

## **FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ**

### **Meeting of the Partnership Commission of the U.S. – Adriatic Charter**

**Zagreb, 14 December 2012**

1. Sharing a common vision of a peaceful, stable and prosperous South East Europe, fully integrated within the Euro-Atlantic community of nations and strongly dedicated to democracy, the rule of law, and the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,
2. We, the Member States of the U.S.-Adriatic Charter, have gathered in Zagreb, Croatia, on 14 December 2012, in the meeting of the U.S.-Adriatic Charter Partnership Commission, to further advance our joint efforts in fulfilling that vision.
3. NATO has played a crucial role in the stabilization and political consolidation of South East Europe, thus laying the foundations for the countries of the region to complete their journeys towards Euro-Atlantic integration. NATO's relevance in fostering these processes in the region and ensuring they become irreversible remains as important as ever.
4. The Euro-Atlantic orientation of the countries of the South East Europe, in concert with reform efforts aimed at achieving the standards necessary for NATO membership and EU accession, encourages regional cooperation, thus strengthening the stability and security of the whole region. We continue to affirm the U.S.-Adriatic Charter as an invaluable political framework promoting this cooperation.
5. The prospect of membership in NATO has given a great boost to reform efforts in the countries of South East Europe. These reforms encompass not only the defense and military sectors, but also other areas of government and society as a whole. It is important to maintain, and enhance, this momentum.
6. Today we reaffirmed our commitment to international security, including beyond our region, and in particular to the NATO operation in Afghanistan. We have reflected with satisfaction on our current cooperation within ISAF, as well as discussed plans to enhance this cooperation further through concrete, practical projects in 2013 and beyond. It is our deepest belief that contributions to international operations help the development of national capabilities, supports interoperability, and brings countries aspiring to become NATO members closer to NATO standards.
7. Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) is a milestone, not only in the struggle for gender equality, women's rights and the empowerment of women, but for political legitimacy, social stability and economic efficiency of society as a whole. Therefore, today we have discussed different aspects of our cooperation in this area, such as the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2000) in preparing our troops for deployment in international operations, most notably in Afghanistan.
8. Public support for Euro-Atlantic integration, NATO as a community of values, and participation in Allied operations and missions is essential. We should continue to invest every effort in providing relevant information about NATO and conveying NATO's message to our citizens. This is particularly important for countries aspiring to become members of the Alliance. Today we have discussed our joint activities, plans and proposals in that area.
9. To make NATO more accessible, to build enhanced understanding about its policies and values and to actively engage with publics in our region, we emphasized the indispensable

role of the civil society, ATAs (Atlantic Treaty Association) and ANCs (Atlantic National Councils/Associations) of the respective countries. Therefore, we will continue our efforts to build closer cooperation between these organizations, under the umbrella of the U.S.-Adriatic Charter.

10. As NATO Members, and as countries whose reform processes have been ultimately rewarding and beneficial, Albania and Croatia will continue sharing their experience and expertise with the rest of the Charter countries aspiring to join NATO.
11. The successful implementation of reforms by Macedonia, as well as its exceptional dedication to NATO operations and missions, clearly demonstrates that Macedonian NATO membership is well-founded and well-deserved. We take note of the ICJ ruling of December 2011 and we strongly support Macedonia's accession to NATO as soon as possible.
12. We welcome the progress made by Montenegro in fulfilling key criteria for NATO membership. While some challenges remain, we are hopeful that Montenegro will be ready to join NATO by the next summit meeting of the Alliance.
13. We welcome Bosnia and Herzegovina's political party leaders' commitments to resolve the immovable defence property issue. We strongly encourage all relevant political actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina to redouble their efforts to register immovable defence properties, which will enable Bosnia and Herzegovina to activate its Membership Action Plan.
14. The transatlantic link has permanent value. The United States welcomes and fully supports the steadfast endeavour of the governments and peoples of the Charter countries to consolidate democracy and enhance stability in South East Europe. To that end, the United States will continue to support Macedonia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina in reaching their final goal of NATO membership.
15. The doors of the U.S.-Adriatic Charter remain open for all states of South East Europe. In this context, we welcome the participation of observers in this meeting.