of Defence of Montenegro, to the Forum for Security Co-operation. We thank her for having outlined reform activities and other developments on topics of interest to the FSC. We are grateful also to Lt. Col. Nebojsa Lukovic for his presentation on the current state of play of the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme – MONDEM.

In the framework of the 2005 EU Strategy to combat illicit accumulation and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), the EU has carried out several activities in the Western Balkans, in particular through the implementation of the EU Council Decision 2010/179/CFSP, in support of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of SALW (SEESAC).

The EU is fully committed to the implementation of both the OSCE Plan of Action as well as the UN Programme of Action on SALW on a national, regional and global basis.

The EU welcomes the OSCE's prominent role in providing assistance to participating States in the destruction of SALW and conventional ammunition and in improving stockpile management and security practices. The MONDEM Programme carried out in cooperation with UNDP, is a successful example of

these OSCE added-value activities, which have been financially supported by the EU and many EU Member States.

The EU welcomes the positive results achieved during MONDEM and its contribution to a safer, more secure environment in Montenegro. These include the successful completion of the second phase of ammunition demilitarization in November 2012, under which 712 tonnes of unstable and obsolete ammunition were safely destroyed. We are pleased to learn that the preparations for the next phase of ammunition demilitarization have begun.

The EU also welcomes the infrastructure upgrade of two storage facilities of the "Brezovik" Ammunition Depot which increased the safety and security of storage.

We are also pleased to note that MONDEM continues to greatly affirm the practical partnership of the Government of Montenegro, the OSCE and UNDP. MONDEM and similar reform activities, involving Partners representing domestic institutions and the international community, exemplify the power of the comprehensive approach, which is to be applauded.

In conclusion, the EU notes the success of the MONDEM Programme to date and urges the OSCE Mission, along with its partners to continue to support the final phases and other defence reforms. We are aware of the requirement for further support of the MONDEM Programme for successful continuation of planned activities.

The acceding country CROATIA^{*}, the candidate countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, ICELAND^{**} and SERBIA, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA

^{*} Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

^{**} Iceland continues to be a member of EFTA and the European Economic Area.

and BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, the European Free Trade Association countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.