



JOINT STATEMENT

SEDM MINISTERS OF DEFENCE MEETING

Antalya-TURKEY, 3rd October 2011

The Defence Ministers of the Southeastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) Process:

His Excellency, Arben Imami represented by Arjan Starova Deputy Minister of Defence

His Excellency, Anu Anguelov

His Excellency, Panos Beglitis

His Excellency, Ignazio La Russa, represented by Giuseppe Cossiga Deputy Minister of Defence

His Excellency, Fatmir Besimi

His Excellency, Gabriel Oprea, represented by Viorel Oancea State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning

His Excellency, İsmet Yılmaz

His Excellency, Selmo Cikotić

His Excellency, Davor Božinović, represented by Pjer Šimunović State Secretary of Ministry of Defence

His Excellency, Boro Vučinić

His Excellency, Dragan Šutanovac

His Excellency, Ljubica Jelušič, represented by Boris Balant

His Excellency, Mihaylo Yezhel

His Excellency, Leon Edward Panetta, represented by Celeste Wallander
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense

Together with the Minister of Defence from the SEDM Observer
Countries:

His Excellency, Bachana Akhalaia, represented by Nodar Kharshiladze
Deputy Minister of Defence

His Excellency, Marinuța Vitalie

Met in Antalya on 3rd October 2011 strongly determined to promote
enduring peace, stability and security in the region of Southeastern Europe.

SEDM Ministers welcomed the presence of the representatives from
NATO - JFC Naples, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and
RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation.

SEDM Ministers took note of the report presented by the Chairperson of
SEDM Coordination Committee (SEDM-CC) and the Politico Military
Steering Committee (PMSC) H.E. Giuseppe Cossiga, Deputy Minister of
Defense of the Republic of Italy. In the presentation, he provided a
summary of the activities of the Chairmanship's accomplishments,
priorities, and presented all the activities that followed the last SEDM
meeting in 2010.

The Chairperson provided an update on the status of current SEDM
projects, as follows:

- Southeastern Europe Simulation Network Exercise (SEESIM -12);
- Interconnection of Military Hospitals (IMIHO);
- Defense/Military Support for WMD Counter Proliferation, Border
Security and Counter Terrorism (CBSC);
- South-Eastern Europe Military Education Cooperation (SEMEC);

The Ministers of Defence approved the Female Leadership in Security and Defence Conference project.

The Ministers of Defence thanked Bulgaria for the new elaborated proposal of the Building Integrity Initiative project and tasked SEDM-CC/PMSC Chairperson to facilitate a decision on the project.

The Ministers of Defence stated that duplication of efforts must be firmly prevented. Moreover, they invited the Chairperson to review ongoing projects and terminate non-effective projects.

The Ministers of Defence took note of the Chairperson's request to COMSEEBRIG concerning a study of possible development of mentoring and training roles and skills for both the Brigade and its Headquarters taking into account existing financial constraints.

SEDM Ministers appreciated the report of COMSEEBRIG, Brigadier General Zdravko POPOVSKI, on SEEBRIG activities and achievements following the last SEDM Meeting.

Ministers of Defence appreciated the report of the Chairperson summarizing the status of previous tasks, including the analysis on possible future SEEBRIG location.

The Ministers took note of the Chairperson's request to COMSEEBRIG to carry out a comparative analysis of all potential options and expressed gratitude to Brigadier General Zdravko POPOVSKI for the preliminary presentation.

Pending the results of the full study, Ministers of Defence encouraged the PMSC to draw all possible options and offers to be presented for final approval at the next Ministerial Meeting.

The MPFSEE Ministers approved the HQ SEEBRIG Annual Plan (Main Activities, Training and Travel Plan) for 2012 and SEEBRIG's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2012.

The MPFSEE Ministers emphasized the commitment to improve regional security and to the cooperative approach of security in the Euro-Atlantic area. They are committed to SEEBRIG's development and progress, to increase its efficiency and readiness as a tool of practical cooperation. The Ministers also welcomed the future cooperation with NATO agencies and bodies. Ministers also stressed the need for political will to fulfill shortfalls and deficiencies previously identified so as to provide SEEBRIG with adequate capabilities.

Ministers tasked the SEDM-CC to review the SEDM objectives and relationship with main International Organizations and present a report to the Ministers of Defence.

SEDM Ministers reaffirmed the importance of NATO's and the EU's open door policy and ongoing efforts for peace and stability.

Ministers of Defence expressed deep appreciation for the decision of Bosnia-Herzegovina to accede to PMSC/MPFSEE as a full member, and welcome the intention of Republic of Serbia to become an observer of MPFSEE. They stressed once more the importance of pursuing an open door policy in particular towards those states whose participation could help to fulfil the SEEBRIG recognised shortfalls and capability gap.

Ministers of Defence confirm dedication to the 'open door policy' for all the aspirant states that want to be part of the SEDM initiative.

SEDM Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Minister of National Defence of Republic of Turkey, H.E. İsmet Yılmaz, for his warm hospitality in hosting this meeting. They also expressed gratitude for the efforts of his staff in preparing and organizing all the details connected to the Ministerial events.