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# THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2001-2002 MEMBERSHIP ACTION PLAN, ANNUAL NATIONAL PROGRAM

**After the last wave of NATO enlargement in 1999, NATO demonstrated its continued open door policy by initiating the Membership Action Plan (MAP) for candidate countries. The MAP is the single most important measure by which NATO assesses a country's readiness for full membership at the Prague Summit. Each country develops an Annual National Program (ANP) to implement its MAP. The ANP MAP develops real capabilities for NATO missions.**

**T**his year (2001-2002) Slovenia is implementing its third annual ANP MAP. Several factors contributed to this year's program – the results of last year's MAP, dialog with NATO and bilateral consultations with individual NATO member states.

Our dialog with NATO regarding the MAP is conducted at various levels. Our ANP MAP is first presented to the NATO Senior Political Committee. Working with Slovenian authorities, the NATO team produces a draft assessment which then goes to the NATO Political-Military Steering Committee. The Slovenian delegation meets with this Committee, and the draft assessment grows to an overall progress report. This report is then discussed with Slovenia in North Atlantic Council. Based on these discussions, NATO adopts the final report on the progress of Slovenia's ANP MAP implementation.

## DRAFTING OF THE 2001-2002 ANP MAP

In our second MAP (2000-2001) we examined the requirements of our defence system in a changed security environment, the size and structure of our armed forces, their level of training, the procurement of weapons and equipment, and the military budget necessary to perform these tasks. The questions presented in our second MAP were no longer "what" but "how".

The 2001-2002 ANP MAP differs from the two previous ones as we move from quantity to quality in a new cycle of defence reform. Although the ANP comprises an ambitious list of objectives, since its adoption some of the most important milestones have already been reached.

## REVIEW OF THE 2001-2002 ANP MAP

Slovenia has assumed the role of security contributor in Southeastern Europe by increasing deployment of Slovenian Armed Forces (SAF) in peace support operations, through post-war rehabilitation projects and through assistance and investments in the region's economy. Slovenia actively contributes to the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe. As a founding country of the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance, it assists in the rehabilitation of mine-afflicted countries in the Balkans and other regions. Furthermore, Slovenia has created a humanitarian organisation to rehabilitate the most vulnerable population – children – suffering from the psychological affects of the Balkan wars. Slovenia is active in numerous initiatives in Southeastern Europe, many of them launched by NATO itself.

## ECONOMY

Slovenia has a strong macro-economic stability and a stable growth of 3.6%-3.7%. Our past deficits have practically disappeared. The 8.5% inflation rate reported in 2001 is significant, but controlled.

## LEGAL ISSUES

By the end of 2002, various laws will be amended allowing Slovenia unimpeded ratification of the Washington Treaty. An amended Defence Law will be in effect by the end of this year which will, among other things, adapt the procedures of deployment of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

## SECURITY ISSUES

Slovenia has adopted the "Law on the security of confidential documents" and established a National Security Authority (NSA). The NSA is taking over from an interim body with well-established procedures, so that the NSA can focus immediately on the most challenging tasks.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

In 2001 we adopted a Public Relations Strategy to increase public awareness and support for NATO Membership. We already enjoy staunch support from nearly all Slovenian political parties. To increase public understanding, the Parliament organised a presentation in which advocates and opponents discussed NATO accession. This event launched in earnest our Public Relations program and was attended by the highest representatives of public and political life in Slovenia.



The most relevant public opinion poll on national security issues was conducted in November 2001 by the Public Opinion Poll Centre of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana. The results, published in January 2002, showed that 53% of the respondents supported NATO membership; 24% were against it, and 23% were undecided. Only 4% of those interviewed believed that Slovenia would never join NATO. Some 24% believed that Slovenia would join the Alliance by 2004; 33% thought that membership would occur between 2005-2008, and 7% believed it would happen after 2008. The same research indicated that 73% supported a referendum on Slovenia's accession to NATO.

Slovenia has continued to progress in the ANP MAP fields of politics, law, security and economics, but was already reasonably well developed in these areas. Perhaps more encouraging is the progress demonstrated in the area of national defence, where it has had steeper mountain to climb.

### MEETING NATIONAL DEFENCE CHALLENGES

In June 2001 the Slovenian Parliament approved a Resolution on National Security Strategy and adopted a new defence strategy which assumes that Slovenia will soon join NATO and the EU. In addition, Slovenia adopted the Armed Forces General Long-Term Development and Equipment Programme. The Parliament has also decided to approve a rolling two-year defense budget which will improve financial predictability for defence planning.

### RESTRUCTURING THE SLOVENIAN ARMED FORCES IS THE PRIMARY GOAL

The purpose of the revised defence concept is, on the one hand, to create more mobile, deployable reaction forces with a larger professional element and a streamlined command structure and, on the other hand, to significantly reduce wartime organization. The new force structure is designed to carry out the two basic missions of the SAF, providing the capability to 1) resist aggression against our national territory and 2) deploy forces for NATO operations.

The reform process has several phases:  
2002-2004: restructuring  
2004-2007: increasing the capabilities of rapid reaction forces  
2007-2010: implementing reforms throughout the entire SAF.

The crucial period is the first, restructuring, which from now until 2004 will transform the SAF and reduce the wartime structure to correspond to that of comparable NATO members. We will increase our peacetime formations and channel development, equipment and additional staff primarily towards reaction forces. Our new structure will consist of main defence, reaction forces, and augmentation forces.

By the end of 2002, the new force structure will produce the first fully manned professional battalion – 10<sup>th</sup> motorized battalion. A fully professional Reaction Force of three battalions will be complete by 2008. There will be a single operational force command. Our goal is to have 1,800 professional military personnel assigned to the SAF Reaction Forces. The SAF will reduce its wartime structure to 26,000 by 2004, at which time it should have increased the number of professional personnel in the peacetime structure to over 6,000. In order to decrease the size of the SAF wartime structure, we will reduce the number of combat brigades from five to three, and reduce territorial units from 16 to 6 regiments. Within the main forces, all battalions without a peacetime nucleus will be abolished within a year.

Slovenia has decided to increase its contribution to regional security by sending an additional SAF platoon to SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In early 2002, 112 SAF personnel and 22 police officers were involved in peacekeeping operations. Some 93% of our participation in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations will be directed towards the Balkans. In addition to the personnel already present in these operations, the Government has decided that by May 1, 2002, an additional combat unit – a company of the SAF from the 10<sup>th</sup> Motorized Battalion – will be ready to deploy to SFOR.

### REGIONAL COOPERATION

As part of our involvement in stabilising Southeastern Europe, Slovenia is intensively cooperating in the area of civilian-military crisis management. We have taken a leading role in the field of environmental protection within the armed forces. As part of our participation in the Central European Nations' Cooperation in Peace Support (CENCOOP), Slovenia is the 2002 chair of the Political-Military Steering Committee. Slovenia will focus on forming a multi-national land force of units from Italy, Hungary and Slovenia. Military cooperation within this trilateral brigade has already begun in the form of military exercises which will intensify further in 2002. Since September 2002, two officers and one

noncommissioned officer of the SAF have been employed at the multi-national forces' command center in Udine.

### FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The Slovenian Government has adopted the financial measures necessary to achieve the goals of our 2001-2002 ANP MAP and have projected our defence expenditures through 2007. These measures have considerably improved military planning and Parliamentary support of defence spending. To ensure the planned development of the SAF, especially major modernisation projects, Parliament extended the law on Basic Development to run through 2007 and provided an additional SIT 65 billion funded by loans over the next five years. Through these measures, Slovenia will achieve moderate growth in defense expenditures to between 1.5% and 1.6% of its GDP.

### CONCLUSION

When producing the current ANP, we did not look from the present to the future – as we have in our earlier plans – but from the future back to the present. It is clear that while the plan is supposed to cover 2001-2002, it is expected to equip Slovenia for challenges after 2002 and the Prague Summit.

The ANP MAP is by its definition one of the more measurable elements of NATO candidacy. It is designed to offer a certain degree of objectivity, especially in the areas of defence and resources. Other areas, however, offer less tangible elements that are still essential for NATO membership. These elements can only be demonstrated in action, such as Slovenia's stabilising efforts in Southeastern Europe, our support of the anti-terrorist coalition, and our vision of how to meet the challenges of the future.

Another intangible is the ability to embrace the culture of NATO decision-making, consultation and consensus-building. The ANP MAP cannot measure these elements adequately. Yet no MAP country could hope to join NATO without exercising these less tangible elements. A successful implementation of the ANP MAP is not possible without understanding how the Alliance functions, without reforming the defence system and, in Slovenia's case, without participating in the Southeastern Europe stabilisation process. This is a continuous effort in which everyone is required to pull his own weight. Slovenia is ready, able and willing.

