



MODERNISATION OF THE SLOVENIAN ARMED FORCES

The restructuring and equipping of the Slovenian armed forces has to be completed with the aim of obtaining a small, efficient and cost-effective armed force capable of ensuring national defence and, at the same time, enabling membership of NATO and active co-operation in NATO and in European security and defence policy. The Slovenian armed forces will be developed into recognisable armed forces interoperable with other Western European armies. The additional development of the Slovenian armed forces should conform to Slovenia's material and human resources, with the priority being the achievement of greater armed force readiness through modernisation, a better training system and a better personnel structure. The formation of Reaction Forces and greater professionalisation are key factors in the further development of the Slovenian armed forces.

PRIORITY AREA OF EQUIPPING

For the further modernisation of the Slovenian armed forces in the period up to 2007, it will be necessary to provide additional resources of SIT 65 billion (295 million euros) at prices valid at the time of programme adop-

tion. These resources will enable completion of the equipping of reaction forces, and completion of the command and control, logistics and air defence systems. A number of programmes, which started within the first phase of implementation of the Basic Development Programmes, will therefore be continued and completed. Every year it will be necessary to provide resources for the regular activity of the Slovenian armed forces from the regular budget.

The programme for the additional restructuring and equipping of reaction forces includes the additional equipping of the 10th motorised battalion and the 17th military police battalion, and the formation of the 20th motorised battalion with battle vehicles, anti-armour systems, infantry armaments, engineering equipment, transport vehicles and other equipment. The limited cost of the programme is SIT 29.5 billion (131 million euros).

The programme of the supplementation of the Command and Control System includes the establishing of compatibility and interoperability with NATO in the area of mutual exchange of messages, the establishing of the System of Frequency Management for frequency harmonisation with NATO, augmentation of the Informational Support of Command and Communications with NATO, and

the ensuring of automatic transactions and logistics reports between the highest national Logistics Commands and their subordinated units. It is necessary to complete the Tactical Communication System of the Slovenian armed forces, which it was impossible to finish within the limited implementation of recent Basic Development Programmes, and the ensuring of manual radio stations for the Slovenian armed forces. The total cost of the programme is limited to SIT 8 billion (25.5 million euros).

The programme of completion of the logistics of the Slovenian armed forces includes the establishing of Automatic Data Transfer to regional commands and inclusion in the NATO Command and Control System. It is necessary to establish the Fuel Handling System in accordance with NATO standards and to establish the national unit of Logistical Support to Forces in Peacekeeping Operations with all provided reserves and Medical Capabilities, and to supplement and equip the airport infrastructure. It should be necessary to enlarge transport capabilities and maintenance capabilities, and to ensure other equipment and spare parts for the ensuring of the required availability of Reaction Forces. The procurement of battle sets of the most important ammunition will be regularly planned. The

Slovenian Armed Forces are introducing into operational use the light armored vehicle Hummvee.



“Valuk” is the new armored personnel carrier that is produced in Slovenia.





limited cost of the programme is SIT 20 billion (88.8 million euros).

The Air Defence System will be equipped with Tactical Supervision Centres, and two units for the protection of Reaction Forces will be organised and trained. It is necessary to establish the Automatic Supervision of Air Defence Arms and to connect it to the Integrated Air Defence System. Resources amounting to SIT 7.5 billion (33.3 million euros) will be necessary.

The implementation and continuation of the above projects and programmes will be urgently needed even if Slovenia is not invited to become a NATO member. Through realisation of these projects we will ensure that the Slovenian armed forces are capable of deterring military threats, defending the state militarily and implementing the tasks specified by regulations. The Slovenian armed forces, restructured in such a manner, should be interoperable and capable of co-operating with the military organisations of NATO members.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESOURCES FOR EQUIPPING AND MODERNISING OF SLOVENE ARMED FORCES

The projection of resources needed for the development and equipping of the Slovenian armed forces for the 2002-2007 period takes into account not only the expenses of the budget of the Ministry of Defence but also funds for investment in the supplemented Basic Development Programmes of the Slovenian Defence Forces, and resources for pensions for military personnel.

The Slovenian defence industry, under competitive conditions, will be involved in the



“Roland II” air defence battery is being introduced into operational use in the SAF.

equipping of the Slovenian armed forces in accordance with its technological and similar programmes.

With those programmes the more effective maintenance of military equipment and armaments should be ensured.

The projection of the restructuring and equipping of the Slovenian armed forces for the ensuing medium-term period is based on the expected growth in defence expenditure. We are working on the assumption that, up to 2010, the total number of employees in the MoD will be 9,100, in the Slovenian armed forces 7,700 and in other parts of the Ministry of Defence 1,400. Annual budgets should cover resources for regular operation and, in addition, resources for the current maintenance of existing armaments and equipment, and the

current maintenance of those technical resources to be introduced into operative use through purchases carried out in accordance with Basic Development Programmes.

According to NATO methodology, in 2001 defence expenditures will be about SIT 66.7 billion. This is 1.46 per cent of GDP and represents an

increase on 2000. In comparison with recent years, defence expenditure fell in 2000.

These expenditures include resources for wages and for current operations and investments financed from the Ministry of Defence budget. They include expenditure for pensions and resources for current acquisitions in accordance with investments in the Basic Development Programmes of Defence Forces.

Projection of resources for the 2002-2007 period, taking into consideration the anticipated real annual growth of GDP, predicts a growth in defence expenditure to 1.6 per cent of GDP at the end of the planned period. After 2007 the defence budget should grow by 7 per cent per year, ensuring the gradual development and restructuring of the Slovenian armed forces and its participation in international operations.



Source: Long-Term Programme for the Restructuring of the Slovenian Armed Forces (adopted by the Slovenian government in November 2001).

Armoured units.



Infantry.

