



JOINT STATEMENT
SEDM MINISTERS OF DEFENCE MEETING

Bucharest, 16th October 2019

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

Her Excellency, Ms. Olta XHAÇKA, represented by Mr. Florian KALI, General Director of Defence Policy

Her Excellency, Ms. Marina PENDEŠ, represented by Mr. Sead JUSIĆ, Deputy Minister of Defence

His Excellency, Mr. Krasimir KARAKACHANOV, represented by Atanas ZAPRIANOV, Deputy Minister of Defence

His Excellency, Mr. Damir KRSTIČEVIĆ, represented by Mr. Petar MIHATOV, Assistant Minister for Defence Policy

His Excellency, Mr. Irakli GARIBASHVILI, represented by Mr. David KAPANADZE, Minister Counselor

His Excellency, Mr. Nikos PANAGIOTOPOULOS, represented by Mr. Evangelos TOURNAKIS, Minister Counsellor, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of Greece to Romania

His Excellency, Mr. Lorenzo GUERINI, represented by Mr. Marco GIUNGI, Ambassador of Italy to Romania

His Excellency, Mr. Predrag BOŠKOVIĆ, represented by Mr. Slobodan FILIPOVIĆ, State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence

Her Excellency, Ms. Radmila ŠEKERINSKA, represented by Mr. Bekim MAKSUTI, Deputy Minister of Defence





His Excellency, Mr. Gabriel-Beniamin LEȘ, represented by Mr. Doru-Claudian FRUNZULICĂ, State Secretary for Defence Policy, Planning and International Relations

His Excellency, Mr. Aleksandar VULIN, represented by Mr. Milan RANKOVIĆ, Assistant Minister for Defence Policy

His Excellency, Mr. Karl ERJAVEC, represented by Mr. Miloš BIZJAK, MSc, State Secretary

His Excellency, Mr. Hulusi AKAR, represented by Mrs. Füsün ARAMAZ, Ambassador of Turkey to Romania

His Excellency, Mr. Andriy ZAGORODNYUK, represented by Mr. Oleksandr BANKOV, Ambassador of Ukraine to Romania

His Excellency, Mr. Pavel VOICU

met in Bucharest on 16th October 2019, strongly determined to promote lasting peace, stability and security in the region of South-Eastern Europe (SEE) through the SEDM Process.

We highly appreciated the inspiring key note speech given by Mr. Doru-Claudian FRUNZULICĂ and the opening remarks given by the Chairman of SEDM - CC/PMSC, H.E. Mr. Petro KOÇI.

We welcomed and expressed our good wishes to Albanian Chairmanship, and the new Chairman of SEDM-CC/PMSC. We also





expressed deepest appreciation to Ambassador Eleftherios ANGHELOPOULOS, the former Chairman of the SEDM-CC/PMSC and his Secretariat, for their valuable contribution in promoting the goals of SEDM process.

We welcomed the presence of the representatives from the NATO HQ, RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

We noted with satisfaction that this year's Ministerial meeting marks the celebration of the 20th anniversary of SEEBRIG's activation and acknowledged its contribution to regional security and stability, having turned into a unique platform for cooperation, mutual training, exchanging of ideas and producing of lessons learned. We expressed our appreciation to the Commander of the SEEBRIG, Br. Gen. Tudorică PETRACHE, for the excellent organization of the Ceremony of 20th anniversary of SEEBRIG's activation combined with the ceremony of Handover - Takeover of SEDM Secretariat between Athens and Tirana, held in August 2019.

We noted with satisfaction the achievements obtained within the process as presented by the Chairman of the SEDM-CC/PMSC in his





update on the SEDM projects and the way ahead.

We welcomed the Chairman's report in which he provided a summary of the activities of the Chairmanship on priority issues since the last SEDM Ministerial meeting in 2018.

We, the MPFSEE Ministers of Defence, approved the HQ SEEBRIG Annual Plan for 2020, SEEBRIG's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2020, and the Medium Term Financial Plan 2020-2022, as well as COMSEEBRIG's authorization to re-allocate up to 20% among chapters of the approved 2020 Budget, as it was agreed during 42nd PMSC/MPFSEE Meeting in Tirana.

We, the MPFSEE Ministers of Defence, approved HQ SEEBRIG Action Plan Regarding Auditors Observations and the SOP 801 Amendments, (Financial Administrative Procedures for Multinational Financing) in order to fulfill Board of Auditors Recommendations.

We, the MPFSEE Ministers of Defence, considering the evolving number of disasters in South Eastern Europe, approved the revised Southeastern Europe Disaster Relief Operations (SEEDRO) Concept'' for the benefit of the people of our region. In this context, SEESIM-





2020 is an excellent opportunity for SEEBRIG HQ to examine any necessary review of the documents related to DROs, with a view to promote cooperation with civil-emergency organizations, national and regional.

We approved the IMIHO Online Medical Training Document which is another notable output of the “Interconnection of the Military Hospitals” (IMIHO) project that aims at utilizing internet based technologies in order to allow health care personnel to organize and participate in online seminars, in an accessible and cost-effective way. We consider the project, in general, as important and mutually beneficial for our nations by providing an online informative and collaborative platform that fosters cooperation among military hospitals.

We expressed our appreciation for SEDM Portal developments, which constitute a case in point and a paradigm on how internet based online tools can help us work together effectively, share our views, thoughts and ideas, while raising awareness about our Initiative to the world, at no cost to our countries.

We noted the importance of the “Building Integrity in Defence”





project, which has proved to be a useful tool to support countries in the process of reforming defence institutions and developing capabilities at a time of serious financial constraints.

We expressed our appreciation for the progress in SEDM project “Female Leaders in Security and Defence” and we recognized its importance as far as Human resources diversity as well as gender integration bring in a variety of perspectives and experiences to the national and international defence structures and to our national armed forces.

We encouraged all nations to support and participate in the SEESIM-20 Exercise, the project which in general promotes the coordinated, rapid, interagency response to real world threats – both natural and man-made – to our individual and collective security. In this regard we welcomed Athens’ proposal to host the Exercise “SEESIM -2020”.

Through the presentations of our national views on the way ahead, we reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening political and military cooperation in SEE to support and enhance regional security,





stability, good neighborly relations and to contribute to preventing deterioration of security and strengthening the defense architecture.

We reiterated our unwavering commitment to the international law, treaties and agreements, the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, including full respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, peaceful settlement of disputes, good neighborly relations and refraining from the threat or use of force.

Guided by our resolve to contribute to the security and stability of the Euro – Atlantic community, we reaffirmed our commitment to intensifying the good neighborly relations, to strengthening political and military cooperation, and facing new challenges through enhanced regional security.

We reaffirmed our determination to pursue the integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic communities of the aspirant countries from SEE and we underlined our commitment to regional peace and stability, as an important segment of overall stability in Europe.

We noted with concern the common security challenges that the ongoing migration and refugee flows, pose and we reiterated our





commitment to support and complement the efforts of the international community, within the UN legal framework, to cut the lines of smuggling and human trafficking. We reiterated our resolve to maintain and strengthen our own regional coordination and cooperation on this issue.

We reiterated that bringing peace and stability, providing a sustainable economic growth and thus creating conditions for human and social development in the countries of origin will encourage their people to seek their future in their homelands. We expressed our concern over grave security and human right situation in conflict-affected areas and stressed the necessity for peaceful settlement of ongoing and protracted conflicts, and respect of fundamental rights of Internally Displaced People and refugees to safe and dignified return to their homes.

We reaffirmed our strongest condemnation of all terrorist attacks in all forms and manifestations in different parts of the world, noting that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. We reiterated our support and commitment to the efforts of the international community to fight





terrorism, including through concerted regional cooperation, which is the most effective way of coping with this pressing and demanding issue.

We noted with deep concern the serious risks posed by different threats such as: smuggling of arms, drugs, hybrid actions as well as organized crime, to the security and stability of the region, including through financing terrorism.

We reaffirmed our dedication to the 'open door policy' for the aspirant states which want to be part of the SEDM initiative and whose participation could help mitigate the SEEBRIG's recognized shortfalls and capability gap.

We, the MPFSEE Ministers of Defence, strongly encouraged Sarajevo to finalize their national procedure for the ratification of MPFSEE Agreement, in order to greet Sarajevo as a new member.

We, the MPFSEE Ministers of Defence, are aware that the 6th Additional Protocol of the MFPSEE, was signed during the last DCHOD Meeting, hosted by Skopje on 12 June 2019. This document adapts the MPFSEE Agreement in the face of newly emerged





circumstances and the security environment, while still adhering to the scope of its agreed operational framework.

We, the MPFSEE Ministers of Defence, welcomed the report presented by COMSEEBRIG on SEEBRIG activities and achievements since the last Ministerial Meeting in Belgrade.

We confirmed that the next Ministerial Meeting will be hosted by Athens in October 2020, according to the meeting calendar.

We expressed our appreciation to Bucharest and particularly to Mr. Doru-Claudian FRUNZULICĂ and to all officials both from Bucharest and SEDM-CC/PMSC Albanian Chairmanship for their tireless efforts in successfully preparing and conducting the annual SEDM Ministerial Meeting.

H.E Mr. Petro KOÇI
Chairman of SEDM-CC/PMSC Secretariat

