



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

The First Review Meeting of the Ohrid Border Process
Belgrade, 5 November 2003

Chairman's Conclusions

We have had a very good meeting. I want to reiterate my thanks to Serbia and Montenegro for hosting this meeting and providing excellent facility for its success. I also want to thank the representatives of the five countries of the Western Balkans region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro), of the four partner organizations (EU, NATO, OSCE, the Stability Pact), of UNMIK and of DCAF for their important contributions to the Ohrid Border Process follow up in general and to this meeting in particular.

The purpose of the meeting was to keep the momentum created in the Ohrid Border Process in May. In this regard the participants had been invited to deliver clear and concise presentations on a) what has been done since May and b) which measures they intended to implement over the next 12 months. For the latter, the benchmarks and indicators to monitor progress were expected.

Some statements were very specific. Others, probably because of the limited time available for preparing, less so. However, the abundance of information made available would suggest that it should be possible to present a report in writing linking the steps that states intend to take over next 12 months to implement the Way Forward document with a related list of deadlines for taking their action.

We need such information in writing by 15 November, i.e. in ten days from now, to allow forthcoming ministerial and other meetings of the Partner Organizations and notably the EU Ministerial Meeting of Justice and Home Affairs on 28 November, to take note of progress made, next steps and relevant deadlines, or remaining obstacles and more importantly, to decide on priorities for support needed to implement the Way Forward document. In order to complete such a report the EU has made available indicative guidance that could be possibly used for the elaboration of the above-mentioned reports. We heard that DCAF is prepared to provide support and advice in completing this task.

The Stability Pact (WT III and MARRI) has agreed to serve as the clearinghouse for receiving and disseminating such information to all participants of the Review Meeting. The Partner organizations, on their side, will make sure that their governing bodies and the ministerial meetings are informed of progress made.

In order to maintain the momentum of the Ohrid Border Process, I would also suggest that regular reports possibly on 6 months basis, based on the EC templates, be made available to all participants of this process. I would also offer the Stability Pact (WT III and MARRI) - as the clearinghouse for receiving and disseminating such reports - serve as a center for receipt and exchange of information or initiatives and events in the field of border security and management. We will write to you specifically to translate this proposal into action.

The establishment of bilateral or multilateral cooperation agreements and development of common training are seen as a positive signal of regional coherence. Such coherence has to be strengthened in the coming years. We also agreed that ad hoc meetings might be convened earlier in response to specific needs.

We agreed that the next Review Meeting should take place early November 2004 and we hope shortly to have a host of this meeting who can be an active participant in the preparatory process leading us to the next meeting.

In conclusion, I want to thank the technical support and the interpreters.

We look forward to stay in regular contacts on the journey towards European integration.