



JOINT STATEMENT

SEDM MINISTERS OF DEFENCE MEETING

Budva, Montenegro, 16th of October 2014

The Defence Ministers of the South-eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) Process:

Her Excellency, Mimi Kodheli, PhD

His Excellency, Velizar Shalamanov, PhD

His Excellency, Dimitrios Avramopoulos, represented by Ilias Fotopoulos, Ambassador in Podgorica

Her Excellency, Roberta Pinotti, represented by Gioacchino Alfano, Undersecretary of State for Defence

His Excellency, Zoran Jolevski, PhD

His Excellency, Mircea Duşa represented by Codrin Dumitru Munteanu, the Secretary General of Ministry of National Defence

His Excellency, İsmet Yılmaz, PhD

His Excellency, Zekerijah Osmić

His Excellency, Ante Kotromanović

Her Excellency, Milica Pejanović-Đurišić, PhD

His Excellency, Bratislav Gašić, represented by Zoran Bingulac, PhD,
Ambassador in Podgorica

His Excellency, Janko Veber

His Excellency, Stepan Poltorak, represented by Colonel Andrii Blokha,
Defence Attache in Belgrade

His Excellency, Chuck Hagel, represented by Evelyn Farkas, PhD, Deputy
Assistant Secretary of Defence

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

His Excellency, Irakli Alasania represented by Mikheil Darchiashvili, Deputy
Minister of Defence

His Excellency, Valeriu Troenco,

met in Budva, Montenegro, on 16th of October 2014, strongly determined to
promote enduring peace, stability and security in the region of South-eastern
Europe (SEE) through the SEDM process.

The Ministers welcomed the presence of the representatives from the
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Regional
Cooperation Council (RCC) and RACVIAC Center for Security Cooperation.

The Ministers of Defence expressed particular appreciation for the
encouraging opening address given by the President of the Parliament of
Montenegro, H.E. Ranko Krivokapić, and for the key-note speech given by
the Ambassador Marcel Pesko, Director/Office of the Secretary General of
OSCE.



The SEDM Ministers of Defence appreciated the report of the Chairman, H.E. Valeriu Nicuț, PhD, State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning within the Romanian Ministry of National Defence, on the activities implemented under Romanian Chairmanship since the last SEDM meeting in 2013.

The Ministers appreciated the opening presentation of the Minister of Defence of Montenegro, H.E. Milica Pejanović-Đurišić, PhD, suggesting additional actions for the prevention of duplication and further synchronizations of regional efforts that are related to the harmonization of existing initiatives, meetings and activities in the SEE region, including the proposal that each regional initiative should be focused on a specific domain.

The Ministers reiterated the commitment to promote all initiatives genuinely aimed to improve SEDM efficiency and visibility, reduce unnecessary duplications, ensure maximum coherence, streamline structures and improve working methods in order to achieve more effectiveness and efficiency in future regional defence cooperation.

Ministers appreciated the progress achieved with the further implementation of the Building Integrity (BI) project since the last ministerial meeting. Ministers commended the collaborative approach established between NATO BI and SEDM and expressed appreciation for the resources made available through the NATO BI Trust Fund. SEDM Nations are encouraged to continue with the project's implementation and to support BI-SEE efforts promoting good practice and developing capabilities.

Ministers recognized the importance of the Female Leaders in Security and Defence (FLSD) project and encouraged the Member Nations to continue with its implementation.

The Ministers of Defence recognized the importance of the Interconnection of

Military Hospitals (IMIHO) project as well as the substantial progress achieved, noting that all SEDM members are invited to participate, even if they lack military medical hospitals. Such participation is essential for enhancing the strength and the effectiveness of this initiative.

The Ministers took note, with interest, of the Athens proposal for the establishment of a permanent, modular and secure SEDM portal and encouraged Athens to work on a complete presentation of this project, including detailed financial aspects, by the next SEDM-CC meeting in March 2015.

The SEDM Ministers took note of Sofia's non-paper on "South-eastern Europe Defence Cooperation (SEDEFECO): „Optimization, Cooperation and Synergy" proposal and tasked SEDM-CC Chairmanship to organize a High Level Expert Meeting (HLEM) no later than the next SEDM-CC Meeting in March 2015. Sofia was invited to present further details of the above mentioned project, by the end of 2014, in order for HLEM to develop a set of proposals, on the future modalities for SEE defence cooperation. The results of HLEM work will be discussed by SEDM-CC at their meetings in 2015 with a view for a decision at the next SEDM meeting.

The Ministers welcomed the decision of Bucharest to assume the leadership of SEESIM 16, together with Zagreb as co-chair.

The MPFSEE Ministers of defence signed "HQ SEEBRIG location and critical rotational slots table after the year 2015" document. This document

establishes the base for implementing the rotation of the SEEBRIG HQ, Chairmanship, and critical slots till the year 2035.

Ministers of Defence appreciated the report of COMSEEBRIG, Brigadier General Hakan ESER, on SEEBRIG activities and achievements since the last SEDM Meeting with the main focus on new training and exercise policy and encouraged him to seek all available training and operational opportunities for implementing the new exercise policy starting from 2015.

PMSC/MPFSEE Ministers approved the HQ SEEBRIG Annual Plan (Main Activities, Training and Travel Plan) for 2015 and SEEBRIG's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2015, as well as authorized COMSEEBRIG for re-allocation of the financial resources, up to 20% from the approved Budget for FY 2015.

SEDM Ministers appreciated the efforts and encouraged COMSEEBRIG to continue cooperation and participation of SEEBRIG in NATO and regional training and exercises, academic activities, as good opportunities for increasing SEEBRIG's operational effectiveness.

The Ministers confirmed their dedication to the 'open door policy' for the aspirant states that want to be part of the SEDM initiative and whose participation could help to fulfil the SEEBRIG recognized shortfalls and capability gap. In this context, the Ministers appreciated and encouraged the Georgian authorities to take forward accession process by completing the internal legal procedures. Also, the Ministers encouraged the Republic of Moldova, as observer nation, to consider the possible accession to the full membership as an opportunity.

Tbilisi confirmed its support to the SEDM process and extended its appreciation to all the member states for accepting Georgia's request on

membership. Tbilisi expressed readiness to notify the depository state about the completion of the internal legal procedures to accede to the Agreement on the Establishment of a Coordination Committee in the Framework of South-eastern Europe Defence Ministerial Process in the near future.

The Ministers took note of the presentation "Cyber Threats as a rising security issue in SEE", held in Skopje, presented by SEEMIC host nation.

The Ministers thanked the Montenegrin authorities for organizing and hosting the SEDM meeting, which provided Nations the opportunity to further work on optimizing the regional cooperation.

The next Ministerial Meeting will be hosted by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia, in October 2015, according to the meeting calendar.

The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Minister of Defence of Montenegro, H.E. Milica PEJANOVIĆ-ĐURIŠIĆ, for her warm hospitality in hosting this meeting. They also expressed gratitude for the efforts of her staff and the SEDM-CC and PMSC Secretariat in preparing and organizing all the details connected with the Ministerial events.

SEDM-CC/PMSC Chairman



Valeriu Nicut



Head of SEDM-CC/PMSC Secretariat



LTC Jan-Florin Ganea