

**SLOVENIA - ASSEMBLY OF WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (WEU)
LJUBLJANA, MARCH 3-5 2008**

Thank Slovenia for their proactive approach in all regional/European matters, including hosting of this Assembly.

Express satisfaction by fortunate coinciding of Slovenia's presidency over EU, with this critical time in region's fate.

Share with delegates the opinion that they (Slovenia) are best qualified to tend to region's needs at this specific point in time. They have insight and understanding of the region that others may not have. Both east-bound and west-bound.

OVERVIEW OF SITUATION IN BIH:

ON THE MILITARY SIDE:

1 Jan 06: DEF REF started, in its final form
by Nov 06: we were already eligible for PfP
by Oct 07: Presidential Decision implemented. All commands in place.
- let go of 3,300 people
- target numbers: 10,000 active + 5,000 reserves + 1,000 civilians

by 2008: PARP, SOFA & IPAP
pending: MAP/int. dialogue in **Bucharest**

- o goals at home:
 - preserve full democratic control & transparency
 - develop multi-layer loyalty (*very important under the circumst.*)
 - takeover from EUFOR (**give credit to Althea/EUFOR here!**)
 - assistance to civilians (*paints us as peaceful, normal AF*)
 - continue reforms and modernization
- o goals abroad:
 - worldwide:
 - contribute to collective security (PSOs)
 - membership in NATO
 - Europe:
 - embrace European DEF-SEC policies (CFSP & ESDP)¹

ON THE POLITICAL SIDE:

- DEF REF is the most successful reform in BiH
 - o Unparalleled in speed and dedication
 - o Others struggle to keep up with us
- members of RCC, SEEI, SEEC, SEED, SEDM²
- full **political consensus on NATO** membership. No alternative.
- intention to widen our PSO contribution

Kosovo:

- low degree of internal turbulence upon Kosovo's independence - **clear evidence of maturity**
 - o on the MoD/AF side, NO TURBULENCE whatsoever was noted. **Extremely positive indicator.**
- how we did it?

¹ CFSP - Common Foreign and Security Policy, ESDP - European Security & Defense Policy

² Regional Cooperation Center (based in Sarajevo), South-East Europe Initiative, SEE Cooperation Process, SEE Clearing House, SEE Defense Ministerial

- o maintained calm - avoided spurring things further by potentially provocative statements/actions
- o held important the sensitivity of this issue
- o understood, accepted, and **respected the specific impact** this has had on 1 of our constituent nations
- o we remain alert to any future developments, but focus on our every-day agenda - the internal reforms

Future plans:

- continue approaching both NATO and EU
 - o adopt NATO standards in terms of doctrine, equipment, training, administration
 - o have 40% of personnel DEPLOYABLE
- deepen the stabilizing role that DEF REF has, as an example of how success is indeed possible.
- support and promote all activities that contribute to safe environment, reconciliation, and stability - internally and outwards
- maintain professionalism and calm rational approach to any problem we may encounter

What we need to get there:

- political support for Euro-Atlantic integrations
- recognition of achievement - to serve as an incentive for future Ops
- dedication - continued commitment of Intl. Community
- take **advantage of Slovenian presidency** - Their familiarity with the region
- assistance - funds, training, advice

Final goal: Full integration in Euro-Atlantic structures

- reaching this point will mean:
 - to the International Community:
 - releasing of all resources that are currently blocked by region's need for stability - troops, logistics, excessive finance requirements
 - to us:
 - ability to turn to economic development and improving of quality of life, instead of dealing with issues from the past
 - to everyone:
 - marking a success
 - turning the region from importer of stability to exporter of it (move from consumer to deliverer)
 - proving it possible, as a role model for other unstable zones in the world.

Express firm conviction that Slovenia will live up to its important role, and be a model leader and moderator of processes.

Thank host and delegates.