



**JOINT STATEMENT**  
**SEDM MINISTERS OF DEFENSE MEETING**  
***Brdo near Kranj, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013***

The Defense Ministers of the Southeastern Europe Defense Ministerial (SEDM) Process:

Her Excellency, Mimi Kodheli, PhD

His Excellency, Angel Petrov Naydenov

His Excellency, Dimitris Avramopoulos represented by Ms. Foteini Gennimata Alternate Minister of National Defense

His Excellency, Mario Mauro represented by Ms. Rossella Franchini, Ambassador

His Excellency, Talat Xhaferi

His Excellency, Mircea Duşa, represented by Mr. Codrin-Dumitru Munteanu, Secretary General of the Ministry of National Defense

His Excellency, İsmet Yılmaz, represented by H.E. Hasan Kemal Yardımcı, Deputy Minister of National Defense

His Excellency, Zekerijah Osmić

His Excellency, Ante Kotromanović

Her Excellency, Milica Pejanović-Đurišić, PhD

His Excellency, Nebojša Rodić

His Excellency, Roman Jakič

His Excellency, Pavlo Lebediev, represented by Mr. Yurii Syvokon, Director of International Defense Cooperation

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

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

His Excellency, Irakli Alasania

His Excellency, Marinuța Vitalie,

met in Brdo near Kranj, on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013, strongly determined to promote enduring peace, stability and security in the region of Southeastern Europe (SEE) through the SEDM process.

SEDM Ministers welcomed the presence of the representatives from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), RACVIAC Center for Security Cooperation, NATO Communications and Information (NCI) Agency and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) / South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC).

SEDM Ministers expressed particular appreciation for the opening address given by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, Mrs. Alenka Bratušek and for the key-note speech given by the OSCE Secretary General, His Excellency, Lamberto Zannier on Comprehensive Security Agenda.

SEDM Ministers appreciated the report of the Chairperson, His Excellency Sebastian Huluban, State Secretary for Defense Policy and Planning, Romanian Ministry of National Defense, on the activities of the Chairmanship's accomplishments that followed the last SEDM meeting in 2012. SEDM Ministers appreciated the report on previous activities presented by the Chairman.

SEDM Ministers appreciated the value and the ongoing efforts with regard to the SEDM Strategic Review (SSR) and recommended that Nations continue the work within SEDM-CC on creating an actionable roadmap for each of the SEDM reform objectives and timely implement the joint recommendations.

They also reiterated the fact that SSR is a living document to be updated and used when necessary as a tool to make proposals and inform Ministers about SEDM projects, activities and way ahead.

SEDM Ministers declare they will remain deeply committed to promote all initiatives aimed to improve SEDM efficiency and visibility, reduce unnecessary duplications, ensure maximum coherence, streamline structures and improve working methods in order to achieve more efficiency in future regional defense cooperation.

SEDM Ministers took note of the Status Report on Building Integrity (BI) project and thanked Bulgaria for its efforts. They appreciated the progress achieved in the first 12 months. 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. Member Nations are encouraged to continue with the project's implementation and to support BI-SEE efforts promoting good practice and developing capabilities.

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

SEDM Ministers took note of the work done, and tasked PMSC/MPFSEE to finalize the chairmanship rotational chart by the next PMSC/MPFSEE meeting in March 2014. A formal approval shall be done by silence procedure.

SEDM Ministers appreciated the report of COMSEEBRIG, Brigadier General Hakan Eser, on SEEBRIG activities and achievements following the last SEDM Meeting, and they encouraged COMSEEBRIG to seek all available training opportunities as well.

Following this, PMSC/MPFSEE Ministers approved the HQ SEEBRIG Annual Plan (Main Activities, Training and Travel Plan) for 2014 and SEEBRIG's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2014, as well as

COMSEEBRIG's authorization to re-allocate up to 20% among chapters of the approved 2014 Budget, as it was agreed during 30<sup>th</sup> PMSC/MPFSEE Meeting.

SEDM Ministers appreciated the efforts and encouraged COMSEEBRIG to continue with the SEEBRIG – EUFOR staff talks, and to seek additional multilateral exercise opportunities as possible methods for increasing SEEBRIG's operational effectiveness.

SEDM Ministers agreed with the proposal to keep to the rotational principle to host the SEEBRIG HQ after 2015 for a tour of six years and thanked the three volunteer Nations already offering their candidature to host the HQ.

MPFSEE Ministers tasked the PMSC/MPFSEE to establish a High Level Expert Meeting (HLEM) in order to review and amend all aspects related to the Agreement and its additional protocols, effective until 2015, and to develop a set of proposals on SEEBRIG's role, mission and structure. The Chairman will report the outcomes of the HLEM during the next Ministerial Meeting.

SEDM 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 fulfill the SEEBRIG recognized shortfalls and capability gap. In this regard the SEDM Ministers appreciated the appointment of a liaison officer from the Republic of Serbia to SEEBRIG HQ starting with August 2013.

SEDM Ministers thanked the Slovenian authorities for organizing and hosting the SEDM reunion and the Comprehensive Regional Ministerial (CRM) which provided Nations the opportunity to further work on rationalizing regional cooperation. The Ministers welcomed the intention of the Minister of Defense of Montenegro to host the next CRM in 2014.

The next SEDM meeting will be hosted by the Ministry of Defense of Montenegro, according to the meeting calendar, in October 2014.

SEDM Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Slovenia, His Excellency Roman Jakič, for his warm hospitality in hosting this meeting. They also expressed gratitude for the efforts of his staff and the SEDM-CC and PMSC Secretariat in preparing and organizing all the details connected with the Ministerial events.