



**SEDM-CC/PMSC**



**2017 - 2019  
Athens Chairmanship**



**SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE DEFENSE MINISTERIAL (SEDM)  
DEPUTY CHIEFS OF DEFENSE (DCHOD) MEETING**

**12th June 2019, Skopje**

**JOINT STATEMENT**



We the Deputy Chiefs of Defence/General Staff from the SEDM countries:

Deputy Chief of Defence, Brigadier General Manushaqe SHEHU,

Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff AF B&H for Operations, Major General Ivica JERKIC,

Deputy Chief of Defence, Lieutenant General Dimitar ILIEV, represented by Defence Staff Director, Major General Krasimir KANEV,

Deputy Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Drago MATANOVIC, represented by Director of General Staff, Vice admiral Robert HRANJ,

Deputy Chief of Defence, Vice Admiral Ioannis PAXIVANAKIS,

Deputy Chief of Defence, Lieutenant General Luigi Francesco DE LEVERANO, represented by Deputy Chief of Plans and Policy Division, Brigadier General Andrea ARGIERI,

Deputy Chief of General Staff, Colonel Svetozar BRAJKOVIC,

Deputy Chief of General Staff, Major General Azim NUREDIN,

Deputy Chief of Defence, Lieutenant General Laurian ANASTASOF

Deputy Chief of Defence, Major General Petar CVETKOVIC,

Deputy Chief of General Staff, Brigadier General Robert GLAVAŠ,

Deputy Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Metin GÜRAK, represented by  
Chief of Operational Plans Department, Brigadier General Ersin KAYA

Deputy Chief of Defence of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Serhii NAIEV,

convened in Skopje, on 12 June 2019, to foster military cooperation in South Eastern Europe (SEE) in order to further strengthen peace, security, stability, and prosperity in the region.

We highly appreciated the inspiring opening remarks by Skopje Chief of Defence, Lieutenant General Vasko GJURCHINOVSKI, Deputy Chief of Defence, Major General Azim NUREDIN and the Chairman of SEDM-CC/PMSC, Ambassador a.h. Eleftherios ANGHELOPOULOS.

This being the last DCHOD Meeting during the Athens Chairmanship for the period of 2017-2019, we expressed our thanks and appreciation to Athens as well as to the Chairman of the SEDM-CC/PMSC for their efforts in coordinating many fruitful meetings and activities and extended our wishes for success to Tirana as the incoming Chair of 2019-2021 of the SEDM-CC/PMSC Secretariat.

We acknowledged and welcomed the achievements under the Athens Chairmanship of 2017-2019, as presented by the Chairman of SEDM-CC/PMSC. We underlined the progress made through implementation of concrete and target-oriented projects within the SEDM Process and thanked the Chairman of the SEDM-CC/PMSC and the Secretariat for their contribution.

We fully supported the assessment of the Chairman of SEDM-CC/PMSC, emphasizing that the Member Nations' commitment to the fundamental goal of our Process to further understanding and political-military cooperation in SEE should be sustained with a view to strengthening peace, security and stability in the region.



We reaffirmed our dedication to the purposes and principles provided by the United Nations Charter, to the international law and to the treaties and agreements and reconfirmed our commitment to contribute to peace and confidence and to foster good neighborly relations and close cooperation among the States in South-Eastern Europe.

We noted with concern the common challenges that the ongoing migration and refugee flows pose to our region and reaffirmed our commitment to support and complement the efforts of the international community, within the UN legal framework and to maintain and strengthen our own regional coordination and cooperation on this issue.

We reaffirmed our strongest condemnation of all terrorist attacks 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 in all its forms and manifestations, including through concerted regional cooperation. We underlined the need to efficiently address the root causes of this scourge and tackle the spread of radicalization and extremism in our own region.

We appreciated the updates on the SEDM- CC and PMSC activities since the last SEDM DCHODs meeting in Athens on 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2018, presented by SEDM- CC and PMSC Chairman and we emphasized the importance of the decisions taken by the SEDM Ministers of Defence during their last meeting in Belgrade, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 and also the importance of keeping a close working relationship with the relevant international organizations.

We welcomed the achievements of the MPFSEE to date, as we celebrated last year the milestone of the MPFSEE Agreement's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we reiterated our commitment to further enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Process through increased cooperation among Member Nations.

In this context and in alignment with the MPFSEE Ministers of Defence decision, we welcome the signing of the 6<sup>th</sup> Additional Protocol of the MPFSEE Agreement. We express our appreciation for the work of the Experts Working Group (EWG) on the Revision of the MPFSEE Agreement as well as of the Secretariat.

We welcomed the completion of national legal procedures by Tbilisi regarding the approval of the revised Agreement on the Coordination Committee in the framework of Southeastern Europe Defence Ministerial Process, signed in Sofia, on the 21st of October 2009.



We noted the continuous enhancement of the SEDM Portal, an invaluable online tool to improve sharing of information and documents among the Secretariat and Member Nations. We expressed our appreciation to Athens for their efforts to implement in the portal new tools 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 SEDM to the world.

We appreciated the establishment of the Online Medical Archive of the Interconnection of Military Hospitals (IMIHO) Project which foster collaboration as well as facilitate multinational medical research and training. We expressed our appreciation to Athens for developing the IMIHO website and hosting the Technical Working Group in Athens in the period 7-9 May 2019.

We welcomed Sarajevo as the lead nation of the Female Leaders in Security and Defence (FLSD) Project. In this context, we appreciated Tbilisi's efforts for hosting, the Workshop for the "FLSD – National Implementation of UN Resolution 1325", from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018, and the last year achieved results during its leading of the project.

We reiterated our expectation that Sarajevo joins, as early as possible, the MPFSEE Member Nations and stressed that the membership of Sarajevo in the MPFSEE will make an important contribution to SEEBRIG.

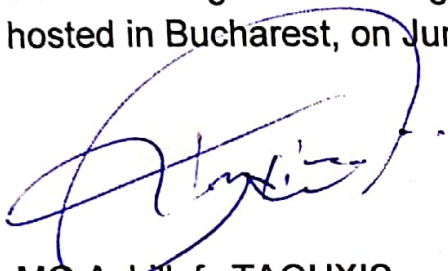
We welcomed the report of COMSEEBRIG, Brigadier General Tudorică PETRACHE concerning the HQ SEEBRIG activities since the last DCHOD Meeting. We thanked COMSEEBRIG for his tireless work to enhance the effectiveness of SEEBRIG as a tool to actively contribute to peace, security, stability and cooperation in SEE and beyond. In the context of SEEBRIG's medium-term plan about exercise and trainings with relevant NATO HQs and the other organizations in the region, we noted that the organization of the "SEVEN STARS 2020" and the participation to "Balkan Bridges 2019" exercises will enhance the interoperability with NATO structures and other organizations and will generate a better understanding of Peace Support Operation, Disaster Relief Operation, and Humanitarian Assistance Operations among SEEBRIG HQ and SEEBRIG affiliated units.

We emphasized that SEESIM is a valuable tool for promoting cooperation and interoperability among Members, which should be supported by all Member Nations. In this regard, we welcomed the update provided by Ankara, during the last SEDM-CC Meeting, on the execution of SEESIM-18 exercise which was conducted on 26-29 November 2018, in Istanbul. Appreciating Ankara's efforts in hosting and Bucharest's diligence in co-hosting the exercise, we encouraging all SEDM nations to actively take part in the SEESIM-20.

We noticed the progress on the SEEDRO Concept and the 1<sup>st</sup> SEEDRO WG results.

We appreciate the efforts of RACVIAC – Center for Security Cooperation as a regional platform that effectively contribute to lasting peace and stability in the region, through supporting our countries in addressing the most contemporary security challenges and thus bringing the region closer to the EU and NATO.

We conveyed our gratitude to Skopje for the excellent hospitality extended to all delegations and expressed our gratitude to all personnel involved for their tireless efforts during the Meeting. We confirmed that the next DCHOD Meeting will be hosted in Bucharest, on June 2020, according to the meeting calendar.



MG Achilles TAOUXIS  
Head of SEDM-CC/PMSC Secretariat



E. Amb. a.h. Eleftherios ANGHELOPOULOS  
SEDM-CC/PMSC Chairman