



**JOINT STATEMENT**  
**SEDM MINISTERS OF DEFENSE MEETING**

22 October 2007

Kyiv, UKRAINE

Defense Ministers of NATO and PfP Countries participating in South Eastern Europe Defense Ministerial (SEDM) Process:

His Excellency, Veselin BLIZNAKOV, represented by Sonya YANKULOVA Deputy Minister of Defense

His Excellency, Lazar ELENOVSKI

His Excellency, Karl ERJAVEC, represented by Franci ŽNIDARŠIČ, State Secretary

His Excellency, Robert M. GATES

His Excellency, Mehmet Vecdi GÖNÜL

His Excellency, Anatoliy GRYTSENKO

His Excellency, Fatmir MEDIU

His Excellency, Evangelos-Vassilios I. MEIMARAKIS

His Excellency, Teodor V. MELEȘCANU, represented by Corneliu DOBRITOIU, State Secretary for Defense Policy and Planning

His Excellency, Arturo PARISI, represented by Giovanni Lorenzo FORCIERI, Undersecretary of State for Defense

His Excellency, Berislav RONČEVIĆ

together with the Ministers of Defense SEDM Observers Countries: Bosnia & Herzegovina, H.E. Selmo CIKOTIĆ, Georgia, H.E. David KEZERASHVILI, Moldova, H.E. Vitalie VRABIE, Montenegro, H.E. Boro VUČINIĆ, Serbia, H.E. Dragan ŠUTANOVAC met in Kyiv on 22 October, 2007

strongly determined to promote enduring peace, stability and security in South Eastern Europe and its integration into Euro-Atlantic structures.

SEDM Ministers welcomed the Ministers of Defense from the following countries, who have attended the SEDM Meeting upon invitation: Azerbaijan, HE. Safar Achundbalaogly ABIEV, Czech Republic, HE Vlasta PARKANOVA represented by State Secretary Frantisek PADELEK, Hungary, HE. Imre SZEKERES represented by State Secretary Mrs. Agnes VADAI, Slovakia, HE. František KAŠIČKY, Poland, HE Aleksander SZCZYGLÓ represented by State Secretary Jacek KOTAS.

SEDM ministers welcomed the NATO representative, Mr. Georgios KATSIRDAKIS and Admiral Harry G. ULRICH, Commander JFC Naples for their participation and contribution to this meeting.

The Chairperson of the PMSC and SEDM-CC, Mrs Radica A. GAREVA PhD. briefed SEDM ministers on the main activities of the PMSC and SEDM-CC since their last meeting in Tirana in 2006. The Chairperson emphasized the progress of the MPFSEE Agreement revision process has been done so far, producing the third draft of the 5<sup>th</sup> Additional Protocol during the 2<sup>nd</sup> HLEM, as well as the SEDM-CC Agreement revision process, aiming to improve the comprehensiveness, clearness and applicability of its juridical procedures.

The Chairperson informed SEDM Ministers about the HQ SEEBRIG relocation, Hand-over/Take-over Ceremony of SEEBRIG Commandership and SEDM-CC/PMSC Chairmanship that took place in Istanbul on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2007 and briefed also the ministers on the status of the SEDM Projects.

The Chairperson informed on the Chairmanship 2007-2009 priorities: SEEBRIG Deployment in PSO, MPFSEE & SEDM Observer nations full membership, SEDM projects coordination enhancement, strengthening the support to non-NATO SEDM nations for NATO integration.

Update on SEEBRIG activities, significant achievements and future challenges, was given by COMSEEBRIG, Brigadier General Virgil BALACEANU.

SEDM ministers thanked the former Chairman of the PMSC and SEDM-CC HE Petrit KARABINA and the former commander of SEEBRIG, Brigadier General Neyko NENOV for their great contribution in promoting SEDM and SEEBRIG capabilities for Euro-Atlantic Security and Stability.

The SEDM ministers welcomed the new Chairperson of the PMSC and SEDM-CC, Mrs Radica A. GAREVA, PhD, and the new commander of SEEBRIG Brigadier General Virgil BALACEANU, and noted their commitment to strengthening and advancing the SEDM process.

SEDM Ministers welcomed the proposed way ahead related to the SEEBRIG possible future employment in PSOs, presented by Chairperson and COMSEEBRIG during their presentation.

SEDM ministers expressed the importance of finalizing the SEEDRO Concept within the area of SEDM process.

Upon Ukraine's Letter of intent and consensus of MPFSEE nations, SEDM ministers welcomed the decision of Ukraine to accede to the MPFSEE Agreement and its related Protocols and Annexes.

SEDM ministers signed the Note of Accession (NOA) of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the SEDM process, welcoming Bosnia and Herzegovina as a full-fledged SEDM member.

SEDM ministers underlined the important achievements of the SEDM process during the Albanian Chairmanship and thanked to Minister Fatmir MEDIU for the Albanian contribution to this initiative.

SEDM Ministers expressed their continuous support for ongoing NATO-led operations in the region and beyond, and reiterated their commitment to contribute to NATO's efforts to strengthen security, stability and durable peace in Southeastern Europe. In this regard, Ministers thanked the Commander of JFC Naples for his contribution to this meeting and his update briefing on the "NATO Operations in the Balkans" and "Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR (OAE)". They expressed their support to the international efforts against terrorism.

SEDM Ministers emphasized that the enlargement of NATO has been an unambiguous success in bringing new contributors to NATO's efforts as well as projecting security and stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic area, and reiterated that the continuation of regionally balanced enlargement is an essential element of NATO's ongoing transformation.

In this regard, Ministers expressed their support for the ongoing efforts of the three MAP countries pursuing NATO membership and they look forward to them meeting the performance-based standards for membership. They also encourage Alliance Heads of State and Government to reaffirm the continuance of the "open door" policy after the Bucharest Summit in April 2008.

SEDM Ministers expressed their satisfaction for the progress of the existing SEDM projects made so far, their support for the continuation of all referred projects and encouraged all nations to contribute to the enhancement of the SEDM Process.

Ministers welcomed the progress of the MPFSEE and SEDM-CC Agreement revision process and expressed their willingness for its finalization before the next SEDM Meeting.

MPFSEE Ministers of Defense approved HQ SEEBRIG Budget for the FY 2008 and the Annual Exercise, Training and Travel Plan for 2008.

MPFSEE Ministers of Defense welcomed the intention to develop a Public Diplomacy Strategy, a process which will be coordinated and approved by PMSC on an annual basis and implemented by MPFSEE.

SEDM Ministers thanked the SEDM-CC and PMSC Chairmanship Host Nation Minister of Defense H.E. Lazar ELENOVSKI for hosting the next Ministerial meeting in Skopje, in 2008.

Finally, SEDM Ministers expressed their gratitude to the Ukrainian Minister of Defense, H.E. Anatoliy GRYTSENKO, for his hospitality in hosting this meeting. They also expressed appreciation for the efforts of his staff in preparing and organizing all the details connected with the Ministerial events.