



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Serbia
at the 679th meeting of the Permanent Council
on behalf of the Parties to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the delegations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia, Parties to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, I take great pleasure in welcoming Brigadier-General Claudio Sampaolo to the PC and thank him for his useful and comprehensive report.

Let me first point out, Mr. Chairman, that, looking at this specific arms control process, we once again become aware of the fact that strengthening the sub-regional ownership of the process is the best way to strengthen mutual confidence, cooperation and understanding among the Parties. It is clearly discernable that the Agreement is a success in many ways – it is one of the best implemented among numerous corresponding international agreements and could or should serve as a model. Its successful implementation has a substantial impact on the stability in the region and contributes to favorable conditions for European and Euro-Atlantic integrations of the countries. This achievement is a joint result of our dedication to fulfill our international obligations, as well as of the great efforts of the Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for Article IV. Let me also mention that the full utilization of already existing regional capabilities, such as RACVIAC, contributed a lot to the success of this process.

Mr. Chairman,

Brigadier-General Claudio Sampaolo is to complete his duty as the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for article IV. Allow me on behalf of all Parties to the Agreement to thank him for his efforts and dedicated work.

General Sampaolo, it was a great pleasure and honor to work with you. You have all the reasons to be proud of the results you have achieved as the Personal Representative.

I would also like to warmly welcome Brigadier-General Constanzo Periotto as the new Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for article IV. General, we wish you every success and sincerely all the best for your future work.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to renew the readiness of us all to continue to fully comply with the Agreement. We thank all of those who have provided and are providing assistance, thus contributing to the highly professional and successful implementation of the Agreement.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.