



**STATEMENT BY MS. MIROSLAVA BEHAM,
AMBASSADOR OF SERBIA,
IN RESPONSE TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF MONTENEGRO, H.E. MILAN ROĆEN,
AT THE 683rd MEETING
OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

25 October 2007

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the delegation of Serbia I take particular pleasure in welcoming the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro, H.E. Milan Roćen, to the Permanent Council and thank him for his address. It is a particular pleasure, since we are welcoming a former colleague in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro.

We congratulate Montenegro for the successes reached since it has gained independence, in particular once more for the recent signing of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the European Union. As a close neighbour with manifold mutual ties and related interests, Serbia welcomes and experiences every progress Montenegro achieves on its reform path towards a better, peaceful and prosperous future as a kind of common benefit. To bring about progress, our two countries have committed to the same principles of democracy, good governance and the rule of law, as well as to enhancing regional stability and securing peace through fruitful regional cooperation. It is the awareness of interdependence of the peoples and states in South-Eastern Europe, and beyond this in a globalized world, of course, which raises our sense of responsibility for overcoming differences and antagonisms through dialogue and mutual understanding, leading us to the desired successes.

In this sense, Mr. Chairman, we would like to wish Foreign Minister Roćen and his country every success and all the best, while thanking the delegation of Montenegro for the excellent cooperation and friendship.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman