



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Ref. 6100/28/AS1123

NOTE VERBALE

CONFIDENTIAL

MAY 04 2007

LOG No. 57/5

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat - Office of Disarmament Affairs and with reference to the latter's Notes a) DDA/8-2007/ICBM, dated 29 January 2007 and b) DDA/3-2007CAC, dated 30 January 2007 has the honour to bring to the knowledge of the Office the following answer of Greece in the field of CBMs at a regional and sub regional level.

**CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY BUILDING MEASURES (CSBM)
IN THE FIELD OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS**

1. Confidence and security building measures (CBM-CSBM) concern a series of measures that are designed to render greater transparency and larger capability of prediction for military issues, which the concerned states can adapt.

2. Greece is striving to participate in the creation of stability, security and cooperation structures amongst the member nations of OSCE in order to enhance the peripheral security institutions and to eliminate the tensions in the area concerned.

3. Greece, a member state of OSCE attributes a special importance to the role OSCE is called to play into the international security environment, participating in many of its initiatives with a view to enhancing OSCE's strength and to utilize its possibilities towards crisis prevention and management.

To the United Nations Secretariat
Office of Disarmament Affairs
Suite S-3170A
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MAY 04 2007

LOG No. 31/05

4. With a view to promoting the confidence and security and the overall activation of conventional forces of the member states of OSCE, so that to prevent the occurrence of threat or violence not only amongst them but also into the larger international community, our country steadily supports the initiatives of the said organization and participates actively in their materialization by implementing the below enumerated confidence and security building measures in the field of conventional arms.

a. Vienna Document 99

According to the provisions of the afore – said document our country applies annually the below mentioned measures:

(1) Exchange of military information with the other member states of OSCE – at a regiment level and above – Greece also notifies whatever changes occur to the structure and organization of the units of her armed forces.

(2) Exchange of information on defense planning with the other members of OSCE concerning their defense policy, their military strategy and their military doctrine, along with the procurement of arms and armaments expenditure of her armed forces.

(3) Greece holds military contacts with the member states of OSCE through visits to airbases and military facilities. Greece organized in 2004 (18 to 22 October) a visit to an airbase and military facility, which was attended by representatives of the member states of OSCE. The next visit to an airbase and a military facility is planned to take place in 2009.

(4) Greece conducts military unit evaluation of the former eastern countries based on NATO coordination and the relevant bilateral program of military cooperation with the Balkan countries, along with inspections on the territory of another state where military activities are conducted. It also accepts passive evaluations and inspections. For the year 2007, based on inter Alliance coordination, an evaluation visit has been conducted to an Albanian unit.

(5) Finally it applies the provisions of the document for prior notification - observations of certain military activities (>9000-13000 troops, >250 BT) and the constraining provisions for the military activities.

b. **Global Exchange of Military Information – GEMI**

Based on the above document, our country annually exchanges with the member states of OSCE, general military information concerning their conventional forces into a formation

level with data concerning personnel and 7 types of weapons systems of Army, Navy and Air force (Tanks, Armored Vehicles, Artillery, Combat Aircrafts, Attack Helicopters, Warships and Submarines).

c. Regional Confidence and Security Building Measures - DAYTON Agreement (Annex 1B. Article IV)

Our country is not a signatory party to the above Agreement, nevertheless it participates annually under OSCE auspices, with military inspectors – escorts in the multinational units assembled to this end - under the coordination of a special OSCE coordinator, in order to assist to the implementation of the Article IV of the DAYTON Agreement, Annex 1B

d. Conventional Arms Transfers

(1) Based on UN Resolution number 46/36L/91 and the FSC.DEC 13/97 of OSCE, Greece has been making available data annually on the import - export movements of 7 types of main weapon systems and holdings (Tanks, Armored Vehicles, Artillery, Combat Aircrafts, Attack Helicopters, Warships and Submarines), that had taken place during the previous year, along with an inventory of existing weapon systems and holdings. Under the UN resolution number A58/274 in the inventory of existing weapon systems and holdings the Man Portable Air Defense Systems - MAN PADS are also included.

(2) Furthermore, based on OSCE resolution number FSC.DEC 20/95 there is an annual exchange of data amongst its member states concerning the policy of Conventional Arm Transfers.

e. Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security

(1) The Code of Conduct, which is based on the International Law, is an OSCE politically binding Core Document, and covers the politico-military aspects of safety and co-operation, among the Armed Forces of the OSCE member states.

(2) According to OSCE resolution (FSC. DEC 4/03), information concerning the implementation of the provisions of Code of Conduct is exchanged among its states party annually, as it is provided for by the adopted questionnaire.

f. Small Arms and Light Weapons

Based on the Programme of Action of the UN to eradicate the illicit transfer of SALW and on a relevant OSCE Document, Greece exchanges information, with the member states of OSCE concerning Small Arms and Light Weapons information. This information covers the following issues: the national Marking system, the national procedures for the control over manufacture, the national legislation and current practice on export policy, procedures,

documentation and on control over international brokering, the exports to, and imports from other participating states during the previous year, the category and the quantity of the surplus weapon systems, the stockpile management and security procedures and the procedures for the destruction of small arms. The forthcoming exchange of information will take place on Jun 30, 2007.

g. Ottawa Convention - Anti-personnel

Landmines

(1) Greece signed the Ottawa Convention on 3/12/1997. It was approved by the Hellenic Parliament on 8/4/2002 (2999/02 Act) and ratified on 25/9/2003.

(2) Greece submits her annual report concerning minefields to the UN Secretary General and according to Doc. FSC.Dec 7/04, information deriving from the questionnaire on anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war, is exchanged among the OSCE member states.

(3) Greece implements the Ottawa Convention and will fulfill its commitments deriving from that Convention (destruction of mine stockpiles and removal of all minefields) within the time limits as it is provided by the Convention. Nevertheless, Greece has already cleaned all minefields in the Greek-Bulgarian border, well in advance of its contractual commitments.

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat – Office of Disarmament Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

