



EUROPEAN UNION

**Permanent Council Nr 879
Vienna, 8 September 2011**

EU statement in response to the report by the CiO Personal Representative for Article IV of Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords, Brigadier General Costanzo Periotto

The European Union warmly welcomes Brigadier General Costanzo Periotto, Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV of Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords, and thanks him for his annual report to the Permanent Council. We are also pleased to welcome to the PC the Heads of Delegation of the Parties.

In the year that marks the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Florence Agreement, the EU congratulates all the Parties in the continued improvement of the security situation in South East Europe through the implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords, especially the rigorous and professional execution of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, in accordance with Article IV, Annex 1-B.

We commend the professional manner in which the inspection regime and information exchange of the Agreement has continued to be conducted in an atmosphere of trust, openness and transparency. 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 continue to make further reductions.

We note the impressive reductions of military manpower and the Parties' statements on voluntary limitations of military manpower.

It is with particular satisfaction that the EU notes the progress that has been made towards the successful completion of the Phase 1 measures of the Action Plan on the transfer of ownership of the implementation of the Agreement. We congratulate the Parties for the practical actions carried out this year to complete this important step, and recognise that it will be completed on time, by the end of 2011. The EU also notes that the Parties have now started substantive discussions and detailed planning of the wide range of activities required to complete a gradual transition to Phase 2. We note the proposed timetable for the further actions required in order for the Parties to assume full autonomy for implementation of the Agreement, and look forward to the formal adoption of the Phase 2 plan at the next Sub Regional Consultative Commission. The transfer of ownership is a most significant development, and the Action Plan continues to have 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 both the Parties and the Personal Representative and his Office, for creating the positive conditions for the implementation and development of this highly effective and successful Sub-Regional Arms Control regime. The EU would like to take this opportunity to thank Brigadier General Periotto for his tireless and most effective work during his four years as the CiO's Personal Representative. His contribution to the development of the transfer of ownership Action Plan has been most significant, and we wish him all the best in his next assignment. We look forward to Major General Michele Torres taking up his appointment at this important time in the Agreement's development, and wish him and the Parties every success in the future.

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 LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, GEORGIA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

*The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

**Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and the European Economic Area.