



THEMES OF THE WORKING TABLES' MEETINGS

Working Table I – Democracy and Human Rights

The discussion 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 the achievements, the lessons learnt, and the remaining challenges, the discussion 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. As a side events to the Working Table I meeting, there will be an interactive presentation of the Database on Scholarship and Grant Opportunities for SEE, as well as an event related to the Fostering and Building Human Capital Task Force.

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

The Working Table II meeting will focus on the achievements, lessons learnt and challenges remaining in its various fields of activities. It 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, social dialogue) and the second on infrastructure related activities (including energy, transport - road, rail, inland waterway and air - and housing and urban management).

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. Information on the specific initiatives will be provided in advance and in the margins of the meeting. A special presentation on the South Eastern European component of the EBRD's Transition Report for 2007 will also take place in the margins of the meeting.

Working Table III – Security Issues

The discussion in Working Table III will focus on the achievements, lessons learnt and remaining challenges in the Stability Pact activities in the security sector. Most of its 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 as well as disaster prevention and preparedness. Progress on regional defence and security co-operation in the areas of RACVIAC and Small Arms and Light Weapons proliferation will also be discussed.