

## **US-Adriatic Charter (A5)**

US-Adriatic Charter has proven as an important forum and instrument for regional cooperation strengthening and canalizing the Euro-Atlantic aspirations of the South Eastern European countries. The US-Adriatic Charter member countries are The United States of America, Albania, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, while Serbia, Slovenian and Kosovo obtained an observer status. The US-Adriatic Charter has three forums – at the level of Foreign Ministers, Defence Ministers, and Chiefs of Defence. The chairmanship of the Charter is taken over in alphabetical order, and lasts one year.

### **History:**

Following the example of the US-Baltic Charter, the Ministers of three South Eastern European countries: Croatia, Albania, and Macedonia, in the presence of the then US Secretary of State Colin Powell, signed the Adriatic Charter on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2003, in Tirana. The Charter envisaged trilateral cooperation in order to fulfil the conditions for NATO membership. Under Charter, NATO was invited to assess the progress of the three countries through their individual achievements.

By admitting two new members - Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina - at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Adriatic Charter, on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2008, in Helsinki (held on the margins of the OSCE Ministerial Meeting), the Charter expanded its activities and changed its name to A5. In this way, the idea of regional integration has been strengthened and the possibility of including other countries of the Western Balkans in the work of A5 was opened. Since its joining the Charter, Montenegro has actively participated in all meetings, underlining its importance for the stability and further economic development of the region and promotion of the Euro-Atlantic values of the member states.

### **Goals of the US-Adriatic Charter during Montenegrin Chairmanship in 2018:**

- Active promotion and implementation of NATO Open Door Policy
- Strengthening defence cooperation and enhancing the defence capacities in accordance with the concept "Smart Defence"
- Joint participation in NATO peacekeeping operations, discussion of possible enhancement of future cooperation
- Promotion of cooperation within regional training centres in order to maximize their exploitation
- Active support to Euro Atlantic integrations of aspiring countries from the region
- Participation in the joint exercises aimed at enhancing interoperability of the defence capabilities of member states