



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 828
Vienna, 9 September 2010**

EU statement in response to the Personal Representative of the CiO for Article IV of the Dayton Peace Accords, Brigadier General Periotto

The European Union warmly welcomes Brigadier General Periotto, the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV of the Dayton Peace Accords, and thanks him for his Report to the Permanent Council.

The EU congratulates all Parties involved in the continued improvement of the security situation in the Balkans through the implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords, especially the rigorous and professional execution 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, their progress so far and their intentions to make further reductions. We note the impressive reductions of military manpower and the Parties' new statements on voluntary limitations of military manpower. We commend the professional manner in which the information exchange and inspection regime of the Agreement has continued to be conducted, in an atmosphere of trust, openness and transparency.

The EU notes the very positive and substantive Final Document adopted by the Parties at the Seventh Review Conference held in Vienna in July 2010. The

Review Conference confirmed the high level of commitment by the Parties to the successful operation of the Agreement, and for their mutual cooperation in further developing the effectiveness of the Agreement.

We welcome with particular satisfaction the formal adoption by the Parties of the Action Plan on the transfer of ownership of the implementation of the Agreement. We congratulate the Parties for confirming at the Seventh Review Conference that clear progress has been made towards achieving the successful completion of the Phase 1 measures by the end of 2011. The EU also notes that the Parties have agreed to start initial deliberations in 2010 on the actions required to complete a gradual transition to Phase 2 of the process, in order to assume full autonomy for implementation of the Agreement. The transfer of ownership is a most significant development in the implementation of this Sub Regional Arms Control regime, and the Action Plan has the EU's full support.

The EU is committed to continue supporting the process of arms control and confidence building in the region, and thanks you and your Office for your professional and dedicated work as the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

The candidate countries TURKEY, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA* and ICELAND, 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 LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

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