Note Verbale

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Department of Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat of the United Nations and with reference to the latter's Note Verbal DDA/11-2005/ICBM, has the honour to bring to its knowledge the following.

CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY BUILDING MEASURES (CSBM-CBM) IN THE FIERD OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS

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

2. Greece is striving to participate to 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 concerned areas.

3. Greece a member state of OSCE, attributes a special security environment, participating to any of its initiatives in view to enhance OSCE strength and to utilize its possibilities towards crisis prevention and management.

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

   a. **Vienna Document 99**

   According to the provisions of the above document our country applies annually the below measures:

   (1) The exchange of military information with the member states of OSCE - of regiment level and above - and notifies the changes to the structure and organization of the units of the armed forces.
(2) The exchange of issues on defense planning with the other members of OSCE concerning the defense policy, the military strategy and the doctrine, long with the procurement and armaments expenditure of the armed forces.

(3) It holds military contacts with the member states of OSCE through visits to airbases and military facilities. Our country organized in 2004 (18-22 October) a visit to an airbase and military facility where representatives of the member states of OSCE attended.

(4) It conducts military unit evaluation of the former eastern countries based on NATO coordination and the bilateral program of military cooperation with the Balkan countries, along with inspections on the territory of another states where military activities are conducted. It also accepts passive evaluations and inspections. For the year 2005 an evaluation visit has been conducted to a Swedish unit based on inter Alliance coordination.

(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. **Bilateral Agreement on CSBM «Athens Document 2001»**

(1) Since 1993 Greece and Bulgaria adopted and implemented a document of bilateral Agreement under the name "Athens Document 93" that was reviewed on 2001 to read "Athens Document 01". The two parties had undertaken a series of mutual obligations additionally to the original document of 93, concerning an additional number of evaluations and observations along with the simultaneous provision of activation elements of their armed forces and the further enhancements of their cooperation in various areas.

(2) The validity of that bilateral Agreement has been abated since Bulgaria entered NATO.


Our country is not a cosignatory member of the above Agreement, nevertheless it participates annually under OSCE auspices, with military inspectors – escorts to the multinational units assembled to this end -under the coordination of a special OSCE coordinator, in order to assist to the implementation of the Articles II and IV of the DAYTON Agreement.

d. **Global Exchange of Military Information –**
Our country annually exchanges with the member states of OSCE, based on the above document, 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).

e. Conventional Arms Transfers

(1) Based on UN decision number 46/36L/91 and the FSC DEC 13/97 of OSCE, there made available annually data 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 have taken place into the previous year, along with a board of the existing weapon system and holdings. Under the UN resolution number AS8/274 in the board of existing weapon systems and holdings the Man Portable Air Defense Systems MANPADS are also included.

(2) Additionally based on OSCE decision number FSC DEC 20/95 there is an annual exchange amongst the member nations of date over the policy of Conventional Arms Transfers.

f. Small Arms and Light Weapons

Our country based on the OSCE Document, exchanges information, with the member states of OSCE concerning Small Arms and Light Weapons information for the bellow 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, 2005

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

New York 17 May 2005

Department of Disarmament Affairs
UN S-3170A
In Town.