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FIRST JOINT MULTINATIONAL INSPECTION UNDER THE CFE TREATY

Today Italy will carry on the first CFE inspection led by a NATO member state with the participation of Co-operation Partners from Central and Eastern Europe. Inspectors from Azerbaijan, Hungary and Poland will take part in the multinational team that will verify a declared site in the Republic of Romania.

The joint conduct of inspections in Central and Eastern European countries was agreed in principle by all parties to the CFE Treaty during the Seminar which took place at the NATO Headquarters in Brussels on 26 and 27 January 1993. It takes into account the security interests of both NATO and Central and Eastern European countries, offering to the latter extended possibilities to inspect each others without affecting the passive quota of the inspected countries.

The Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, under whose Inspection Protocol the verifications are conducted, was signed in Paris on 19 November 1990 and entered into force on 14 November 1992. Since the beginning of its provisional application, 17 July 1992, some 500 verifications have been carried out by the CFE Treaty signatory States, many of which with a NATO multinational composition.

NATO's Verification Co-ordinating Committee was established by the Atlantic Council in May 1990 to co-ordinate the implementation of disarmament and arms control agreements among allied countries and to provide a forum for a regular exchange of views on related matters. In January 1993 the Committee launched a programme of enhanced co-operation aimed to increase the effectiveness and the efficiency of the CFE Inspection Protocol, thus contributing to achieve higher levels of confidence, transparency and security among all Treaty signatories.

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