



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on CiO Personal Representative's Report on Dayton Accords Article IV Implementation

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
September 25, 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

General Periotto, we welcome your update on the progress made on Article IV implementation and congratulate the Parties for their dedication and professionalism in fulfilling their obligations under the Agreement. Their full and constructive participation is proof of their sincere commitment to ensuring lasting peace and stability for the region. This participation can also be an important component supporting comprehensive Euro-Atlantic integration.

The implementation of the Agreement has reached a milestone with the successful execution of more than 600 inspections. The U.S. is pleased to have been able to contribute to this accomplishment through the participation of assistants in both inspection and escort teams. The reduction of over 9,000 heavy armaments—including several thousand on a voluntary basis—is further evidence of the Parties' commitment to the success of the Agreement. These accomplishments demonstrate that the hopes of the signatories to this Agreement, signed 12 years ago, are being fulfilled. We look forward to the Sub-Regional Consultative Commission (SRCC) formalizing Montenegro as a Party to the Agreement next month.

We hope for the smooth continuation of Article IV implementation, and fully affirm our support for the Personal Representative and his staff to make this possible. The continued presence of the international community remains important. We strongly support your recommendation that the OSCE and Parties work to strengthen the Parties' ownership of the Agreement's implementation, with the eventual goal of full autonomy. We stand ready to provide appropriate support in working toward these goals.

General Periotto, we again thank you for your report and for the work of your office and staff and look forward to continued progress in implementing the goals you have just clearly described.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.