

# **Explanatory Memorandum on the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty on the Accession of Montenegro**

## **Title of Treaty**

Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty on the Accession of Montenegro.

**Command Paper No:** 9293

## **Subject Matter**

The North Atlantic Treaty was signed in Washington on 4 April 1949. The purpose of the Protocol is to authorise the NATO Secretary-General to invite Montenegro to accede to the Treaty.

## **Ministerial Responsibility**

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Secretary of State for Defence share responsibility for UK policy on NATO.

## **Policy considerations**

### **(i) General**

At the NATO Foreign Ministers meeting of 2-3 December 2015 in Brussels, NATO issued an invitation to Montenegro to open accession talks to formally become a member of the Alliance. In doing so, NATO Foreign Ministers stated that their decision reflected the reforms implemented by Montenegro, and that Montenegro's eventual NATO membership would strengthen security in the region and the Alliance as a whole. Foreign Ministers also pledged that NATO would remain committed to the Open Door Policy as a founding principle enshrined in Article 10 of the Washington Treaty.

Discussions with Montenegro on the political, legal, military and financial aspects of NATO membership have taken place over the several months since the December invitation was issued. NATO then prepared the Accession Protocol, which was signed by Allies at their subsequent Foreign Ministers' meeting on 19 May. When the Protocol has been accepted by all Allies (acceptance has the same legal effect as ratification), the NATO Secretary-General will invite Montenegro to become a party to the North Atlantic Treaty. Montenegro's instrument of accession will then be deposited with the United States Government, and Montenegro will formally become a member of NATO.

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(ii) Financial

NATO has assessed Montenegro's contribution to NATO budgets on the basis of its capacity to pay. Montenegro will contribute 0.027% of NATO's common funded budgets. Cost implications for the UK are minimal. There is the possibility of a minor reduction in the UK contribution to all three common funded budgets.

(iii) Reservations and Declarations

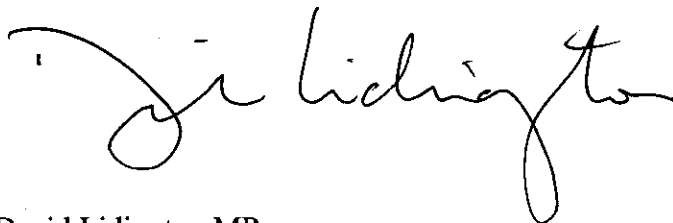
None.

**Implementation**

No legislation is required.

**Consultations**

None.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Lidington', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon David Lidington MP  
Minister for Europe  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office