



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

**Working Table III meeting  
Belgrade, 29 May 2006**

Border security and management related issues remain key components of the dialogue that the European Union (EU) initiated with the five 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 10-11 November 2005, the four Partner Organisations and the five countries of the Western Balkans met in Sarajevo for the Third Review meeting. This meeting was the occasion for the countries to report on their latest progress in the implementation of the Ohrid Border Process commitments, as stated in their annual reports. Key progress has been achieved, especially in the demilitarisation process, although there was a recognised need for further work in that and other areas, such as:

- Consolidating and improving the implementation of legal frameworks
- Regional cooperation
- Training
- Upgrading of technical equipment.

As stated at the Review meeting, the key words for the remaining period are implementation and assessment. In this respect, the Partner Organisations met several times to discuss outstanding implementation tasks, the need to assess the quality of implementation and the future of the process.

They jointly drafted an Assessment Questionnaire, which was sent to the countries in March. The Stability Pact collected the replies, which were sent by the six capitals involved. On the basis of these replies, the Partner Organisations drafted a report in May, which will be sent to all countries and Partner Organisations for their official approval. On the basis of this report, a decision should be taken on further work needed in 2006 and on the future of the process. Some options for the future are stated in the Assessment Report, and these will be discussed at the upcoming Intermediate Review meeting, which will take place on 13 June in Brussels.

After these discussions, a final decision should be taken at a high political level meeting, in the autumn.

*Brussels, 08/05/06*