



**Report on the Ohrid Process on Border Security  
and Management  
by the Chairman of the Ohrid Border Process**

**Working Table III meeting  
Bucharest, 15 November 2006**

Border security and management related issues remain key components of the dialogue that the European Union (EU) initiated with the six Western Balkan countries in the field of Justice and Home Affairs. The establishment of safe, secure and open borders, in line with the EU acquis and EU model for external borders, is one of the prerequisites for the eventual integration of these countries into the EU.

On 13 June 2005, the four Partner Organisations and the six countries of the Western Balkans met in Brussels for the Intermediate Review meeting. This meeting was the occasion to discuss the Assessment report drafted by the Partner Organisations and approved by the countries. On the basis of this report, and after discussions among the parties, it was agreed to recommend that the process be prolonged for one more year, i.e. until the end of 2007. Moreover, recognising that the countries involved have different pace in implementing the Ohrid commitments, it was also agreed to recommend the adoption of a more tailor-made approach. This approach should target specific areas on which each of the countries should focus for the remaining period of time. It led to the drafting of a "Roadmap for 2006-2007" listing for each country the focus areas for the future.

Following the Intermediate Review meeting, official procedures were launched to approve the prolongation of the process for one more year. On behalf of the four Partner Organisations, the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact, Dr. Busek, sent a letter to the six Ministers of Interior of the countries involved asking them to officially confirm their readiness to continue the Ohrid Border Process in 2007.

At the upcoming fourth Review meeting, to be held in Podgorica on 8-9 November, all parties should endorse the one-year prolongation of the process. The Roadmap for 2006-2007 should also be approved. Moreover, this meeting will also be the occasion to adopt a more integrated approach, as representatives from the respective national customs administration will be attending.

*Brussels, 02/11/06*

*NB: please note that this report covers the period until 02/11/06, i.e. prior the Review meeting, due to take place on 8-9 November. Therefore, it will require further update after the meeting.*