

STATEMENT
IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE CHAIRMAN IN OFFICE FOR ARTICLE IV
OF THE DAYTON PEACE ACCORD
delivered by
Vesko Garčević, Ambassador of Montenegro
at the 734th meeting of the Permanent Council, 25th September 2008

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Delegations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and on behalf of my delegation, I would like to warmly welcome General Periotto to the Permanent Council and thank him for the update on the implementation of the Agreement on Sub Regional Arms Control (Art. IV, Annex 1-B, Dayton Peace Accords).

Our Countries continue to place high value to the measures of the Agreement to ensure security and stability in our area, as a unique tool that, among others, has assisted in transforming a war-torn Region into a prosperous one in just over a decade. There is no need to particularly emphasize that all these efforts are contributing to the common strategic goal of European integration of the WB countries based on individual achievements. We would like to commend General Periotto and his staff for their determined efforts in assisting our countries to this important end.

Parties of the Agreement have implemented many significant steps during the previous year since the last Report of the Personal Representative, as demonstrated in General Periotto's Report to the Permanent Council today. There are many achievements to be proud of but I will emphasize two of them:

One of the facts worth emphasizing is the planned 300th inspection mission, an important milestone that testifies of serious undertakings in the verification regime by the Parties in ensuring the proper implementation of the commitments.

The significant downsizing of the military manpower since the Florence signature in 1996 in all the countries of the Agreement and destruction of heavy weaponry are yet another good example of the progress achieved.

Here, I would like to particularly stress that the political will, expertise and, finally, mutual confidence of the Parties have been an essential precondition to these accomplishments.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to add now a few words on the contribution of Montenegro since my country became a Party to the Agreement in January 2007. Montenegro has engaged dynamically in all the activities, signing the Bilateral Agreement with Serbia, becoming fully involved in the inspections regime, and is currently acting as the Chair of the Sub Regional Consultative Commission. The next meeting of the SRCC will take place in Montenegro in October, while the previous one has just been held in Vienna under Montenegrin Chairmanship.

As a conclusion, let me say that the Agreement on Sub Regional Arms Control has proved to be a success in enhancing the confidence between Parties and promoting mutual dialogue. Thus our countries have built up capacity to autonomously carry out activities stemming from the Agreement. We believe that this achievement, along with other Regional initiatives, contributes essentially to the security of South-Eastern Europe and at the same time to the lasting stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic area.

Concluding, we wish all success to General Periotto and his team in their future endeavors.

Thank you.