



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Report by BGen. Costanzo Periotto, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV of Annex 1B of the Dayton Peace Accords

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
September 8, 2011

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

General Periotto, we thank you for your stewardship on Article IV implementation. We also commend the Parties for their success in implementing the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control. General, the United States deeply appreciates your efforts and recognizes that, under your watchful eye, the Agreement has contributed significantly to the peace and stability of the region and done much to foster confidence and cooperation throughout the Western Balkans.

We note with satisfaction that the implementation of the Agreement maintains its extremely productive course with the successful conduct of well over 600 inspections, the continued downsizing of the Parties' military arsenals, and further reductions in military manpower. These achievements demonstrate the professionalism, maturity, and commitment of the Parties to the success of the Agreement. They are a tangible contribution to lasting peace and stability for the region, a tribute to General Periotto's craftsmanship and that of his predecessors.

We further commend the Parties' efforts over the past year to implement the Ownership Action Plan, and look forward to their continued success in fulfilling their obligations and commitments to the ownership process. We support and encourage close coordination between the Parties and the Office of the Personal Representative as they move into the second phase of the Ownership Plan in 2012, which will prepare the Parties to achieve the eventual goal of full autonomy.

We look forward to the continued successful implementation of the Article IV Agreement and fully affirm our support for the Parties, as well as for the Personal Representative and his staff. As always, the United States stands ready to provide appropriate support in working toward these goals and views the continued presence and support of the international community as important in this process.

General Periotto, we again thank you for your outstanding service, the work of your office and staff, and your commitment to the Parties and to this important Agreement. We wish you the best in your future endeavors, and we also welcome Major General Torres to his new position and wish him success in this new position.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.