



## MEDIA ADVISORY

Brussels, 26 November 2007

### **Final Meeting of the Stability Pact's Working Tables – Democracy, Economy, Security**

**Taking stock of achievements and paving the way for the transformation  
from the Stability Pact to the Regional Co-operation Council (RCC)**

**Date:** 3-4 December 2007

**Venue:** Tirana International Hotel, Sheshi Skenderbej 8  
Tirana Albania  
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Background on the meeting can be found at: [www.stabilitypact.org/rt](http://www.stabilitypact.org/rt)

## **BACKGROUND**

The final meeting of the three Working Tables of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe will take place on **3-4 December 2007** in the Tirana International Hotel in Tirana, hosted by the Albanian government.

These meetings mark the next milestone in the transformation process of the Stability Pact into the Regional Co-operation Council (RCC). Each meeting will give special attention to past achievements, lessons learnt and challenges remaining for the RCC with regards to the Stability Pact's various initiatives and task forces. Each Working Table will include panel discussions on specific themes relevant to their area of operations.

Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact Mr Erhard Busek as well as incoming Secretary General of the RCC Mr Hido Biscevic will present the next steps on "The Road Ahead –Reinforcing the Regional Co-operation Agenda" in a final panel discussion on 4 December 2007.

### **Working Table I – Democracy and Human Rights**

The discussions in Working Table I will focus on the 8 years of the Stability Pact's involvement in the field of democratisation and human rights in South Eastern Europe – from the engagement in refugee issues, including protection and return of refugees and displaced persons in the early days of the Stability Pact to the present day activities in the field of education, research, parliamentary co-operation etc. Apart from the discussion on achievements, lessons learnt and remaining challenges, the meetings will concentrate on the ongoing activities that will be taken over by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC): Fostering and Building Human Capital, and Parliamentary Co-operation. Parliamentary Co-operation will mainly focus on the efforts undertaken by the newly established Focal Point on Parliamentary Co-operation in the National Assembly of Bulgaria. Side events to the Working Table I meeting include an interactive presentation of the Database on Scholarship and Grant Opportunities for SEE, as well as an event related to Fostering and Building Human Capital Task Force.

### **Working Table II – Economic Reconstruction, Development and Co-operation**

The Working Table II meeting will provide an opportunity to look at developments in the overall economic environment in the region during the 8 years of the Stability Pact's existence. The meeting will be structured around two thematic panel discussions. The first on Socio-Economic activities (including trade, investment, development of the information society, employment policies and social dialogue) and the second on infrastructure related activities (including energy, transport - road, rail, inland waterway and air - and housing and urban management). The remaining challenges to be addressed in SEE with the assistance of the RCC will be highlighted.

Panel participants will be a mix of representatives from the public and private sector from SEE and the international community. Meeting participants will be encouraged to take part in the debates. A special presentation on the South Eastern European component of the EBRD's recent Transition Report for 2007 will also take place in the margins of the meeting.

### **Working Table III – Security Issues**

Most of the Working Table III agenda will be dedicated to the Stability Pact's activities in the area of fighting against organised crime and corruption, regional co-operation in the area of law enforcement, and judiciary systems. Progress on regional co-operation in the area of defence and security sector reform will also be discussed. Special attention will be given to disaster prevention and preparedness in SEE including possible further steps in SEE regional co-operation in this field. Finally, the panellists and other participants will discuss the next steps to be taken by the RCC in focusing on two of the five priority areas of future RCC activities, i.e. Justice and Home Affairs and Security and Defence Cooperation.

## PROGRAMME

### Meeting of the Working Tables 3-4 December 2007 Tirana, Albania

#### Monday 3 December

Morning:      **Arrivals**

**16:00-16:30**

**Opening of the Working Table Meetings**

- Special Address by Deputy Foreign Minister of Albania Edith Harxhi
- Welcoming Speech by Special Co-ordinator Erhard Busek
- Speeches from other high level Participants

16:30-17:00      Press Conference

**16:30-20:00**

**Meeting of the WT I**

16:30-17:00      Opening speech by Minister of Education, Genc Pollo  
Opening Remark by Working Table Chair Goran Svilanovic

17:00-17:15      **Video-introduction** of Working Table I – Achievements, lessons learnt  
and remaining challenges

17:15-18:15      **Panel Discussion I:** Parliamentary Co-operation  
followed by an **Open Discussion** with Interventions from delegations

18:15-18:45      **Coffee break** // Press Conference for WT I

18:45-19:45      **Panel Discussion II:** Building Human Capital  
followed by an **Open Discussion** with Interventions from delegations

19:45-20:00      Incoming Secretary General of RCC, Hido Biscevic  
**Concluding Remarks** by WT Chairman, Goran Svilanovic

**21:00**

**Dinner**, Keynote Speaker  
H.E. Prime Minister Berisha (TBC)

#### Tuesday 4 December

**09:30-13:00**

**Meeting of WT II**

09:30-10:00      Opening Speech by Minister of Economy and Energy  
Genc Ruli  
Opening Remark by Working Table Chair Fabrizio Saccomanni  
Short Statement by Special Co-ordinator Erhard Busek

10:00-10:15      **Video-introduction** of Working Table II – Achievements, lessons learnt  
and remaining challenges

- 10:15-11:15 **Panel Discussion I:** Socio-Economic Aspects  
followed by an **Open Discussion** with Interventions from delegations
- 11:15-11:45 **Coffee break**
- 11:45-12:45 **Panel Discussion II:** Infrastructure  
followed by an **Open Discussion** with Interventions from delegations
- 12:45-13:00 Incoming Secretary General of RCC Hido Biscevic  
**Concluding Remarks** by WT Chairman Fabrizio Saccomanni
- 13:15-14:15 Lunch // Press Conferences for WT III and WT II**
- 14:30-18:00 Meeting of WT III**
- 14:30-15:00 Opening Speech by Minister of Interior Bujar Nishani  
Opening Remark by Working Table Chair Janez Premoze  
Short Statement by Special Co-ordinator Erhard Busek
- 15:00-15:15 **Video-introduction** of Working Table III – Achievements, lessons learnt  
and remaining challenges
- 15:15-16:15 **Panel Discussion I:** Justice and Home Affairs  
followed by an **Open Discussion** with Interventions from delegations
- 16:15-16:45 **Coffee break**
- 16:45-17:45 **Panel Discussion II:** Defence and Security  
followed by an **Open Discussion** with Interventions from delegations
- 17:45-18:00 Incoming Secretary General of RCC Hido Biscevic  
**Concluding Remarks** by WT Chairman Janez Premoze
- 18:30-19:30 Concluding Panel: The Road Ahead – Reinforcing the Regional Co-  
operation Agenda**
- Special Co-ordinator Erhard Busek
  - Secretary General Hido Biscevic
  - Deputy Foreign Minister of Bulgaria Lyubmir Kyuchukov (TBC)
  - Deputy Director General of DG Enlargement Jan Truszczyński
- followed by an **Open Discussion** with Interventions from delegations

**Please note that only the opening session (from 16.00 to 16.30 on December 3rd) and the first parts (the openings) of the three Working Table Meetings will be open to journalists.**

## PRESS CONFERENCES

Four Press conferences will be held during the event.

### **Monday, 3 December from 16.30**

First press conference, with the participation of Albanian Deputy Foreign Minister Ms Edith Harxhi, Special Co-ordinator Mr Erhard Busek, and Secretary General of the RCC Mr Hido Biscevic.

### **Monday, 3 December from 18.15**

Press Conference, of WT I. It is expected that the Speaker of the Bulgarian Parliament Mr Georgi Pirinski will participate, together with Romanian Minister of Education Mr Cristian Adomnitei and Director of WT I Ms Marijana Grandits.

### **Tuesday, 4 December from 13.15**

Press conference of WT II with the participation of the Chair of WT II Mr Fabrizio Saccomanni, Director of WT II Ms Mary O'Mahony.

### **Tuesday, 4 December from 13.45**

Press conference of Working Table III with the participation of the Chair of WT III Mr Janez Premoze, Director of WT III Mr Jiri Kalasnikov and Special Co-ordinator Dr Erhard Busek.

## ACCREDITATION

Media accreditation is handled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania.

Access to the working premises will be reserved only for the registered journalists.

Please send your accreditation form by November 30th at the latest. The accreditation form is attached. It should be sent to the office of the Director of the Directory for Press and Public Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania, Mr Taip Sulko (Fax: +355 4 3620 84/85, Email: [tsulko@mfa.gov.al](mailto:tsulko@mfa.gov.al))

Journalists are advised to wear badges at all times at the conference due to the security procedures in the working premises.

Further information can be obtained from the Office of the Spokesperson of the Stability Pact or at the office of the Director of the Directory for Press and Public Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania (see contact details above).

## VISA REQUIREMENTS

Journalists coming from countries that require entry visas for Albania should contact the Albanian Embassies as soon as possible.