



PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Press Release

Commander KFOR, Major General Erhard Bühler, visited the Republic of Montenegro

Commander KFOR, Major General Erhard Bühler, today, 16th of March 2011 officially visited the Republic of Montenegro in the context of the Joint Implementation Commission Agreement. By this visit he continued his tour in the Balkan states which he conducts in the context of his responsibilities.

General Bühler was received by the Defence Minister of Montenegro, H.E. Mr Boro Vucinic with whom he exchanged views about the security and the political situation in the Western Balkans. Commander KFOR informed the Minister about the improved stability in Kosovo. This is the reason why the number of soldiers of KFOR could be reduced and be reorganised in order to be more flexible and to increase its mobility.

He informed Minister Vucinic about the good and trustful cooperation in the region. Commander KFOR praised the positive relationship with the Serbian side and the outstanding work of the Joint Implementation Commission which is also responsible for the contacts between KFOR and the Montenegrin authorities.

Minister Boro Vucinic thanked General Bühler for the extraordinary work KFOR has done over the past ten years. This NATO mission has strongly contributed to the significantly increased stability of the Western Balkans and their European



perspective. He offered his political support for the commitment of KFOR to further stabilise Kosovo and by that the Western Balkans.

Commander KFOR also discussed the Unfixing of the border between Montenegro and Kosovo. KFOR is responsible for the security of the border. The intent is to transfer the task to the Kosovo Border and Boundary Line Police (KPBBP). The preparations are ongoing.

Following the meeting with the Defence Minister Commander KFOR had a conversation with the Chief of Defence of Montenegro Vice Admiral Dragan Samardžic. High level talks between Admiral Samardžic and General Bühler and their respective delegations followed. Admiral Samardžic informed Commander KFOR about the situation and the organisation of the Armed Forces of Montenegro. General Bühler was impressed by the professionalism and the strong commitment of the Montenegrin soldiers. He in turn informed his opposite number about the present and future structure of KFOR and NATO-related issues.

After the visit at the Montenegrin State representatives General Bühler visited the His Grace Bishop Jovan of Dioclea and heugemon of Ostrog at his Seat in Ostrog monastery. Commander KFOR discussed with His Grace the situation and the optimistic futures of the Serbian Orthodox Church. Both men agreed that future life in the Balkans should be dominated by tolerance and a peaceful community of religions. Bishop Jovan thanked General Bühler for his extraordinary work for peace and stability in the Balkans. His Grace showed the Monastery of Ostrog and his seat to the KFOR delegation. General Bühler and his officers were impressed by the beauty of one of the most precious treasures of religious architecture in the Balkans.