



REPORT
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL
COOPERATION COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

For the period 1 October – 31 December 2013

BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE REGIONAL
COOPERATION COUNCIL

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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RCC SECRETARIAT

1 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2013

This report on the activities of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat is submitted by the Secretary General of the RCC to the RCC Board in line with Article 15 of the Statute of the RCC. It covers the period 1 October – 31 December 2013.

I. Executive Summary

The reporting period was characterized by a continuation of the process of undertaking concrete steps in finalizing the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme (SWP) 2011-2013, aimed at an efficient and target-oriented, regionally owned and all-inclusive regional cooperation, by preparations for starting the implementation of RCC's new SWP 2014-2016 and by the endorsement of the South East Europe 2020 Strategy (SEE 2020) entitled: Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective, as well as by intensive consultations of the RCC Secretary General (SG) with a number of RCC participants.

The RCC Secretariat continued to monitor closely the developments in the region, in particular those related to regional cooperation activities in general as well as those pertaining to the European Union (EU) enlargement process. The region upheld the positive momentum in nurturing reconciliation and tolerance, moving forward with solving some of the open and protracted issues and assuming a greater responsibility within the process of European and Euro-Atlantic integration. The efforts invested both by the RCC participants from SEE and the EU generated, in different degrees, further progress on the EU integration path.

The EC's Enlargement Strategy 2013 – 2014 and Progress Reports of 16 October 2013, and EU Council's conclusions on Enlargement and Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) of 17 December 2013, are of utmost importance for the W. Balkans. The assessments of what each candidate/potential candidate achieved over the last year, and in particular its recommendations, will further advance the EU accession process.

The EU Council conclusion noted the importance of regional cooperation and included the following reference to the RCC: 'It fully supports the work of the South - East European Cooperation Process and the Regional Cooperation Council, its operational arm, as an inclusive platform, coordinating and monitoring implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy, in particular by developing a public monitoring mechanism to measure progress, including under national action plans.'

The strategic synergy between the RCC and South East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECP) Chairmanship-in-Office (C-i-O) held by Romania proved to be invaluable for better coordinating the regional cooperation process in SEE. The meeting of the SEECP Political Directors, held on 6 December 2013 in Bucharest, was a platform for the Romanian SEECP C-i-O to present its calendar of events, and for the participants to adopt Albania's proposal to take over the SEECP C-i-O for the period 2014 – 2015.

Developed in order to assist governments in implementing their individual development strategies and EU accession related goals, the SEE 2020 was endorsed by the SEEIC Ministerial meeting on 21 November 2013 in Sarajevo. The SEE 2020 and its defining features, such as clear action plans at national and regional levels and a transparent monitoring system, will make regional cooperation, above all, much more concrete and result-orientated.

In the area of energy and infrastructure, the RCC Secretariat ensured pertinent progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Energy Regional Initiative (SEDRI), monitored and reported on the Energy Community developments as well as conducted analysis of existent gaps in regional cooperation in the field of energy, contributed to the preparation and implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, and started cooperating with the Implementation of the Single European Sky (ISIS) Programme Secretariat in order to define the future steps in the successful implementation of the Joint Service Provision Area (JSPA) initiative.

The preparation of the Regional Strategy in the field of Justice and Home Affairs for the period of 2014 – 2020 is in the pipeline and to that end consultations were held with relevant representatives of the EU institutions, as well as with several countries of the region.

The RCC, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC) and Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC) have jointly organized the “South-East Workshop on the links between terrorism and organized crime” in November 2013.

The RCC Secretariat continued with activities aimed at building operational links between Regional Initiatives and Task Forces (RI&TF) in the security and defence sectors and motivating them to join efforts, inter alia, in resource distribution in the implementation of projects. The 5th meeting of the Heads of Military Intelligence from SEE (SEEMIC) and the 1st informal meeting of the Chairpersons of the Security and Defence Committees of the National Parliaments in SEE, co-organized by the RCC and Croatian Parliament, were successfully conducted and reconfirmed the added-value of these initiatives for the region.

The Regional Research and Development Strategy for Innovation for the W. Balkans was adopted at a Ministerial Conference on 24 - 25 October 2013 in Zagreb. The strategy will improve the research base and conditions for research excellence in the W. Balkans, thus slowing the brain drain and supporting the brain gain; promote research - industry collaboration and technology transfer; enable business investments in research and innovation; and strengthen the governance of national policies with appropriate regional technical assistance facility. The strategy will be implemented by the regional mechanism for cooperation in the area of research and innovation. The first rotating Chair of the regional mechanism will be Serbia and the Seat of the mechanism’s permanent secretariat will be in Split, Croatia.

The 7th meeting of the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society (TFCS), held on 19 – 20 November 2013 in Sveti Stefan, decided on the future Chair of the TFCS – Serbia and Co – chair – Croatia.

The Inaugural Meeting of the Ljubljana Process Regional Expert Pool, held on 21 October 2013 in Podgorica, convened a group of cultural heritage experts from the SEE countries selected to set up the Ljubljana Process Regional Experts Pool.

The 11th meeting of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension Working Group, which took place on 16 November 2013 in Bucharest, discussed the amendments to the draft documents necessary for finalizing the institutionalization of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly (PA) and agreed on the documents related to the inaugural meeting of the SEECP PA.

Two issues of the RCC e-newsletter were published in the reporting period and the farewell December edition. The last, farewell edition of the newsletter marks a shift in the RCC Secretariat's communication tools. As of January 2014, the e-newsletter formally ceased to exist. Information, updates and feature stories on RCC activities will from now on be communicated to the organization's audiences through different channels, namely social media tools: Twitter, Facebook and You Tube.

II. General and institutional aspects of the RCC Secretariat's activities

RCC Board Meeting

The 21st meeting of the RCC Board, held on 2 October 2013 in Sarajevo, was attended by the representatives of all RCC Board participants, with the exception of Ireland and Moldova.

The RCC Board meeting: 1) adopted the decision on the dates of the RCC Board meetings for the year 2014; 2) approved the Report of the RCC Secretary General on the activities of the RCC Secretariat and on the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013 for the period 24 April – 20 September 2013; 3) took note of the information about the preparation of the SEE 2020 and recommended to the RCC Secretariat to coordinate closer the preparation and implementation of the SEE 2020 with the MFAs from the region.

The meeting of the Financial Sub-Committee to the RCC Board, held on 12 November 2013, recommended to the RCC Board to adopt the Budget of the RCC Secretariat for the year 2014. Consequently, the Decision on the Budget of the RCC Secretariat for the year 2014 was adopted by the RCC Board through written (silent) procedure on 29 November 2013.

Coordination between the SEECP and the RCC

The 13th Coordination meeting, held on 1 October 2013 in Sarajevo, gathered the Romanian SEECP C-i-O and the previous SEECP C-i-O the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the RCC Secretariat and the EU institutions.

The Coordination meeting welcomed the priorities of the Romanian SEECP C-i-O, supported its intention to ensure continuity of the work in certain areas after the end of its mandate and suggested that the C-i-O in its priorities could make a stronger reference to the RCC SWP 2014-2016. It also took note of the information on the preparation of the SEE 2020, and underlined the need to prepare timely the national actions plans which would allow for quicker and better results.

At the meeting of the SEECP Political Directors, held on 6 December 2013 in Bucharest, the Romanian SEECP C-i-O presented its calendar of events, and the participants adopted Albania's proposal to take over the SEECP C-i-O for the period 2014 – 2015.

Consultations of the RCC Secretary General with RCC participants

The RCC SG, as part of his permanent dialogue with the RCC participants, held meetings and consultations with high-level officials from Switzerland, Serbia, Lithuania in its capacity as the Presidency of the Council of the EU, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Germany and Slovenia, as well as with Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Director General for Enlargement and other EC officials, EEAS, EP and the General Secretariat of the EU Council.

During his dialogue with the RCC participants overall, the RCC SG reflected on the most important trends in regional cooperation in SEE, and particularly on RCC's priority activities related to the SEE 2020 and RCC SWP 2014 – 2016. He informed about the actions that the RCC Secretariat undertook to finalize the SEE 2020 and the very intensive work at both technical and political levels to ensure that governments, especially those from the W. Balkans, stand fully behind this novel concept of regional cooperation, which in turn culminated with the endorsement of the strategy by the SEEIC Ministerial meeting on 21 November 2013 in Sarajevo. The SEE 2020 and its defining features, such as clear action plans at national and regional levels and a transparent monitoring system, will make regional

cooperation, above all, much more concrete and result-orientated. The RCC SG further unveiled the actions that will follow the endorsement of the strategy, which entail meetings with country teams in the W. Balkans in order to agree on the outlines of the national action plans, and noted that the EU can provide technical assistance to help the RCC participants from the W. Balkans to prepare their respective action plans. In terms of the SEE 2020's relationship with the EU enlargement process, the RCC SG focused on the link with the economic governance that was put forward as one of the emerging priorities of the enlargement in the coming years, and suggested that the strategy could be considered as one of the potential building blocks of the future economic governance for the W. Balkans. The RCC SG noted the RCC Secretariat's readiness to assist other regional initiatives and task forces from SEE, especially those with an active role in the implementation of the SEE 2020, to become all-inclusive.

At the meeting with the MFA of Montenegro (Podgorica, 13 November 2013), the RCC SG was informed about a greater openness in the positions of some countries concerning the WB 6 and about the ongoing work on the WB 6 document. The RCC SG, from his part, pointed to the usefulness of establishing the practice of "European semester" in the context of this initiative.

Cooperation with the EU and other Brussels-based institutions

The RCC Liaison Office (LO) in Brussels continued with its contribution to the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013 and the preparations for the implementation of the RCC SWP 2014-2016, the preparation for the adoption and implementation of SEE 2020, as well as to monitor closely the developments of the EU Enlargement and SAP.

The RCC LO had a number of meetings with different representatives of the EU institutions and bodies, ambassadors and diplomats of the missions of the countries of SEE accredited to the EU, Brussels-based think-tanks and organized a number of meetings for the RCC SG with high-level officials of the EU and other Brussels-based institutions, including the Commissioner for Enlargement, the EC Director General for Enlargement, the EEAS Managing Director for Europe (non - EU) and Central Asia and the Director for Enlargement and the WB in the General Secretariat of the Council.

At the meetings with Enlargement Commissioner and EC Director General, the RCC SG discussed the EC Enlargement Strategy, regional cooperation and economic governance; the preparations for the adoption of the SEE 2020 and its follow-up; strengthening of the decision making process in the WBIF; the future financing of the RCC Secretariat and the need for a new organizational structure of the RCC Secretariat in order to reflect the RCC priority tasks related SEE 2020; and the Montenegrin initiative for enhancing regional cooperation among the WB 6. The RCC SG also proposed to include a reference to the RCC and SEE 2020 in the December Council conclusions on enlargement and SAP. Consequently the EU Council in its conclusions on enlargement and SAP on 17 December 2013 included the following reference to RCC: 'It fully supports the work of the South - East European Cooperation Process and the Regional Cooperation Council, its operational arm, as an inclusive platform, coordinating and monitoring implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy, in particular by developing a public monitoring mechanism to measure progress, including under national action plans.'

The EC and the RCC have signed a grant agreement supporting the activities of the RCC Secretariat in 2014. The grant will be used to implement the RCC SWP in the part related to the SEE 2020 strategy.

At the Annual ‘Friends of Europe’ Western Balkans Summit, held on 3 December 2013 in Brussels with the participation of the Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy and a number of ministers from the region and EU member states and MEPs, the RCC SG informed about the adoption of the SEE 2020, which confirms that the WB governments have agreed to work as a region with the aim of boosting their economic development. He stressed further that the SEE 2020 reorganizes regional cooperation in the WB through clear objectives and targets determined by the ministers of economies; it has a mechanism to measure progress and informed of the new approach focused on growth sectors, among which are the food & beverage and tourism industries.

The RCC SG was a speaker at the event ‘Confronting the Past and Looking Towards the Future’, held at the European Parliament (EP) in Brussels on 4 December 2013. The panel discussion with the participation of a number of members of the EP and the EC Deputy Director General for Enlargement focused on the freedom and quality of the Media in SEE. The participants highly praised the European Fund for the Balkans and the CDRSEE on their unique regional media initiative *Vicinities*.

The RCC SG also took part at the IPA Multi-Beneficiary Programme Coordination Meeting, held in Belgrade on 19 - 20 November 2013, as well as at the 9th meeting of the WBIF Steering Committee, which took place in London on 4 December 2013. At both events, the RCC SG presented the SEE 2020, as a key policy development in the WB, informed of the SEE 2020 as a new chapter of regional cooperation, its links with national strategic documents and the adoption of Regional R&D for Innovation Strategy. By adopting national and regional targets and the sectoral approach, the SEE 2020 serves as a tool to better enable and identify easier regional project pipelines, provide ways to prioritize investment, provide political chapeaux and put forward reforms that will make business environment in the region more conducive to investments. It also opened links with economic governance as one of the priorities laid out in the Enlargement Strategy.

The RCC LO organized the 3rd coordination meeting in the area of employment, social inclusion, human capital development, innovation and competitiveness with the participation of the representatives of the EC, WB, OECD and ETF. The meeting served as an opportunity to exchange views and coordinate the activities among the institutions implementing EC MB IPA Projects, with regard to development of the SEE 2020. The RCC LO also hosted a coordination meeting, EC – World Bank partnership on employment and social inclusion and as a follow up participated in the first Advisory Group meeting of the EC/RCC/World Bank/Western Balkans Countries Partnership on Employment and Social Inclusion, which served as an opportunity to provide an outline of future actions in implementation of this partnership.

The RCC LO participated in the IPA II Country Strategy Papers Consultation and presented the SEE 2020, as a coordination mechanism for the regional approach embedded in the draft Country Strategy Papers.

The EC’s Enlargement Strategy and Progress Reports, released on 16 October, are of utmost importance for the W. Balkans. The assessments of what each candidate/potential candidate achieved over the last year, and in particular its recommendations, will further advance the EU accession process. The RCC and the SEE 2020 Strategy received EC’s full support in the Enlargement Strategy.

EU integration remained a strategic goal for the region and the EU. The efforts invested both by the region and the EU sustained the momentum and generated, in different degrees, further progress in the EU integration process. Specifically, Montenegro continued to progress in the accession negotiations, and particularly pursued key reforms pertaining to the negotiating chapters on judiciary and fundamental rights and justice, freedom and security. The General EU position on accession negotiations with Serbia, including the negotiating framework, has been adopted by the Council of the EU. The High Level Accession Dialogue with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia contributed to the progress in most priority areas. Albania continued with the necessary reform measures, and the possible decision to grant Albania candidate status in June 2014 will be examined on the basis of a report to be presented by the EC. The EU integration process of Bosnia and Herzegovina has stalled and further steps on this path are contingent upon progress in the implementation of undertaken commitments. The negotiations for a Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with Kosovo* have been opened. Turkey signed the readmission agreement and initiated the dialogue on visa liberalization.

Moldova's EU's aspirations are pursued within a different institutional framework - the European Neighbourhood Policy's Eastern Partnership. The country and the EU initialled an Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area. In addition, the EC proposed visa-free travel to the Schengen area for Moldovan citizens.

Regional cooperation in the field of media

A panel debate on findings of the Academy on Media Law in South East Europe¹: *Online media regulation – Where does regulation end and overregulation start?* was held in Belgrade on 13 December 2013, co-organized by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat and the Law Faculty of the University of Belgrade. The debate, which gathered over 60 students, was a follow up to the 2nd edition of the Academy on Media Law, held in Sarajevo, on 3-5 September 2013. During the three days of the Academy's work, its participants discussed issues of media pluralism, public service broadcasting and the freedom of the media on the Internet. The debate was held back-to-back with the 2nd South East Europe Rounds of the Monroe E. Price International Oxford Media Law Moot Court Competition, with participation of students from across the region. The RCC Spokesperson served also as a judge at the Moot Court Competition.

Communication activities

The RCC Secretariat continued to advance the organization's mission, focusing on communication aspects of the SEE 2020 strategy, especially on the ministerial conference endorsing the strategy on 21 November 2013, as well as the ministerial conference adopting the Regional Research&Development strategy for innovation, in Zagreb, on 25 October 2013.

In the reporting period, to the knowledge of/available to the RCC Secretariat, 313 articles, interviews and statements on the RCC were published in SEE and international media, bringing the total to 5,761 available articles published since the beginning of operations of the RCC Secretariat. The same period witnessed 1,044,411 hits, 254,320 page views and 26,541

¹ The 2nd ACADEMY ON MEDIA LAW IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE was held under the auspices of the Regional Cooperation Council, and with support of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, OSCE missions in the Western Balkans, the European Broadcasting Union, ARTICLE 19: Global Campaign for Free Expression, the European Association of Public Service Media in South East Europe, and the United States Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

visits of the website, bringing the total to some 17,640,909 hits, 5,609,499 page views and 548,672 visits over the past four years since the website statistics has been gathered. The RCC currently also has 664 tweets and 629 followers at its Twitter account.

Two issues of the RCC e-newsletter were published in the reporting period: the one devoted to energy, infrastructure and parliamentary cooperation in SEE, issued in November, featuring 11 prominent individuals; and the farewell December edition, featuring 2 guests and 3 internal experts. It was circulated to an audience of over 3,000 subscribers. The last, farewell edition of the newsletter marks a shift in the RCC Secretariat's communication tools. As of January 2014, the e-newsletter formally ceased to exist. Information, updates and feature stories on RCC activities will from now on be communicated to the organization's audiences through different channels, namely social media tools: Twitter, Facebook and You Tube.

Evaluation of general and institutional aspects

The reporting period was characterized by a continuation of the process of undertaking concrete steps in the context of finalizing the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013, particularly aimed at efficient and target-oriented, regionally owned and all-inclusive regional cooperation. In parallel, the RCC Secretariat was fully engaged with preparatory activities aimed at starting the implementation of the RCC SWP 2014-2016 and at finalizing the final draft of the SEE 2020 Strategy. In order to maintain the momentum of the development of regional cooperation and continue with the affirmation of the principle of regional ownership as well as highlighting the importance of moving towards regional responsibility, the strategic character of relations between the SEECP and the RCC remains pivotal.

Drawing on the successful cooperation with the previous as well as incumbent SEECP C-i-O, the regular Coordination meetings of the SEECP Troika and the RCC Secretariat with the participation of the EU representatives proved to be a very useful tool in providing guidance and enhancing overall coordination.

In light of the new tasks ahead of the RCC Secretariat, in particular related to the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy and RCC SWP 2014–2016, the company Moore Stephens LLP contracted by the EC carried out in July 2013 a compliance assessment of the RCC Secretariat to determine whether it fulfils the criteria established for the implementation of tasks in joint management mode. The assessment involved performing a compliance analysis of RCC to assess whether its rules and procedures apply standards which offer guarantees equivalent to internationally accepted practice.

III. Priority areas of the RCC activities

1. Economic and Social Development

Investment and Business Enabling Environment

Regional Cooperation Council completed the SEE 2020 outreach with the 7th and last consultative workshop in the Western Balkan region in Tirana on the 1st of October 2013. The objectives of these workshops were to present the draft SEE 2020 Strategy, link it with the accession process and IPA II, and engage with a broad base of national stakeholders including the civil society, private sector, donors and other interested parties. During this phase, RCC also engaged directly in political consultations with high-level political representatives of RCC Participants to stress the importance of SEE 2020 adoption by each of the Western Balkans governments.

Following the internal consultations in each of the Western Balkans Participants and the adoption of the SEE 2020 Strategy in the government procedure, the Strategy was endorsed at the SEEIC Ministerial held in Sarajevo on 21 November 2013 by the Ministers in charge of the economy. The Ministerial Statement adopted at the meeting further reiterated the RCC's mandate in monitoring the SEE 2020 implementation.

As envisioned by the SEE 2020, national authorities will be preparing SEE 2020 National Action Plans and the first meeting dedicated to this was organized by the Albanian Minister of Economy on 16 December 2013 in Tirana. The meeting brought together representatives of all relevant ministries and agencies involved in SEE 2020 implementation in Albania. RCC took part in the meeting and presented the SEE 2020 and the activities to support the Albanian government in the process of developing national action plans. It is envisioned that the National Action Plans should be developed by the end of the first half of 2014. The meeting in Tirana was followed by a similar meeting in Sarajevo with the BiH authorities on 24 December 2013 with similar meetings planned to take place in all other economies at the beginning of 2014.

RCC staff members also took part in two panels of the CEFTA Week held in Sarajevo on 18-20 November presenting and discussing the SEE 2020 Strategy and foreign direct investment in SEE respectively.

Access to finance

No activities in this area during the reporting period.

Social Development

On 12-13 November 2013, RCC Secretariat hosted in Sarajevo a working meeting of the SEE Health Network, to fine-tune and discuss next steps with regard to the health chapter of the SEE2020 strategy, which contains actions for the harmonization of cross-border public health and public health services, improvement of the inter-sector governance for health, strengthening of the delivery of universal and high quality health promoting services and creation of resilient communities, and strengthening of human resources in the health sector. Participants reviewed activities, budgets and timeframes with a view to their harmonization. Additionally, discussions focused on how these actions can be fully reflected in national policy processes. Finally, specific indicators for measuring progress in this area were presented and discussed.

RCC participated at the Social Sector Workshop of the EC/IFI coordination process on 17 October 2013, which was an opportunity to discuss with relevant stakeholders, such as the European Commission, the World Bank, EBRD, the Council of Europe Development Bank, the European Training Foundation, and the London School of Economics European Institute's research network on social cohesion in SEE, current and planned activities. Specifically, RCC is engaged in cooperation with the EC and the World Bank on employment and social inclusion, ETF on the skills for the future project and the LSEE social cohesion research network in supporting experts from the region to produce high quality social sector research.

The first meeting of the Advisory Group of the EC/RCC/World Bank/Western Balkans Countries Partnership on Employment and Social Inclusion took place on 12 December 2013. Under this partnership, during the course of 2014 the World Bank will review international evidence on informality and skills observatories and prepare a note on the methodologies to establish annual intermediate targets on employment, all highly relevant activities for the inclusive growth agenda of the SEE2020 strategy.

Digital Society

RCC organized and hosted a meeting of the electronic SEE initiative and broadband SEE taskforce on 14 November 2013. The meeting was used to report and exchange information on the implementation of the electronic SEE Agenda Plus, discuss the Digital Society component of the SEE2020 strategy and future implementation steps towards improved broadband infrastructure, cross border e-services and acquisition of digital skills, and assess the operational future of the initiative. It was agreed, that in light of the anticipated work for the implementation of the SEE2020 strategy, there was a need to formalize the existing mechanisms of the cooperation process, renew the chairmanship procedures and adjust any structures where necessary. Based on the experience of other relevant regional structures, RCC will table a proposal that will be discussed by the countries in the first half of 2014.

Other

The RCC Secretariat contributed in the activities undertaken under the *FRAME – “Skills for the Future”* project, implemented by the European Training Foundation, whose objective is to help enlargement countries develop the skills of their people to support sustainable economic development and social cohesion with particular reference to the SEE 2020 strategy. In this context, RCC participated at the FRAME kick off regional event on 17-18 September in Danilovgrad on sharing experiences on skills foresight, at the ETF’s second Policy Leaders’ Forum for the Western Balkans and Turkey, focused on comprehensive long-term policy making for human resources development and the FRAME monitoring component regional event held in Sarajevo on 26 November 2013. The FRAME monitoring component is expected to be an important contribution to the overall monitoring framework for the SEE2020 strategy, being developed under OECD guidance.

A consultative meeting between RCC representatives and UNDP staff from the regional office in Bratislava and national offices in the region was held in Sarajevo, on 8 October 2013, with the aim to identify cooperation opportunities in the areas of rule of law and security, ICT, employment, local development and energy and environment related issues. The meeting concluded that technical experts on both sides will continue the discussion to identify concrete cooperation modalities.

2. Energy and Infrastructure

In relation to the first priority of the RCC SWP 2011-2013 in the area of energy and infrastructure concerning the implementation of the Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative (SEDRI) jointly launched by the RCC and CEI, expected results were reached. SEDRI Task Force (TF) has been established and three meetings of this TF have taken place. The initiative provided a platform for promoting construction of small scale sustainable energy facilities; strengthening cooperation between different regional players in the field as well as with and between beneficiaries; exchange of information, experience and best practices as well as strengthening the role and involvement of “bottom up” approach implementers. The initiative will be further profiled and enriched primarily on the basis of outcomes of the Sector Stakeholders` Conference to be organized within the EU funded project on “Improving Cooperation in SEE by Actions for Strengthening the RCC”. The initiative is quoted as an example of project within the Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EU SDR). Moreover, SEDRI implementation is foreseen in the SEE 2020 development strategy with the main goal to strengthen “bottom-up” response in view of aligning the region to EU 2020 goals and EU 2050 vision within the key strategy action H.6 of the Energy Dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy Sustainable Growth Pillar.

Concerning the priority of the RCC SWP 2011-2013 in relation to the cooperation with the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS) all expected results were reached. The RCC Secretariat has monitored and reported on the Energy Community developments but also analysed gaps in regional energy cooperation and proposed activities to fill these gaps. In that respect, the RCC Secretariat jointly with the ECS organized a few relevant regional events primarily in relation to environmental impact of energy activities and strengthening cooperation with the Parliamentarians from the parliamentary committees in charge of energy. Cooperation between the RCC Secretariat and the ECS in 2013 was focused on drafting the Energy Dimension of SEE 2020 Strategy Sustainable Growth Pillar, incorporating the Energy Community targets in relation to energy efficiency and renewable energy into the SEE 2020 strategy and integrating the energy sector into the wider context of economic growth. Cooperation between the RCC Secretariat and ECS is expected to increase taking into account that the Energy Community has an important role in the implementation of the key strategy actions H.1 – H.5 in the Energy Dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy Sustainable Growth Pillar.

In relation to the priority of the RCC SWP 2011-2013 with regard to RCC contribution to the preparation and implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EU SDR), expected results were also reached. The RCC Secretariat through its activities on improving inter-sectoral cooperation, multi-stakeholder involvement and multi-level governance promoted the integrated approach as a key element of this macro-regional strategy. It backed increased role and involvement of ``bottom-up`` approach players particularly civil society and local authorities in the strategy implementation and supported the regional structures relevant for the EU SDR such as the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) and the International Commission for the Protection of Danube River (ICPDR) through joint organization of the events relevant for the EU SDR implementation. In the forthcoming period and in accordance with the Environment Dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy Sustainable Growth Pillar, the focus of the RCC Secretariat activities will be put on climate change adaptation (key strategy actions J.1 – J.3) and the integrated water resources management (key strategy actions J.4 – J.6) through close cooperation with SEEFCCA and GWP-M, respectively, alongside active participation of REC as the Environment Dimension Coordinator.

Concerning the priority of the RCC SWP 2011-2013 related to the RCC contribution to explore potential for further development of air services in the region, the RCC Secretariat established contacts and started cooperation with the Implementation of Single European Sky (ISIS) Programme Secretariat in order to define the future steps in successful implementation of the Joint Service Provision Area (JSPA) initiative. Furthermore, JSPA is foreseen in the SEE 2020 development strategy (key strategy action I.5) with the aim to enhance and facilitate air traffic activities and cooperation in this field.

Taking into account the role of the SEETO for the regional transport cooperation as well as the fact that the RCC Secretariat and the SEETO have already established close cooperation, thus it is expected to be expanded in the coming period, especially in respect of efficient implementation of the key strategy actions of the transport dimension. To that aim, the focus of the RCC Secretariat activities will be put on improving infrastructure and operations (key strategy actions I.1 – I.2) and co-modal share and measures for reducing energy consumption and costs (key strategy actions I.1 – I.2) what is in line with the SEE 2020 Strategy Sustainable Growth Pillar.

Energy

The RCC Secretariat has sustained close cooperation with the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS) focusing on the ECS contribution to drafting the Energy Dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy Sustainable Growth Pillar. In addition to effective implementation of the Energy Community Treaty as the main task of the Energy Community, Energy Dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy includes the most relevant complementary activities and endeavours to integrate energy sector into the wider context of economic growth.

During the reporting period, the RCC Secretariat established contact and started cooperation in the energy field with the Network of Parliamentary Committees on Economy, Finance and European Integration of the Western Balkans (NPC). Taking into account the role of the Energy Community for the regional energy cooperation as well as the fact that the RCC Secretariat and the ECS have already established close cooperation with the Parliamentary Committees in charge of energy, cooperation of the two organisations with Parliaments from the region is expected to expand in the approaching period.

Participating at the events: ``Energy Security as a Security Challenge in SEE``, organized by the Aspen Institute Germany on 15-18 October (Alt Madlitz) and ``High Level Dialogue on Strengthening PPPs for Sustainable Energy and Energy Efficiency``, organized by the Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership and UNECE on 12-13 November 2013 (Belgrade), the RCC Secretariat presented the SEE 2020 Strategy`s aspects relevant for these events and asked participating institutions to contribute to the Strategy implementation.

The RCC Secretariat has also continued close cooperation with the CEI and the Short Term Expert (STE) engaged within the EU funded project on ``Improving Cooperation in SEE by Actions for Strengthening the RCC`` in order to support preparation and implementation of national stakeholders` meetings and sector stakeholders` conference that is planned for the end of January 2014.

Transport

During the reporting period, the RCC Secretariat focused on providing and analysing inputs for drafting the Transport Dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy Sustainable Growth Pillar.

The RCC Secretariat has established intensive close cooperation with SEETO and JSPA to drafting the Transport Dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy Sustainable Growth Pillar. The Transport Dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy includes the most relevant complementary activities to the one stated in the SEETO MAP as well as activities for successful implementation of the JSPA initiative in order to integrate transport sector into the wider context of economic growth.

Participating at the following events: Second Annual Stakeholder Conference ‘The Danube Region Transport Days 2013’ organized jointly by the Ministry of Transport of Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia on 02nd, 03rd and 04rd October 2013 in Belgrade, the RCC infrastructure expert made a presentation of the SEE 2020 Strategy, in relation to the transport dimension and asked the participating institutions to contribute to the Strategy implementation.

The RCC Expert in infrastructure participated on the high level transport gathering ‘TEN-T days 2013’ in Tallinn, Estonia, 16-18th October 2013. The purpose was to get familiar with the latest developments in the transport sector in the EU and participate to the sessions and round tables; those are of interest of the future successful implementation of the SEE2020

Strategy, and to conduct several meetings, networking and consultation. As an outcome it has been agreed to explore the possibility of organization of an info day with participation of the EC officials where the new EC instrument (CEF) *Connecting Europe facility*, will be presented.

The highest political forum where the progress of the SEETO Comprehensive Network in respect to the MoU is reviewed and confirmed on the annual bases the ‘SEETO Ministerial meeting’ took place in Brussels, on 02-03 December 2013. The purpose of the participation of the Expert in infrastructure on this high level transport gathering was to conduct several meetings with the members of the SEETO steering committee members, to present and explain the future steps for successful implementation of the SEE2020 Strategy.

Environment

During the reporting period, the RCC Secretariat focused on providing and analysing inputs for drafting the Environment Dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy Sustainable Growth Pillar. In that respect, alongside the collaboration with a variety of stakeholders including primarily national authorities, civil society and business community, very important was cooperation with the South East Europe Forum on Climate Change Adaptation (SEEFCCA) and the Petersberg Phase II/Athens Declaration Process and the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-M) as its technical facilitator which provided vital contributions for Environment Dimension of SEE 2020 Strategy in the fields of climate change adaptation and integrated water resources management, respectively.

The ‘‘International Roundtable on Water and Energy Nexus in trans-boundary basins in SEE’’ that took place 6-8 November 2013 (Sarajevo) was organized by the RCC Secretariat jointly with the German Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; the Global Environment Facility (GEF) International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resources Network (IW: LEARN) project and the GWP-M within the framework of Petersberg Phase II/Athens Declaration Process and the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI). The event stressed the importance of integrated water resources management for both the RCC SWP 2014-2016 and the SEE 2020 Strategy as its core constituent, focusing on the need for applying integrated approach in addressing water, energy, food and environmental issues as well as more involvement of private sector in water infrastructure development.

3. Justice and Home Affairs

Strategic coordination: events and actions

In the reporting period, all the efforts were put in the drafting of the last version of the SEE 2020. Therefore several meetings with the SEE 2020 dimension coordinators or other partners and stakeholders such as RAI, NALAS, GIZ, ECDR, SEELS ReSPA etc. took place in order to define the main objectives in the field of public administration and effective public services, fight against corruption and justice. On the basis of consultations with all the partners, input for the SEE 2020 was prepared. Following NALAS’s request for the RCC’s assistance in establishing and strengthening links with the national authorities and respective line ministries, RCC was holding intensive talks with ReSPA, which is seen as the main and adequate partner in this process. On the meeting of ministers responsible for public administration in November, it was finally confirmed that ReSPA will be the partner in the implementation of the SEE 2020.

After the adoption of the SEE 2020, RCC was engaged in discussion with different partners how to prepare the action plans for the implementation of the SEE 2020.

The preparation of the Regional Strategy in the field of Justice and Home Affairs for the period of 2014 – 2020 is still in the pipeline and to that end consultations were held with relevant representatives of the EU institutions, as well as with several countries of the region. In reporting period RCC was also holding the internal discussion on its added value and necessity in the view of the SWP 2014 - 2016. RCC was invited to the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Justice and Home Affairs Forum held at the end of the Lithuanian Presidency to the Council of the EU in December. RCC defended visa liberalization for the citizens of the Western Balkans countries since the large majority of their citizens visiting the Schengen area are still *bona fide* travelers and since the visa free travel increases the business opportunity, which is the most important argument for the region, which was severely hit by the economic crises for the last 5 years. RCC also supported the adoption of the joint declaration on enhancing cooperation on drugs and renewing the commitments of the EU-Western Balkans Action Plan on Drugs (2009-2013). In the justice part, RCC had the opportunity to present to the ministers of justice all the activities provided under the 5th pillar Governance for Growth of the SEE 2020.

Fighting organized crime

The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC) and Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC) have jointly organized the “*South-East Workshop on the links between terrorism and organized crime*” in November 2013. Workshop was focused on the links between terrorism and organized crime. Participants included representatives of South-East European law enforcement agencies and prosecutors; experts of international, regional and sub-regional organizations and mechanisms; observer and partner States; and civil society and private–sector entities from 17 countries and 12 international organizations. Meeting concluded that in the Southeast European region terrorist groups appear to be connected to different extents with OCGs involved in criminal activities especially in heroin and cannabis trafficking, smuggling of arms, migrants or cigarettes. Both groups increasingly resort to internet to communicate and make their propaganda and planning. To unearth the links between terrorism and OC, the SEE countries should focus on operational analysis’s to study and understand the existing relation between terrorism and OC. It should be known that this relation is based on recruitment, direct assistance, provision of financial sources and mutual help. In the same time, it shall be noted that more information collection, classification, analysis of such information are needed to conduct more effective and extensive investigations. Moreover, countries shall give their highest concern to criminal records and modus operandi in order to strengthen the tactical level analysis capacities.

Strengthening judicial and prosecutorial cooperation in criminal matters

RCC participated in the steering committee of the IPA 2010 regional project “Fight against Organized Crime and Corruption: Strengthening the Prosecutors’ Network” in November. The agreement was made that GIZ would draw recommendations for the future development of the Prosecutor’s Network in close cooperation with all the participants and partners, including the RCC. Recommendations based on the achievements of the project and legislative needs for the region will serve also as a basis for identification of the priorities defined in the RCC regional JHA strategy in the field of judicial and prosecutorial cooperation.

The discussion was also made with the representatives of GIZ and PCC SEE how to establish a strategic framework for the cooperation of the police and prosecutors. Both partners consider that RCC should give them frame for such cooperation.

Supporting existing initiatives in the area of the fight against corruption

In the reporting period the RCC Secretariat organized several meetings with the management of Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative to discuss how to proceed after the adoption of the SEE 2020. RAI is already working on the Work plan for 2014 – 2015 and will include also all the activities from the SEE 2020. The discussion was also made on other activities which are wider than those included in the SEE 2020. RAI is preparing the study on state of play in the region and on the basis of result, further steps will be defined. All partners dealing with the fight against corruption are waiting the European Commission's report on the state of play in the EU and recommendations, which will be very much relevant for the SEE as such and will provide guidelines for further work in this area.

During the Regional Anti-Corruption Conference organized on the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day and commemorating the 10th anniversary of the adoption of and preparation for signing the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the participants particularly underlined the vital importance to target the proceeds of corruption as an indispensable component of criminal justice and law enforcement responses to crime. In this context, priority needs to be accorded to putting in place effective and robust domestic confiscation regimes, strengthening the capacity of investigating authorities to conduct financial investigations and further disseminating knowledge on the effective use of asset recovery mechanisms. In the same time, some other very relevant topic were considered like legislation and administrative procedures on the protection of whistle blowers, capacities of the national authorities in asset disclosure systems, effective preventing policies, establishment of specialized prosecutorial and investigating bodies, and joint investigative units. European Commission reiterated a need for a political commitment in fight against corruption. A new negotiation Methodology that has been applied in chapters 23 and 24 would contribute to more effective approach, which should be result-oriented.

4. Security Cooperation

An important aspect of the RCC SWP is the streamlining of the RI&TF. In the Security Cooperation field this is not a matter of closing or merging RI&TF, it has been more a matter of contributing to building operational links between RI&TF in the security and defence cooperation sector, thus identifying ways to avoid existing overlap. This effort has been concentrated mainly on the activities of the RI&TF (SEDM, SEEC, A5, WEBADIC, B9, RACVIAC, DPPI and SEESAC) motivating them to join efforts in the implementation and resource distribution in project implementation excluding any overlap of activities. The apex of this effort was the organized upon Slovenia's initiative in the beginning of October 2013 Comprehensive Regional Ministerial (CRM) in the format of which SEEC, A5 and SEDM had their DPD meetings and Ministerials. The activities organized within the framework of the CRM included plenary sessions, panel discussions, informal consultations, discussions on concrete proposals regarding the way ahead. These activities were -

- Panel Discussion on "Regional Security in the South East Europe and the Role of Euroatlantic Integrations", organized by the Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia
- The 8th Western Balkans Defence Policy Directors Meeting where streamlining was the main topic of discussion including exchange of views on the future cooperation framework among representatives from the Western Balkans.

- The A-5 Defence Ministerial discussed the Joint Responses and Priorities in Defense in the Conditions of Economic Crisis: Contribution to a Regional and a Global Security followed by debates on Afghanistan in post ISAF period-possibilities for the joint participation and Rationalization and the priorities of the joint projects of the region.
- SEDM Ministerial, focused on the streamlining of regional cooperation.

The events ended with the Informal Concluding Joint Meeting of the Comprehensive Regional Ministerial. The RCC Representative intervened in these meetings and presented concrete proposals on the way ahead, based on the experience gained in working with the region and with the regional initiatives and reflected in the approved RCC document – Regional Security Cooperation Overview.

The South East European Military Intelligence Chiefs (SEEMIC) - In the period October – December 2013 RCC SCU experts had consultations with MI Managements of Turkey, EU MI and MI Albania and assisted Turkey and EU MI in establishing the secure communication lines. During the 5th SEEMIC that took part at the end of September 2013 members discussed in-depth the SEEMIC future, seeking synergies among all regional initiatives in the area. All delegates assessed SEEMIC as a valuable tool for cooperation among MI in SEE and demonstrated the will and readiness to move ahead and further develop cooperation and dialog within the SEEMIC framework seeking synergy and avoiding any duplication. SEEMIC members agreed to further seek effectiveness in their regional cooperation producing more valuable regional intelligence assessments. It was decided that the 6th SEEMIC that will take place in 2014 will be a comprehensive one, jointly organized with the other three Military Intelligence Regional activities. As of 2014 SEEMIC includes the Head of the MI of NATO from HQ NATO and the Head of MI in the USA EUCOM. As a back to back of the 5th SEEMIC the first Forum of the Heads of the Security and Defence Parliamentarian Committees was organized by RCC in cooperation with the Croatian Parliament. Heads of the Parliamentarian Committees from SEE Countries met and discussed their possible future regional cooperation and also had a joint meeting with the Chiefs of the MI in SEE (SEEMIC) where they were informed on the ongoing cooperation with in SEEMIC.

Following the RCC SWP Implementation the SCU efforts were mainly focused on further stabilizing and institutionalizing the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI) as a fully regionally owned initiative covering the full variety of regional activities in the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) area. Cooperation in this field is also an important part of the European integration process. On the 28th October 2013, 8 SEE countries signed a new DPPI MoU (three countries will join soon after finalizing their internal procedures) and in 2014 they plan to sign the Host Country Agreement with BiH.

Other activities in the reporting period October-December 2013 – Participation of the RCC SCU Senior Expert in the RACVIAC 30th Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) meeting 9-10 October 2013. The meeting had as main topics the approval of the Director's Interim Report, approval of the Annual Programme for 2014 and the projection for 2015-2016, a discussion on financial issues, a discussion about the Personnel situation, discussion on the draft of the MAG ToR and others. MAG was addressed by the RCC SG Mr. Goran Svilanovic. RACVIAC Director underlined the importance of cooperating with RCC and that RACVIAC will be in accordance with the RCC SG address the implementer of RCC projects and activities. As a follow-up of the RCC SG statement during the MAG a meeting with the Management of RACVIAC (19-20 Nov) was organized where the RCC Senior Expert on Security Issues presented in details the RCC S&WP 2014-16. In the follow up discussion

RACVIAC Director and Program Managers expressed their support to this practical approach. They expressed will to cooperate with RCC in the following fields – Energy security, Climate change, Corruption and Fight against organized crime, Migration and Disaster management. It was decided that further steps should be taken in harmonizing the WP of the two organizations. In practical terms in 2014 RACVIAC and RCC will pick up one initiative to implement in a coordinated way, and more specifically the Defence Procurement Directors Meeting (DPrD).

On behalf of RCC SG the RCC Senior Expert on security issues took part in the Conference - “Word, image and enemy: role of media in securitization process” in Podgorica, 11th November 2013, and in Zagreb in the Regional Workshop “ Prospects of the Security Architecture in SEE” organized by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung 19 - 20 November 2013. The RCC Representative made short presentations and took part in the discussions.

5. Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues

Education

Actions of the RCC Secretariat in the area of education during the reporting period were focused on providing support to finalisation of the process of establishment of Education Reform Initiative for SEE (ERI SEE). It is expected that one remaining member country of the Initiative signs the Host Country Agreement on establishment of permanent ERI SEE Secretariat in Belgrade, which will enable further steps towards setting up and staffing of the office of this regional mechanism. Establishment of ERI SEE, as efficient and transparent mechanism for strengthening regional cooperation in the area of education, is among the actions of the RCC Strategy and Work Program 2011-2013. Finalisation of this process is of particular importance for the RCC because ERI SEE will also act as the coordinator of education dimension of the Smart Growth pillar of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

Science and Research

Ministerial conference on the Western Balkans Regional Research and Development Strategy for Innovation (R&I Strategy) was organised on 25 October 2013, in Zagreb, by the World Bank and Croatian Ministry of Education, Science and Sports. Apart from the ministers, event was attended by the representatives of the World Bank, European Commission and other international organisations active in the area. The RCC Secretary General headed the RCC delegation at the conference. R&I Strategy, adopted by the ministers, will improve the research base and conditions for research excellence in the Western Balkans, thus slowing the brain drain and supporting the brain gain; promote the research-industry collaboration and technology transfer; enable business investments in research and innovation; and strengthen the governance of national policies with appropriate regional technical assistance facility. Ministers supported the efforts coordinated by the RCC in developing SEE 2020 Strategy and endorsed proposal that R&I Strategy becomes the key input into the research and innovation dimension of SEE 2020. R&I Strategy will be implemented by the regional mechanism for cooperation in the area of research and innovation. The first rotating Chair of the regional mechanism will be Republic of Serbia and the Seat of the mechanism’s permanent secretariat will be in Split, Republic of Croatia.

Adoption of the Regional R&I Strategy concluded 2 year process, in full compliance with the timeline of the main activity of the RCC Strategy and Work Program 2011-2013 in the area of science and research.

RCC Secretariat participated at the meeting of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries, held in Zagreb on 11-12 December 2013. The meeting was co-chaired by the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Government of Croatia - who hosted the event on behalf of the Western Balkan Countries – Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the European Commission DG Research and Innovation. Event gathered representatives of Ministries of Science from the Western Balkan countries and EU Member States as well as representatives of international initiatives and organizations. Meeting focused on the Horizon 2020, preparations of the Western Balkans countries for IPA II and Horizon 2020 as well as on the ongoing and planned regional cooperation programs and activities. Participants elaborated the link between two strategic documents: SEE 2020 and R&I Strategy, since the future mechanism for implementation of the R&I Strategy will also take the role of coordinator of the R&I dimension of the SEE 2020. This regionally owned mechanism could also take over the most important achievements of the WBC INCO.NET and Steering Platform, after spring 2014. Steering Platform will consider the options on how to continue the work beyond the WBC-INCO.NET at the final conference of the project, to be held in Vienna on 27/28 March 2014.

Culture

The Seventh Meeting of the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society (TFCS) was organized by the TFCS Secretariat in Sveti Stefan, Montenegro, on 19-20 November 2013. RCC presented intention to ask for a non-cost extension of the Ljubljana process until the end of November 2014. RCC also informed on the finalization of the complex process of development of the SEE 2020 Strategy, as the main strategic document for the overall development of the region in the following years. After conducting internal consultations within the RCC, it was agreed that around 650.000 EUR will be allocated to implementation of the actions from the Culture and Creative Sectors dimension of the Strategy. This amount would be implemented through the activities of dimension coordinator – RCC Task Force on Culture and Society. However, precondition for this endeavour is the political statement of the countries for continuation of Ljubljana Process. In this regard, consultations will be organised with the countries to get their standpoints and views on priorities for regional cooperation in the area. These bilateral meetings of the RCC and EC with the Ministers of Culture participating in Ljubljana process are planned to be held in the first half of February 2014. Related to implementation of the €0.5 million Grant for Sustaining the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage in the Western Balkans and its remaining funds of €94,500, the TFCS agreed to apply projects for preparing the site management plans that will go through competitive negotiated procedure. TFCS also decided on the future Chair of the TFCS – Serbia and Co-chair - Croatia. Official handover of duties with current Chair and Co-chair will be done at the Ljubljana Process Ministerial Conference.

The Inaugural Meeting of the Ljubljana Process Regional Expert Pool, held on 21 October 2013 in Podgorica, was organized by the Regional Cooperation Council Task Force on Culture and Society Secretariat. The main purpose of this meeting was to convene a group of cultural heritage experts from the South East Europe countries selected to set up Ljubljana Process Regional Experts Pool. This group was established in order to provide advice and assistance to the RCC TFCS, its Secretariat, as well as to specific participants in the implementation of activities in related area. This meeting provided an initial platform for getting acquainted with the overall Ljubljana Process and the RCC TFCS activities, as well as the requirements for future actions.

Parliamentary Cooperation

The Parliamentary conference: "Legal status and Political functions of inter-parliamentary organizations", was organized by the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe (RSPC-SEE) in collaboration with the Bulgarian Parliament, in Sofia on 14-15 of October 2013. The event was attended by representatives of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension Working Group, in charge for the preparation of the documents for the creation of SEE Parliamentary Assembly, as well as, by representatives of EP and regional organizations. The concept of the conference was to introduce the approach of different inter-parliamentary organizations in building their international identity and institutional structure and to discuss different legal and political aspects related to the functioning of the future SEECP Parliamentary Assembly taking into consideration the existing international practice. Upon request from participants, RCC Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation informed the audience about the scope of work of Cetinje Parliamentary Forum and COSAP as formats of parliamentary cooperation of Western Balkan Countries, stressing the importance of avoiding overlapping and duplication of activities, between the parliamentary structures in the future.

The 11-th meeting of SEECP Parliamentary Dimension (SEECP PD) Working Group took place in Bucharest on 16 of November 2013. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss amendments to the draft documents necessary for finalizing the institutionalization of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly (SEECP PA), including also discussions on the next technical steps of this process. The meeting agreed on the main documents necessary for the inaugural meeting of SEECP PA. During the discussions, with a view to find the most appropriate formulations also for different amendments sent by member countries, was reached consensus about the main issues. The Working Group agreed on the Draft Rules of Procedure of SEECP PA, including all its content: aims, objectives and basic guidelines, membership and composition, chairmanship, decision making/voting, organizational structure, working language and international and regional cooperation, etc. Issues related on the draft models for a secretariat, its seat and the budget for the future regional parliamentary structure were not discussed. Based on the results of the meeting, there are all the conditions for the current CiO to start procedures for conveying the inaugural meeting of SEECP PA. The RCC Expert on parliamentary Cooperation informed the meeting that this was his last attendance of the meetings of SEECP PD WG, as he was leaving the RCC Secretariat at the end of December. Expressing high evaluation for the work of the Group, he also reiterate the RCC's objective to continue the involvement on the Parliamentary Cooperation in SEE. Many representatives of WG expressed their appreciation for the contribution of RCC representative at the WG meetings.

IV. Operation of the RCC Secretariat

A remaining open issue related to the setting-up of the RCC Secretariat concerns the implementation of the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement between the Kingdom of Belgium and the RCC Secretariat, which regulates the status of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels.

The Kingdom of Belgium has conditioned the implementation of relevant provisions of the Headquarters Agreement between the Kingdom of Belgium and the RCC Secretariat providing for the fiscal privileges and immunities of the Head and Deputy Head of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels with the issuing of an official authentic interpretation concerning the implementation of Article 17.1.(d) of the Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Governments of the other SEECP Participating States, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo on behalf of Kosovo in

accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, on the Host Country Arrangements for the Secretariat of the Regional Cooperation Council (Host Country Agreement) by the Parties to this Agreement in which the principle of taxability of the officials of the RCC Secretariat in their countries/places of origin and/or permanent residence would be explicitly confirmed. After a consultation procedure initiated by the RCC Secretary General in August 2008 it became evident that the adoption of an interpretative declaration amending the Agreement would not be acceptable to some of the Parties to the Host Country Agreement, as they consider that such declaration would run counter to the spirit of the current provisions of the Agreement and would lead to its *de facto* amendment. In light of the principles of general international law, the only recourse in this situation would be to proceed with amending the Host Country Agreement accordingly, in light of the request from the Kingdom of Belgium. This, however, remains subject to the will of the Parties to the Host Country Agreement. In this view, the RCC SG sent a communication to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in early January 2009, proposing to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a Party to and, at the same time, a depositary of the Host Country Agreement to consider the possibility of initiating the process of amending relevant provisions of the Agreement in order to provide for requested confirmation of taxability. This proposal of the RCC Secretary General is still under consideration by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The RCC LO and the Director of the CEFTA Secretariat visited the Director for international organizations in the Protocol of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the ratification process of the Headquarters Agreement between the Kingdom of Belgium and the RCC Secretariat (signed in 2008). However, following this visit no further information has been received from the Belgium Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

V. Staff Changes in the RCC Secretariat

During the reporting period, the RCC Secretariat carried out and completed the recruitment process for the following positions: the Chief of Staff and Head of Administration.

The RCC Secretary General, in accordance with his competences and following the recommendation of the selection committee, decided to hire the most suitable candidates to fulfil the posts.

VI. The state of financial contributions to the RCC Secretariat's budget for the year 2013 (until 31 December 2013)

Contribution	Commitments	Roll Over 2012	Contributions	Bank charges	Contributions net of bank charges, including roll over	Date Received	Percent
Contributing Countries (Donors)							
Austria	50.000,00		50.000,00		50.000,00	29-May-13	100,00%
Czech Republic	50.000,00	1.606,71	45.311,20		46.917,91	12-Dec-13	93,84%
Federal Republic of Germany	50.000,00		50.000,00		50.000,00	8.May & 25 Oct	100,00%
Finland	50.000,00		50.000,00		50.000,00	31-Oct-13	100,00%
France	50.000,00	2.142,03	47.857,97		50.000,00	3-Apr-13	100,00%
Hungary	50.000,00	509,45	49.490,55		50.000,00	19-Apr-13	100,00%
Italy	50.000,00		50.000,00		50.000,00	5-Nov-12	100,00%
Ireland	50.000,00	2.142,03	47.858,00		50.000,03	17-Jun-13	100,00%
Latvia	50.000,00	10.015,28	39.984,72		50.000,00	2-Apr-13	100,00%
Norway	50.000,00		53.741,27		53.741,27	12-Mar-13	107,48%
Sweden	50.000,00		77.948,61		77.948,61	4-Nov-13	155,90%
Switzerland	65.000,00	21.023,62	64.950,00		85.973,62	12-Jul-13	132,27%
United States of America	120.000,00		115.829,70		115.829,70	23-Dec-13	96,52%
Total contributing countries donors:	735.000,00	37.439,12	742.972,02		780.411,14		106,18%
European Commission contract	700.000,00		616.780,00	157,50	616.622,50	13-Dec-13	88,09%
South East Europe Contributors							
Albania	60.000,00		-		-		0,00%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	60.000,00		60.000,00		60.000,00	11-Feb-13	100,00%
Bulgaria	140.000,00		140.000,00		140.000,00	30-Jan-13	100,00%
Croatia	80.000,00		80.000,00		80.000,00	6-Feb-13	100,00%
Greece	140.000,00		140.000,00		140.000,00	7-Aug-13	100,00%
Kosovo*	40.000,00		40.000,00		40.000,00	18-Apr-13	100,00%
Moldova	40.000,00		40.000,00		40.000,00	18-Apr-13	100,00%
Montenegro	40.000,00		40.000,00		40.000,00	25-Dec-12	100,00%
Romania	140.000,00		140.000,00		140.000,00	31-May-13	100,00%
Serbia	80.000,00		80.000,00		80.000,00	21-Feb-13	100,00%
Slovenia	80.000,00		80.000,00		80.000,00	28-Feb-13	100,00%
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	60.000,00		-		-		0,00%
Turkey	140.000,00		140.000,00		140.000,00	1-Jul-13	100,00%
South East Europe Contributors set aside funding**	200.000,00		200.000,00		200.000,00	1-Jan-13	
Total South East Europe Contributors:	1.300.000,00	-	1.180.000,00	0,00	1.180.000,00		90,77%
Total Committed Funds	2.735.000,00	37.439,12	2.539.752,02	157,50	2.577.033,64		92,86%

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

** balance of set aside funds is EUR 301,820

ANNEX I

REPORT

On the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013 in the period 1 October – 31 December 2013

Horizontal activities

Horizontal Functions:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC Secretariat	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
1. Representing the region		
2. Coordination and cooperation with the SEECP C-i-O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13th Coordination meeting between the SEECP Troika, the RCC Secretariat and the European Union - Sarajevo, 1 October 2013. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of SEECP Political Directors – Bucharest, 6 December 2013
3. Exerting strategic leadership in regional cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st RCC Board meeting - Sarajevo, 2 October 2013. • Ministerial Conference of the South East Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC) “South East Europe 2020 Strategy–Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective” – Sarajevo, 21 November 2013 	

<p>4. Consultations with RCC Participants</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations with high level officials of the Swiss MFA – Bern, 14 October 2013 • Consultations with high level officials of the Government of Serbia – Belgrade, 16 October 2013 • Consultations with high level officials of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia – Zagreb, 25 October 2013 • Consultations with high level officials of MFA of Lithuania – Vilnius, 18 October 2014 • Consultations with high level officials of the Government of Montenegro – Podgorica, 13 November 2013 • Consultations with high level officials of the MFA of Germany – Berlin, 29 November 2013 • Consultations with European Commission – Brussels, 4 December 2013 • Consultations with high level officials of the MFA of Slovenia – Ljubljana, 12 December 2013
<p>5. Providing regional perspective in donor assistance, notably in EU assistance under the Instrument for pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)</p>		

6. Supporting increased involvement of civil society in regional activities		
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Priority area 1: Economic and Social Development

Objectives:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
1. Investment climate - Transfer and management of the SEEIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultative workshop on SEE 2020 – Tirana, 1 October 2013 • Political consultations with the WB governments – October/November 2013 • Ministerial meeting of the SEEIC – Sarajevo, 21 November 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEFTA Week – Sarajevo, 19-20 November 2013 <u>RCC role:</u> presenter/discussant • First meeting of the inter-ministerial Working Group on SEE 2020 of the Government of Albania – Tirana, 16 December 2013 <u>RCC role:</u> presenter/discussant • Meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Directorate for European Integration of BiH on SEE 2020 implementation – Sarajevo, 24 December 2013 <u>RCC role:</u> presenter/discussant
2. Identifying ways and means for improving access to finance for private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No activities during the reporting period 	

<p>3. Mainstreaming employment and social agenda into economic reform deliberations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEE Health Network Working Meeting – Sarajevo, 12-13 November 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRAME kick off regional event – Danilovgrad, 17-18 September 2013 <u>RCC role:</u> discussant • Social Sector Workshop of the EC/IFI coordination – Brussels, 17 October 2013. <u>RCC role:</u> presenter/discussant • South East Europe Center for Entrepreneurial Learning (SEECCEL) kick-off conference on 22-23 October 2013 and the Steering Committee meeting held on 4 December 2013 in Zagreb. <u>RCC role:</u> presenter/member of the steering committee • FRAME monitoring component regional event – Sarajevo, 26 November 2013. <u>RCC role:</u> presenter/discussant • Meeting of the Advisory Group of the EC/RCC/World Bank/Western Balkans Countries Partnership on Employment and Social Inclusion - Brussels 12 December 2013. <u>RCC role:</u> presenter/discussant
<p>4. Promoting Information Society</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eSEE Initiative/bSEE Task Force meeting – Sarajevo, 14 November 2013 	

Priority area 2: Energy and Infrastructure

Objectives:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC Secretariat	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
<p>1. Continue implementation of Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative (SEDRI)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted to the SEDRI Task Force Chairmanship. Cooperated with Project Manager of CEI led project on strengthening the RCC in order to back the initiative implementation. Cooperated with Short Term Expert (STE) engaged within the project on strengthening the RCC particularly in the context of national stakeholders` meetings preparations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ``National stakeholders` meeting on advanced bio-fuels and rural innovation for The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia``, organized by CEI and meeting with the representatives of the Network of Parliamentary Committees on Economy, Finance and European Integration of the Western Balkans (NPC) – Skopje, 20 November 2013. <u>RCC role:</u> support to the implementation of the activities relevant for the SEDRI initiative and the parliamentary cooperation in the field of energy.
<p>2. Explore potential for cooperation with the Energy Community Secretariat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating the Energy Community targets in the area of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources into the Energy Dimension of the Sustainable Growth Pillar of the SEE 2020 Strategy. Drafting and finalizing the text on Energy Dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy Sustainable Growth Pillar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ``5th Oil Forum`` – Belgrade, 10-11 October 2013, organized by the Energy Community Secretariat. <u>RCC role:</u> monitoring the Energy Community developments and consultations in relation to drafting and finalizing the Energy Dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy Sustainable Growth Pillar. ``Energy Security as a Security Challenge in Southeast Europe`` - Alt Madlitz, 15-18 October 2013, organized by the Aspen Institute Germany. <u>RCC role:</u> presenting the SEE 2020 Strategy`s aspects relevant for the event and animating participating institutions to contribute to the Strategy implementation. ``High-level Dialogue on Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Energy and Energy Efficiency`` – Belgrade, 12-13 November 2013, organized by the Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership (GSEP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). <u>RCC role:</u> presenting the SEE 2020 Strategy`s aspects relevant for the event and animating participating institutions to contribute to the Strategy implementation.

<p>3. Contribute to the preparation and implementation of the Danube Region Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing consultative process with the National Administrations and other stakeholders of the RCC participants from SEE. • Backing the regional initiatives relevant for EUSDR implementation. • Cooperation with the SEEFCCA and GWP-M concerning the Environment Dimension of the SEE 2020 Sustainable Growth Pillar • ``International Roundtable on Water and Energy Nexus in trans-boundary basins of South-eastern Europe`` – Sarajevo, 6-8 November 2013, co-organized by the German Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat; the Global Environment Facility (GEF) IW: LEARN project; and the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean, within the frameworks of Petersberg Phase II/Athens Declaration Process on promoting transboundary water resources management in SEE, and the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI). <u>RCC role:</u> presenting the SEE 2020 Strategy`s aspects relevant for the event and animating participating institutions to contribute to the Strategy implementation in particular concerning the need for strengthening the integrated approach and water infrastructure development. 	
<p>4. Explore the potential for further development of air services within the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing and analyzing inputs for drafting the Transport Dimension of the SEE 2020 Strategy Sustainable Growth Pillar. • Established contacts and started cooperation with ISIS PS in order to define the future steps in successful implementation of the JSPA initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Annual Stakeholder Conference ‘The Danube Region Transport Days 2013’ - Air transport development in the Danube region - Belgrade, 2-4 October 2013, organized by the Ministry of Transport of Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia <u>RCC role:</u> presenting the SEE 2020 Strategy in relation to the transport dimension under the Sustainable Growth Pillar. • ‘TEN-T days 2013’ - Tallinn, Estonia, 16-18 October 2013, organized by the European Commission - DG MOVE. <u>RCC role:</u> participated to the round tables of interest for the future successful implementation of the SEE2020 Strategy, networking and consultation; exploring the possibility of organizing an info day with participation of the EC officials.
<p>5. Contribute to the promotion of road safety</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEETO Ministerial meeting - Brussels, 2-3 December 2013, organized by the SEETO Secretariat and European Commission - DG MOVE. <u>RCC role:</u> presented and explained the future steps for successful implementation of the SEE2020 Strategy as well as conducted several meetings with the members of the SEETO steering committee members.

Priority area 3: Justice and Home Affairs

Objectives:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
<p>1. Coordinate drafting and adoption of Regional Strategic Document and Action Plan on Justice and Home Affairs 2011-2014, and monitoring its implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings with representatives of the ECDR, DCAF and PCC SEE Secretariat – Ljubljana, 4 - 6 November 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU-Western Balkans ministerial Justice and Home Affairs forum - Budva, 19 – 20 December 2013.
<p>2. Strengthening judicial and prosecutorial cooperation in criminal matters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 4th South East Europe Workshop on Counter Terrorism “The links between organized crime and terrorism” – Antalya, 4-5 November 2013, co-organized by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC), the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and Centre for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fourth Steering Committee meeting of the IPA 2010 regional project “Fight against Organized Crime and Corruption: Strengthening the Prosecutors’ Network”– Ljubljana, 4 - 5 November 2013, organized by GIZ and CILC Project Team. <u>RCC role:</u> member of the Steering Committee.

<p>3. Support existing initiatives in the area of the fight against corruption</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ReSPA Launching Event on Comparative Studies on Ethics and Integrity – organized by ReSPA, Sarajevo, 7-8 October 2013. <u>RCC role</u>: representing the region. • Regional Anti-Corruption Conference for SEE countries – co-organized by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in partnership with the European Commission (EC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Sarajevo, 9-10 December 2013. <u>RCC role</u>: representing the region.
<p>4. Support MARRI in strengthening its capacity</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a
<p>5. Initiate regional cooperation in private and civil law matters and in protection of fundamental rights</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1st Advisory Board meeting of the SEELS – organized by SEELS and GIZ, Skopje, 8 November 2013. <u>RCC role</u>: representing the region

Priority area 4: Security Cooperation

Objectives:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
<p>1. Facilitate and support development of regional mechanisms with low-cost activities and high impact on confidence building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PGP activities – installing the software, preparing the simulation exercise and regional training - Bucharest and Zagreb, 26April – 1May 2013 • SEEMIC Expert Working Group (EWG) meeting, co-organized by the Croatian MI and RCC – Zagreb, 13-16 May 2013 • Consultations with the Slovenian MoD and PGP activities – installing the software and specific targeted training - Ljubljana, 20-22 May 2013 • SEEMIC Project - training and installing the PGP software at the MI of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Skopje, 31 May 2013 • Meeting with the Chairman of the Domestic and National Security Committee of the Croatian Parliament – Prof. M. Tadjman and Mr. I. Bukarica, Secretary of the Committee – Zagreb, 12 June 2013 • Meetings with EU and NATO officials related to the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Program 2011-2013 in the Security Cooperation RCC Priority Area and training on the PGP SEEMIC system - Brussels, 13-14 and 17 June 2013 • Training and installation of the PGP System for the SEEMIC protected communication system in the MI of BiH - Sarajevo, 25 June 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29th Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) meeting – RACVIAC, Zagreb, 15-17 April 2013 • Seminar ‘Regional Co-operation and Reconciliation in the Aftermath of the ICTY Verdicts: Continuation or Stalemate?’ - Reichenau, Austria, 2-4 May 2013 • International Scientific Conference: The Balkans between Past and Future: Security, Conflict resolution and Euro-Atlantic Integration - Ohrid, 5-8 June 2013 • OSCE Annual Security Conference - Vienna 19-20 June 2013 • SEEC – Western Balkans Forum for defence cooperation – Sarajevo, 26-27 June 2013

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">2. Continue its work towards establishment of regional structures for disaster risk reduction, in cooperation with international partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations with MI Managements of Turkey, EU MI and MI Albania and assisted Turkey and EU MI in establishing the secure communication lines. • 5th SEEMIC that took part at the end of September 2013 members discussed in-depth the SEEMIC future, seeking synergies among all regional initiatives in the area. All delegates assessed SEEMIC as a valuable tool for cooperation among MI in SEE and demonstrated the will and readiness to move ahead and further develop cooperation and dialog within the SEEMIC framework seeking synergy and avoiding any duplication. SEEMIC members agreed to further seek effectiveness in their regional cooperation producing more valuable regional intelligence assessments. It was decided that the 6th SEEMIC that will take place in 2014 will be a comprehensive one, jointly organized with the other three Military Intelligence Regional activities. As of 2014 SEEMIC includes the Head of the MI of NATO from HQ NATO and the Head of MI in the USA EUCOM. • As a back to back of the 5th SEEMIC the first Forum of the Heads of the Security and Defence Parliamentarian Committees was organized by RCC in cooperation with the Croatian Parliament. Heads of the Parliamentarian Committees from SEE Countries met and discussed their possible future regional cooperation and also had a joint meeting with the Chiefs of the MI in SEE (SEEMIC) where they were informed on the ongoing cooperation with in SEEMIC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of the RCC SCU Senior Expert in the RACVIAC 30th Multinational Advisory Group (MAG) meeting 9-10 October 2013. - Meeting with the Management of RACVIAC (19-20 Nov) presenting in details the RCC S&WP 2014-16. • On behalf of RCC SG the RCC Senior Expert on security issues took part in the Conference -“Word, image and enemy: role of media in securitization process” in Podgorica, 11th November 2013, and in Zagreb in the Regional Workshop “ Prospects of the Security Architecture in SEE” organized by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung 19 - 20 November 2013. The RCC Representative made short presentations and took part in the discussions.
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Priority area 5: Building Human Capital and Cross-cutting Issues

Objectives:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
<p>1. Taking over coordination of the Ljubljana Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Inaugural Meeting of the Ljubljana Process Regional Expert Pool, held on 21 October 2013 in Podgorica, was organized by the Regional Cooperation Council Task Force on Culture and Society Secretariat. The main purpose of this meeting was to convene a group of cultural heritage experts from the South East Europe countries selected to set up Ljubljana Process Regional Experts Pool. This group was established in order to provide advice and assistance to the RCC TFCS, its Secretariat, as well as to specific participants in the implementation of activities in related area. This meeting provided an initial platform for getting acquainted with the overall Ljubljana Process and the RCC TFCS activities, as well as the requirements for future actions. • 7th Meeting of the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society (TFCS) was held in Sveti Stefan, Montenegro, on 19-20 November 2013. RCC presented intention to ask for a non-cost extension of the Ljubljana process until the end of November 2014. RCC also informed on the finalization of the complex process of development of the SEE 2020 Strategy, as the main strategic document for the overall development of the region in the following years. Consultations will be 	

	<p>organised with the countries to get their standpoints and views on priorities for regional cooperation in the area. These bilateral meetings of the RCC and EC with the Ministers of Culture participating in Ljubljana process are planned to be held in the first half of February 2014. Related to implementation of the €0.5 million Grant for Sustaining the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage in the Western Balkans and its remaining funds of €94,500, the TFCS agreed to apply projects for preparing the site management plans that will go through competitive negotiated procedure. TFCS also decided on the future Chair of the TFCS – Serbia and Co-chair - Croatia. Official handover of duties with current Chair and Co-chair will be done at the Ljubljana Process Ministerial Conference.</p>	
<p>2. Support to education reform, with emphasis on higher education</p>		
<p>3. Development of Regional Strategy for Research and Development for Innovation for the Western Balkans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministerial conference on the Western Balkans Regional Research and Development Strategy for Innovation (R&I Strategy) was organised on 25 October 2013, in Zagreb, by the World Bank and Croatian Ministry of Education, Science and Sports. Apart from the ministers, event was attended by the representatives of the World Bank, European Commission and other international organisations active in the area. The RCC Secretary General headed the RCC delegation at the conference. R&I Strategy, adopted by the ministers, will improve the research base and conditions for research excellence in the Western Balkans, thus slowing the brain drain and supporting the brain gain; promote the research-industry collaboration and technology transfer; enable business investments in research and innovation; and strengthen the governance of national policies with appropriate regional technical assistance facility R&I Strategy will be implemented by the regional mechanism for cooperation in the area of research and innovation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkans, Zagreb, 11-12 December 2013; <u>RCC Role</u>: Presenting the SEE 2020 Strategy; assisting the process of establishment of the regional mechanism which will implement Regional R&I Strategy; promoting synergies among the regional initiatives in the area of R&I.

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Parliamentary Cooperation

Objectives:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
<p>1. Supporting SEECP Parliamentary Dimension</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliamentary conference: "Legal status and Political functions of inter-parliamentary organizations", Sofia 14-15 October 2013. <u>RCC role:</u> representing the region. • The 11th meeting of SEECP Parliamentary Dimension (SEECP PD) Working Group – Bucharest, 16 November 2013. <u>RCC role:</u> exerting strategic leadership.
<p>2. Support parliamentary activities on WB format related to EU acquis.</p>		

ANNEX II

LIST OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE RCC SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE RCC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS IN THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2013

GENERAL

1. Coordination Meeting between the SEECF Troika, the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat and the representatives of the EU – Sarajevo, 1 October 2013 (RCC Secretariat Staff)
2. RCC Board Meeting – Sarajevo, 2 October 2013 (RCC Secretariat Staff)
3. RCC Strategic Planning Workshop – Jahorina, 3 - 4 October 2013 (RCC Secretariat Staff)
4. Conference – In Memoriam – Vojin Dimitrijević, organized by the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights – Belgrade, 5 October 2013 (Secretary General)
5. Meeting with UNDP Delegation – Sarajevo, 8 October 2013 (Secretary General)
6. Participation at the RACVIAC – MAG Meeting – Zagreb, 9 October 2013 (Secretary General)
7. ETF Policy Leaders' Forum" (PLF) – Salzburg, 10 October 2013 (Secretary General)
8. Conference “Connecting Macro-regions - Strengthening Economic and Institutional Cooperation on the Eve of the New Regional Policy of the European Union”- Trieste, 11 October 2013 (Chief of Staff)
9. Political Consultations – Bern, 14 October 2013 (Secretary General, Junior Political Advisor)
10. Political Consultations – Belgrade, 16 October 2013 (Secretary General, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
11. CAS inaugural conference in Rijeka “New Challenges for Democracy: Exploring the Crisis of Trust and Legitimacy in Europe” – Rijeka, 16 - 17 October 2013 (Secretary General, Legal and Political Advisor)
12. Political Consultations – Vilnius, 18 October 2014 (Secretary General, Legal and Political Advisor)
13. Working lunch with Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia to the UN, OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna – Vienna, 22 October 2013 (Secretary General)
14. Consultations with officials from the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia – Zagreb, 25 October 2013 (Secretary General, Legal and Political Advisor)

15. Meeting with WHO Coordinator on SEEHN project – Sarajevo, 31 October 2013 (Secretary General)
16. Coordination meeting CEI-RCC related to the implementation of the Project “Improving Cooperation in South-East Europe by Actions for the Strengthening the Regional Cooperation Council” – Trieste, 8 November 2013 (Chief of Staff, Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation)
17. II General Assembly of the Association of Balkan Chambers – Podgorica, 13 November 2013 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
18. Consultations with officials of the Government of Montenegro – Podgorica, 13 November 2013 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
19. Meeting with the Head of the EU Delegation in Montenegro - Podgorica, 13 November 2013 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
20. Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence Conference “The Fate of Democracy: Global Challenge, Local (Non)Responses” – Belgrade, 14 November 2013 (Secretary General)
21. IPA Multi-beneficiary Coordination meeting - Belgrade, 19 - 20 November 2013 (Secretary General, Head of Expert Pool, Legal and Political Advisor, LO Advisor)
22. Ministerial Conference of The South East Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC) “South East Europe 2020 Strategy–Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective” – Sarajevo, 21 November 2013 (Secretary General, RCC Secretariat Staff)
23. ReSPA Ministerial Meeting – Split, 22 November 2013 (Secretary General)
24. 10th Jubilee Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna, 24 - 25 November 2013 (Secretary General)
25. DPPI Conference – Sarajevo, 28 November 2013 (Secretary General)
26. Political Consultations – Berlin, 29 November 2013 (Secretary General)
27. Conference “Social Impact of the European Crisis on the Western Balkans / Southeastern Europe” - Berlin, 29 November 2013 (Secretary General)
28. Western Balkan Investment Framework Steering Committee meeting – London, 4 December 2013 (Secretary General, LO Advisor)
29. Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in SEE “Regional Cooperation in South East Europe: Freedom and Quality of the Media” – London, 4 December 2013 (Secretary General)
30. Meeting of SEECF Political Directors – Bucharest, 6 December 2013 (Secretary General, Senior Political Advisor)
31. Meeting with Western Balkans Ambassadors of Finland – Sarajevo, 10 December 2013 (Secretary General)

32. Political consultations – Ljubljana, 12 December 2013 (Secretary General, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)

I. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. The SEE2020 Strategy Consultative Workshop – Tirana, 1 October 2013 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Expert on Economic and Social Development, Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation, Spokesperson)
2. EC/IFI Coordination – Social Sector Workshop – Brussels, 17 October 2013 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Expert on Economic and Social Development)
3. Policy dialogue on Jobs Wanted: Youth in Southeast Europe – Vienna, 21 October 2013 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
4. Kick-off conference of the South East Europe Center for Entrepreneurial Learning – Zagreb, 22-23 October 2013 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
5. SEE Health Network Meeting – Sarajevo, 12-13 November 2013 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
6. eSEE meeting – Sarajevo, 14 November 2013 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
7. Meeting with representatives of the ETF, DG Enlargement and OECD – Sarajevo, 25 November 2013 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues and Expert on Economic and Social Development)
8. The 32nd Meeting of the SEE Health Network – Podgorica, 27-28 November 2013 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
9. SEECCEL Steering Committee Meeting – Brussels, 3-4 December 2013 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
10. ERI SEE Regional Conference – Belgrade, 11-12 December 2013 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
11. Meeting with SEECCEL representatives – Zagreb, 12 December 2013 (Project Leader of the SEEIC)

II. ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Second Annual Stakeholder Conference: The Danube Region Transport Days 2013 '*Towards integrated transport system in the Danube Region*' - Belgrade 2-3 October 2013 (Expert on Infrastructure)
2. 5th Oil Forum – Belgrade, 10-11 October 2013 (Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure)

3. “Energy Security as a Security Challenge in Southeast Europe” - Alt Madlitz, 15-18 October 2013 (Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure)
4. TEN – T DAYS 2013 Connecting Europe – Tallin, 16-18 October 2013 (Expert on Infrastructure)
5. International Roundtable on Water and Energy Nexus in transboundary basins in South-eastern Europe – Sarajevo, 6-8 November 2013 (Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure)
6. High-level Dialogue on Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Energy and Energy Efficiency – Belgrade, 12-13 November 2013 (Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure)
7. National stakeholders` meeting on advanced bio-fuels and rural innovation for The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia– Skopje, 20 November 2013 (Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure)
8. SEETO Ministerial Conference – Brussels, 2-3 December 2013 (Expert on Infrastructure)

III. JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

1. ReSPA Launching Event on Comparative Studies on Ethics and Integrity – Sarajevo, 7-8 October 2013 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
2. The 4th South East Europe Workshop on Counter Terrorism “The links between organized crime and terrorism” – Antalya, 4-5 November 2013 (Chief of Staff, Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
3. The fourth Steering Committee meeting of the IPA 2010 regional project “Fight against organized crime and corruption: Strengthening the Prosecutors’ Network” and meetings with representatives of the ECDR, DCAF and PCC SEE Secretariat– Ljubljana, 4 - 6 November 2013 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
4. The 1st Advisory Board meeting of the SEELS – Skopje, 8 November 2013 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
5. Regional Anti-Corruption Conference for SEE countries – Sarajevo, 9-10 December 2013 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
6. EU-Western Balkans Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Forum – Budva, 19 - 20 December 2013 (Secretary General, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)

IV. SECURITY COOPERATION

1. 30th MAG meeting – Zagreb, 9-10 October 2013 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
2. SEEMIC project consultations and installation, training and testing of the PGP system – Chisinau, 15-18 October 2013 (Expert on Security Issues)
3. SEEMIC project consultations and installation, training and testing of the PGP system – Ankara, 13 December 2013 (Expert on Security Issues)

4. 5th SEEMIC Conference – Split, 24-25 September 2013 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
5. 1st Meeting of the Heads of security and defence parliamentary committees from SEE - Split, 24-25 September 2013 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
6. Conference on media in the Western Balkans “Word, Image and Enemy: Role of Media in Securitization Process” – Podgorica, 11 November 2013 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
7. Meetings with representatives of the RACVIAC and participation at the Regional Workshop “Prospects of the Security Architecture in SEE” – Zagreb, 19-22 November 2013 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)

V. BUILDING HUMAN CAPITAL AND PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

1. Parliamentary Seminar: “Legal Status and Political Functions of the Inter-parliamentary Organizations” – Sofia, 13-15 October 2013 (Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation)
2. The Inaugural Meeting of the Ljubljana Process Regional Expert Pool – Podgorica, 21 October 2013 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
3. Ministerial Conference on adoption of the Regional Strategy on Research and Development for Innovation – Zagreb, 23-25 October 2013 (Secretary General, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
4. Preparatory consultations for the 7th TFCS Meeting – Brussels, 7 November 2013 (Senior Expert on Building and Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
5. 11th meeting of the SEECP PD Working Group – Bucharest, 15-17 November 2013 (Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation)
6. 7th RCC Task Force on Culture and Society Meeting – Budva, 19-20 November 2013 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
7. Steering Committee Meeting of the CEI/RCC project – Brussels, 2 December 2013 (Chief of Staff, Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation)
8. Meeting of the Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkans – Zagreb, 11-12 December 2013 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)

VI. COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

1. Covering press aspects of SEE 2020 outreach workshops - Tirana, 1 October 2013 (Spokesperson)
2. Plenary meeting of the Club of Venice – Venice, 14-15 November 2013 (Spokesperson)
3. European Broadcasting Union (EBU) - EU Regional Conference on Public Service Media and Minorities - Novi Sad, 11-12 December 2013 (Spokesperson)

4. Panel debate on findings of the Academy on Media Law in South East Europe: Online media regulation – Where does regulation end and overregulation start? - Belgrade, 13 December 2013 (Secretary General, Spokesperson)
5. 2nd South East Europe Rounds of the Monroe E. Price International Oxford Media Law Moot Court Competition - Belgrade, 14-15 December 2013 (Spokesperson)

LIAISON OFFICE

1. Meeting with a Member of the Cabinet of the Commissioner for Enlargement and ENP – Brussels, 8 October 2013 (Head of LO)
2. Participation in video conference between DG Enlargement, EU Delegations in the Western Balkans and Turkey, NIPA Coordinators and RCC, Sarajevo and Brussels, 8 October 2013 (SG, SEE 2020 Coordinator/ Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, LO Advisor)
3. Farewell meeting with the Head of Regional Cooperation and Programmes Unit of DG Enlargement - Brussels, 8 October 2013 (Head of LO, LO Advisor)
4. Meetings with the CDRSEE Executive Director - Brussels, 9 October 2013 (LO Advisor)
5. Meeting with the CDRSEE Executive Director and Principal Advisor, Civil Society and Media, DG Enlargement - Brussels, 10 October 2013 (LO Advisor)
6. Meeting of the WBIF Task Force on the evolution of the WBIF - Brussels, 11 October 2013 (Head of LO, LO Advisor)
7. Meeting with representatives of the EC in relation of the EC Enlargement Strategy paper - Brussels, 16 October 2013 (Head of LO)
8. Coordination meeting in the EC on the social sector – Brussels, 17 October 2013 (Head of LO, SEE 2020 Coordinator/ Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Expert on Economic and Social Development)
9. Meeting with the Deputy Head of Strategy and Policy Unit of DG Enlargement – Brussels, 21 October 2013 (Chief of Staff, Head of LO)
10. Meeting with the Permanent Chair of COWEB Group - Brussels, 22 October 2013 (Chief of Staff, RCC Head of LO)
11. Meeting with the Head of Section, Regional Cooperation and Programmes Unit of DG Enlargement - Brussels, 22 October 2013 (Chief of Staff, Head of LO, Head of Administration, LO Advisor, Finance Officer)
12. Meeting with a policy officer of the Strategy and Policy Unit of DG Enlargement - Brussels, 23 October 2013 (Head of LO, LO Advisor)
13. Meeting with the Head of Section, Regional Cooperation and Programmes Unit of DG Enlargement - Brussels, 22 October 2013 (LO Advisor)

14. Brussels Danube Network Meeting – Brussels, 25 October 2013 (LO Advisor)
15. Meeting with a Member of the Cabinet of the Commissioner for Enlargement and ENP – Brussels, 5 November 2013 (SG, Head of Expert Pool, Head of LO)
16. Presentation of SEE 2020 to Freja Forum 2013 - Brussels, 5 November 2013 (LO Advisor)
17. Meeting with the Director for Enlargement and the WB in the General Secretariat of the Council - Brussels, 6 November 2013 (SG, Head of Expert Pool, Head of LO)
18. Meeting with EEAS Managing Director for Europe (non-EU) and Central Asia - Brussels, 6 November 2013 (SG, Head of Expert Pool, Head of LO)
19. Meeting with the EC Director General for Enlargement - Brussels, 6 November 2013 (SG, Head of Expert Pool, Head of LO, LO Advisor)
20. Meeting with Deputy Head of IPA Design, Quality and Impact Unit – Brussels, 8 November 2013 (LO Advisor)
21. Participation in the EC – World Bank partnership on employment and social inclusion meeting – Brussels, 14 November 2013 (Head of LO and Advisor)
22. IPA Multi-Beneficiary Programme Coordination Meeting – Belgrade, 19 - 20 November 2013 (SG, Head of Expert Pool, Legal and Political Advisor and LO Advisor)
23. Coordination Meeting ISIS II, JSPA Initiative, RCC – Brussels, 21 November 2013 (LO Advisor)
24. ISIS II Stakeholder Consultation, and wellcoming speech – Brussels, 22 November 2013 (LO Advisor)
25. EC/IFI environment workshop – Brussels, 22 November 2013 (LO Advisor)
26. EPC policy debate: ‘After Croatia – Re-energizing EU enlargement policy on the Balkans’– Brussels, 25 November 2013 (Head of LO, LO Advisor)
27. Briefing by DG Enlargement, WBIF Secretariat and IFI Coordination Office, for the diplomats from the WBIF participating countries – Brussels, 26 November 2013 (LO Advisor)
28. Meeting with the Deputy Head of Regional Cooperation and Programmes Unit of DG Enlargement – Brussels, 27 November 2013 (Head of LO)
29. Meeting with the Deputy Secretary General of EFTA - Brussels, 28 November 2013 (Head of LO, LO Advisor)
30. EPC Briefing with the Greek permanent Representative in the EU on the priorities of the forthcoming Greek Presidency of the Council of the EU - Brussels, 29 November 2013 (Head of LO)

31. IPA II Country Strategy Papers Consultation, DG Enlargement and International Organisations - Brussels, 29 November 2013 (LO Advisor)
32. Friends of Europe's Energy summit - Brussels, 29 November 2013 (Head of LO)
33. CEI Steering committee meeting - Brussels, 2 December 2013 (SG, Chief of Staff, Head of LO, Expert on parliamentary cooperation, LO Advisor)
34. Friends of Europe Western Balkans high-level debate 'Fast Lane, Slow Lane' - Brussels, 3 December 2013 (SG, Chief of Staff, Head of LO, LO Advisor)
35. 9th meeting of the WBIF Steering Committee – London, 4 December 2013 (SG, LO Advisor)
36. Event 'Confronting the Past and Looking Towards the Future', held at the European Parliament (EP) - Brussels, 4 December 2013 (SG, Head of LO)
37. Meeting with the Commissioner for Enlargement and ENP - Brussels, 4 December 2013 (SG, Head of LO, LO Advisor)
38. Meeting with the EC Director General for Enlargement - Brussels, 5 December 2013 (SG, Head of Expert Pool, Head of LO, LO Advisor)
39. Debate with Prime Minister of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, organized by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung – Brussels, 9 December 2013 (Head of LO and LO Advisor)
40. First meeting of the Advisory Group, EC/RCC/World Bank/Western Balkans Countries Partnership on Employment and Social Inclusion – Brussels, 13 December 2013 (Head of LO and LO Advisor)
41. Meeting with the Head of the Europe in the World Programme, European Policy Centre – Brussels, 18 December 2013 (LO Advisor)

ANNEX III

LIST OF PLANNED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE RCC SECRETARIAT IN 2014

Secretary General/ RCC Secretariat Officials

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE WORK PROGRAM
1.	OSCE Permanent Council meeting	OSCE/ Swiss Presidency	16 January 2014	Vienna		
2.	1st Meeting of the Energy Community - High Level Reflection Group	Energy Community	17 January 2014	Vienna		
3.	Meeting of the National Coordinators of the Central European Initiative (CEI)	CEI/ Austrian Presidency	24 January 2014	Vienna		
4.	First preparatory meeting for the 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum	OSCE	27 January 2014	Vienna		
5.	Consultations with high level officials of the MFA of Moldova	MFA of Moldova	3 February 2014	Chisinau		

6.	Meeting of the Ambassadors of the EU Member States and EUFOR Commander	EU Delegation Sarajevo	4 February 2014	Sarajevo		
7.	Workshop on Monitoring Models	CEI	5-6 February 2014	Konjic		
8.	2nd Meeting of the Energy Community - High Level Reflection Group	Energy Community	10 February 2014	Vienna		
9.	Workshop "EU, Russia and Turkey - security trends and challenges in the Balkans"	Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue, Centre for Liberal Strategies, European Council on Foreign Relations and Directorate for Security Policy of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Defense and Sports	13 February 2014	Vienna		
10.	Meeting of the Political Directors of SEECP	Romanian SEECP CiO	17 February 2014	Bucharest		
11.	Informal Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the SEECP Participating States	Romanian SEECP CiO	18 February 2014	Bucharest		

12.	“European Energy Policy – Challenges for Serbia within the EU Accession Process” Conference	Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations, Ministry of Economics and Technology, Delegation of the German Business in Serbia and the SEE Association	20 February 2014	Belgrade		
13.	High Level Regional Conference “Investing in the Western Balkans”	EBRD	24 February 2014	London		
14.	Coordination meeting between the SEECP Troika, the RCC Secretariat and the representatives of the European Union		26 February 2014	Sarajevo		
15.	RCC Board Meeting		27 February 2014	Sarajevo		
16.	Working Group of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension (SEECP PD)	Romanian SEECP CiO	15-16 March 2014	Bucharest		
17.	CEI-RCC Steering Committee Meeting	CEI	17 March 2014	Sarajevo		
18.	Closing Conference of the Project “Improving Cooperation in SEE by Actions for Strengthening the Regional Cooperation Council”	CEI	18 March 2014	Sarajevo		

19.	3rd Meeting of the Energy Community - High Level Reflection Group	Energy Community	19 March 2014	Brussels		
20.	Coordination meeting between the SEECP Troika, the RCC Secretariat and the representatives of the European Union		23 April 2014	Sarajevo		
21.	RCC Board Meeting		24 April 2014	Sarajevo		
22.	Inaugural Session of SEECP Parliamentary Assembly	Romanian SEECP CiO	9-11 May 2014	Bucharest		
23.	Meeting of the Political Directors of SEECP	Romanian SEECP CiO	TBC	Bucharest		
24.	RCC Annual Meeting	RCC/ Romanian SEECP CiO	TBC	Bucharest		
25.	Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the SEECP Participating States	Romanian SEECP CiO	TBC	Bucharest		
26.	Meeting of the Heads of States and Governments of the SEECP	RCC/ Romanian SEECP CiO	TBC	Bucharest		

27.	Coordination meeting between the SEECP Troika, the RCC Secretariat and the representatives of the European Union		14 October 2014	Sarajevo		
28.	RCC Board Meeting		15 October 2014	Sarajevo		

Economic and Social Development

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE WORK PROGRAM
1.	3rd Coordination Board Meeting of the SEE 2020	RCC Secretariat	16 January 2014	Brussels	Agreement on the development of regional action plans and the main features of the SEE 2020 monitoring system	2.1.3 SEE 2020 Strategy implementation
2.	Capacity Building Workshop: Competitiveness And New Industrial Policy	OECD and TEPAV	27 January 2014	Istanbul	Exploring possibilities for a regional approaches to industrial policy	2.1.3 SEE 2020 Strategy implementation (Integrated growth - A. trade and Investment Integration)
3.	Information and Consultation of Social Partners on the South East Europe 2020 Strategy	RCC/Friedrich Ebert Foundation	29 January 2014	Sarajevo	<p>Role and contribution of Social partners in SEE 2020 Strategy</p> <p>Identification of key dimensions of the SEE2020 Strategy for social partners' engagement</p> <p>Discussion on the possibility of establishing a permanent consultative body of social</p>	2.1.3 SEE 2020 Strategy implementation (Inclusive Growth – J. Social Development)

					partners on SEE2020 Strategy	
4.	Women Entrepreneurship Stakeholders Meeting and Best Practices Conference	RCC Secretariat / GTF/SEECEL	3-5 February	Istanbul	Exchange of experiences gathered during the project	2.3.3 Cross-cutting issues – extending participation, widening partnerships (C. Finalize the implementation and ensure sustainability of outcomes from the WE project)
5.	National Workshop on SEE 2020 Action Plans – Albania	RCC Secretariat/ Government of Albania/ OECD	25 February 2014	Tirana	Identifying national short-term priorities in SEE 2020 – National action plans	2.1.3 SEE 2020 Strategy implementation
6.	National Workshop on SEE 2020 Action Plans – The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	RCC Secretariat/ Government of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia/ OECD	27 February 2014	Skopje	Identifying national short-term priorities in SEE 2020 – National action plans	2.1.3 SEE 2020 Strategy implementation
7.	SEEIC - Food and Beverages Expert group Meeting	RCC Secretariat / OECD	4 March 2014	Paris	Identifying the main actors in the regional food processing supply chain(s)	2.1.3 SEE 2020 Strategy implementation (Integrated growth - I. Increased competitiveness)
8.	SEE 2020 Monitoring workshop	OECD	10 March 2014	Paris	Finalizing the grid with quantitative indicators for SEE 2020 monitoring	2.1.3 SEE 2020 Strategy implementation
9.	National Workshop on SEE 2020 Action Plans – Bosnia and Herzegovina	RCC Secretariat/ Government of BiH/ OECD	18 March 2014	Sarajevo	Identifying national short-term priorities in SEE 2020 – National action plans	2.1.3 SEE 2020 Strategy implementation

10.	National Workshop on SEE 2020 Action Plans – Montenegro	RCC Secretariat/ Government of Montenegro/ OECD	20 March 2014	Podgorica	Identifying national short-term priorities in SEE 2020 – National action plans	2.1.3 SEE 2020 Strategy implementation
11.	National Workshop on SEE 2020 Action Plans – Kosovo*	RCC Secretariat/ Government of Kosovo*/ OECD	25 March 2014	Pristina	Identifying national short-term priorities in SEE 2020 – National action plans	2.1.3 SEE 2020 Strategy implementation
12.	SEEIC Working Group on Investment Policy and Promotion Meeting	RCC Secretariat / CEFTA	Tentative / March 2014	TBD	Establish the mechanism for the implementation of the SEE 2020 actions pertaining to Dimension C. Integration into Global Economy	2.1.3 SEE 2020 Strategy implementation (Integrated growth - A. trade and Investment Integration)
13.	Second Conference of the LSEE Research Network on Social Cohesion	LSE European Institute Social Cohesion Research Network/RCC	27-28 March 2014	London	Exclusion and inequality in the labour market Poverty, inequality and social protection Education attainment, exclusion and inequalities of opportunity Health inequalities, health deprivation and health policy Inclusion/exclusion of minorities / Roma Social economy and social enterprise Socio-economic cohesion and the SEE 2020 Strategy Social housing	2.1.3 SEE 2020 Strategy implementation (Inclusive Growth – J. Social Development)

Energy and Infrastructure

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE WORK PROGRAM
1.	4th Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative (SEDRI) Task Force meeting	RCC Secretariat, CEI	TBD	Sarajevo	Integrating the outputs of the Sector Stakeholders` Conference into the SEDRI, further implementation of the SEDRI initiative	9. Contribute to increased use of renewable energy, improved energy efficiency and reduced GHG emissions in the region
2.	2nd meeting of the ``Group of Friends of Energy Community``	RCC Secretariat, ECS	TBD	Vienna	Informing the Parliamentarians on Energy Community Treaty and SEE 2020 strategy implementation and ensuring the inputs for preparation of tailor-made national parliamentary consultations	9. Contribute to increased use of renewable energy, improved energy efficiency and reduced GHG emissions in the region
3.	1st meeting on reduction of GHGs emissions in the region	RCC Secretariat	TBD	Sarajevo	Building upon the target on reduction of GHGs emissions coming from energy sector to be defined under Energy Community framework, the event will discuss necessary actions and schedule in order to reach the overall target for GHGs emission including all relevant sectors contributing to these emissions	9. Contribute to increased use of renewable energy, improved energy efficiency and reduced GHG emissions in the region
4.	1st meeting on increasing the share of irrigated agriculture land	RCC Secretariat	TBD	Sarajevo	Preparation of national action plans, exchange of experience, presenting the best European practice	11. Strengthen regional environmental and climate change cooperation
5.	1st meeting on increasing the volume of annual forestation	RCC Secretariat	TBD	Sarajevo	Preparation of national action plans, exchange of experience, presenting the best European practice	11. Strengthen regional environmental and climate change cooperation

6.	Road Conference	RCC Secretariat/ACE BIH	TBD	Sarajevo	The event will discuss about planning and development of the road transport system, management, construction, maintenance, protection of the environment, road safety, and financing of the transport sector	10. Contribute to the development of sustainable and integrated transport in the region
7.	ISIS Governing Body meeting	RCC Secretariat/ISIS Program Secretariat	TBD	TBD	Give an overview about the assessments conducted in the region with regard to the transposition and implementation of Single European Sky (SES); present the activities with regards to the ISIS II Program	10. Contribute to the development of sustainable and integrated transport in the region
8.	Public-Private Partnership Conference for better economic development in SEE	RCC Secretariat/ACE BIH/University of Sarajevo	TBD	Sarajevo	Present the PPP model that can obtain funds for new investments and economic development for the countries in the SEE in line with the SEE 2020 Strategy	10. Contribute to the development of sustainable and integrated transport in the region
9.	INFO Day	RCC Secretariat/EC	TBD	Sarajevo	Exploring the possibility of organizing an info day where the new EC financial instrument Connecting Europe facility (CEF) will be presented.	10. Contribute to the development of sustainable and integrated transport in the region

Justice and Home Affairs

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE RCC SWP
1.	Meeting of the Steering Group on JHA	RCC Secretariat	1 st half of 2014	TBD	Future work in regional cooperation in the JHA area	Defining the way forward, draft road map on the future work, gap analyses in the cooperation amongst countries in the region/in relation to the EU

2.	Meeting of the Chiefs of police and Chiefs of Prosecutor's Office	PCC / GIZ/ RCC Secretariat	2 nd half of 2014	TBD Sarajevo preferred	Gap analyses in cooperation between police and prosecutors	Strengthen judicial and prosecutorial cooperation in criminal matters, draft the guidelines for cooperation
3.	Meeting of the working group on justice (to be established) / ministerial level (if necessary also expert level for preparation of the ministerial conference)	RCC Secretariat	1 st half of 2014	TBD Sarajevo preferred	Confirmation of the SEE 2020 agenda in the justice field / kick off conference	Declaration on future work in the area in justice in particular for the SEE 2020, discussion on the future of the WB Network for Judicial Cooperation
4.	Consultations with representatives of MoI and MoJ of the RCC participants	RCC Secretariat	Regular activity	Capitals of the RCC participants	JHA RSD and its development SEE2020 Pillar V Monitoring of the JHA activities	Greater coordination of regional cooperation (coordination of drafting and adoption of the Regional Strategy and Action Plan on Justice and Home Affairs). Support activities in the area of migration, asylum and refugees
5.	Conference on fighting High Level Corruption and Proceeds of Crime	MoJ Romania (SEECPC-i-O) RCC Secretariat RAI	April 2014	Bucharest	SEE2020 Pillar V Dimension Anti-Corruption	Greater coordination of regional cooperation in fighting organized crime
6.	SEECPC Justice and Home Affairs Meeting	MoJ Romania (SEECPC-i-O) RCC Secretariat	March 2014	Bucharest	JHA RSD	Coordination of drafting and adoption of the Regional Strategy and Action Plan on Justice and Home Affairs

Security Cooperation

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE RCC SWP
1.	Consultations with Defence establishments and parliamentary specialised committees in 7 SEE countries	RCC Secretariat	July – December 2014	SEE	Security cooperation and RCC SWP implementation	SWP activity
2.	SEDM, SEEC and A5 – one meeting each	SEDM,SEEC,A5	TBD	TBD		Monitoring RI&TF
3.	DPPI Regional meeting	DPPI	TBD	TBD		Monitoring RI&TF
4.	SEENSA 2 WG meetings	RCC Secretariat	TBD	TBD		SWP activity

Building Human Capital and Parliamentary Cooperation

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE RCC SWP
1.	ERI SEE Governing Board	RCC Secretariat, ERI SEE	March 2014 October 2014	Montenegro Serbia		Higher Education Reform
2.	Western Balkans Research and Innovation Strategy Exercise	RCC Secretariat, Croatian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport	March 2014 & II Semester	Split & TBD		Development of Regional Strategy for Research and Development for Innovation for the Western Balkans
3.	Ljubljana Process Conference	RCC Secretariat and TFCS Secretariat	October 2014	TBD		Taking over coordination of Ljubljana process

ANNEX IV

LIST OF OFFICIALS OF THE REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL (RCC) SECRETARIAT

SECRETARY GENERAL

1. Mr. Goran Svilanović

EXPERT POOL

1. Mr. Gazmend Turdiu - Head of Expert Pool
 2. Mr. Sanjin Arifagić, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Head of Economic and Social Development Unit/ SEE 2020 Coordinator
 3. Mr. Miroslav Kukobat- Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Head of Infrastructure and Energy Unit
 4. Ms. Suzana Ivanović- Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Head of Justice and Home Affairs Unit
 5. Mr. Efrem Radev- Senior Expert on Security Cooperation, Head of Security Cooperation Unit
 6. Mr. Mladen Dragašević- Senior Expert on Building Human Capital, Head of Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues Unit
 7. Mr. Sorin Sterie- Expert on Security Issues
 8. Ms. Svetlana Gligorovska - Expert on Infrastructure and Energy (replacement for Ms. Amna Redžepagić who is on maternity leave)
 9. Mr. Predrag Vujičić- Expert on Justice and Home Affairs
 10. Mr. Nand Shani- Expert on Economic and Social Development
 11. Mr. Gjergj Murra - Expert in Parliamentary Cooperation
 12. Ms. Maja Taylor- Assistant to the Head of Expert Pool
 13. Ms. Elvira Ademović- Assistant to the Expert Pool
- **South East Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC) Project**, attached to the Economic and Social Development Unit within Expert Pool
14. Ms. Dragana Đurica, Project Leader
 15. Ms. Nedima Hadžiibrišević, Project Assistant

FRONT OFFICE

1. Mr. Jovan Tegovski - Chief of Staff
2. Ms. Dinka Živalj- Head of Media Unit/ Spokesperson
3. Mr. Erhan Turbedar – Senior Political Advisor
4. Ms. Gordana Demšer – Legal and Political Advisor
5. Mr. Dorin Vremis – Junior Political Advisor
6. Ms. Jasna Fežić- Personal Assistant to the Secretary General
7. Ms. Nataša Mitrović- Assistant to the Front Office
8. Ms. Selma Ahatović- Lihić- Public Affairs Assistant

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

1. Mr. Alexandru Murzac- Head of Administrative Unit
2. Mr. Sead Filipović- Finance Officer
3. Ms. Mirela Mahić- Administrative Officer
4. Mr. Maid Medunjanin- IT Officer
5. Ms. Admira Rastoder - Accountant (replacement for Ms. Alma Gadžić who is on maternity leave)
6. Ms. Dijana Kešelj Novaković - Translator

LIAISON OFFICE IN BRUSSELS

1. Mr. Stanislav Daskalov- Head of LO
2. Ms. Lidija Topić- Advisor

RCC SECRETARIAT'S TECHNICAL AND SERVICE STAFF

1. Mr. Slađan Rikanović - Driver/Security
2. Mr. Fikret Kadić- Driver/ Courier
3. Mr. Denis Sulić- Driver/ Courier
4. Ms. Vanja Vekić- Receptionist

ANNEX V

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABC	Association of Balkan Chambers
ACE	Association of Consulting Engineers of Bosnia and Herzegovina
ACI	Airport Council International Europe
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AEA	Association of the European Airlines
AII	Adriatic-Ionian Initiative
ALAs	Association of Local Authorities
AREC	Adriatic Region Employers' Centre
ATM	Air Traffic Management
BAC	Business Advisory Council
BCSDN	Balkan Civil Society Development Network
BRESCE	UNESCO Venice Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe
bSEE	Task Force Broadband South Eastern Europe Task Force
BfV	Bundesamtes für Verfassungsschutz
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CARICC	Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre
CEB	Council of Europe Development Bank
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement
CeGD	Centre for e-Governance Development
CEI	Central European Initiative
CGRS	Commission for Global Road Safety
C-i-O	Chairmanship-in-Office
CoE	Council of Europe
CoMoCoSEE	Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe
COSAP	Conference of the European Integration Parliamentary Committees of States participating in the Stabilization and Association Process
COWEB	Working Group on Western Balkans of the Council of the EU
CP	Contracting Parties
CPESEEC	Centre of Public Employment Services of Southeast European Countries
CPF	Cetinje Parliamentary Forum
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CTED	Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate
DABLAS	Danube and Black Sea Task Force
DCAF	Democratic Control of Armed Forces
DCHOD	Deputy Chief of Defence
DCP	Danube Cooperation Process
DPPI	Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative
EAS	External Action Service
EASA	European Aviation Safety Agency
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
ECAA	European Common Aviation Area
ECRB	Energy Community Regulatory Board
ECS	Energy Community Secretariat
ECT	Energy Community Treaty
EEAS	European External Action Service
EHEA	European Higher Education Area
EIB	European Investment Bank
ELFA	European Law Faculty Association
ENIC	European Network of Information Centres
EnC	Energy Community
ERF	European Union Road Federation
ERI SEE	Education Reform Initiative for South Eastern Europe
ERSO	European Road Safety Observatory
eSEE Initiative	Electronic South Eastern Europe Initiative
ESENSEE	Eco Social Economy Network South and East Europe

EU	European Union
EUMS	European Union Military Staff
EUSDR	EU Strategy for the Danube Region
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FES	Friedrich Ebert Foundation
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GRECO	Group of States against Corruption
GRSP	Global Road Safety Partnership
GS Council of EU	General Secretariat Council of European Union
GTF	Gender Task Force
HIDAA	High Inspectorate for Declaration and Audit of Assets
ICDT	International Centre for Democratic Transition
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
ICPDR	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IEN	Integrity Expert Network
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IFIAG	International Financial Institution Advisory Group
IFP	Infrastructure Project Facilities
ILECUs	International Enforcement Coordination Units
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOE	International Organization of Employers
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IOs	International Organizations
IPA	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
IRI	Investment Reform Index
IRF	International Road Federation
IRTAD	International Road Traffic and Accident Database
ISIS	Implementation of Single European Sky in South East Europe
ISRBC	International Sava River Basin Commission
ITF	International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation
JPM	Joint Parliamentary Meeting
KOGSEB	Small and Medium – sized Enterprise Development Administration of Turkey
LSE	London School of Economics
MARRI	Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative
MB IPA	Multi-Beneficiary Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
MCAASEES	Marshall Center Alumni Association for Southeast European Security
ME CAA	Montenegrin Civil Aviation Agency
MIDWEB	Migration for Development in the Western Balkans
MIPD	Multi Indicative Planning Document
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MONEYVAL	Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NALAS	Network of Associations of Local Authorities of SEE
NARIC	National Academic Recognition Information Centres
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NI-CO	Northern Ireland Cooperation Overseas
NIPACs	National IPA Coordinators
NOS	NATO Office of Security
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OLAF	European Antifraud Office
OCTA	Organized Crime Threat Assessment for South East Europe
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSINT	Open Source Intelligence
PCC Secretariat	Police Cooperation Convention Secretariat
PE	Private Equity

PFS	Partners for Financial Stability
PHLG	Permanent High Level Group
PIDIN	Partnership for Improvement of Danube Infrastructure and Navigation
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PSO	Peace Support Operations
RACVIAC	Centre for Security Cooperation
RAI	Regional Anticorruption Initiative
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
RCC TF FBHC	RCC Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital
RCI	Regional Competitiveness Initiative
REC	Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe
RENA	Regional Environmental Network for Accession
ReSPA	Regional School of Public Administration
RI&O	Regional Initiatives and Organizations
RI&TFs	Regional Initiatives and Task Forces
RNIPA	Regional Network of Investment Promotion Agencies
RSA	Road Safety Audits
RSD	Regional Strategic Document
RSRDI	Regional Strategy for Research and Development for Innovation in Western Balkans
RSI	Road Safety Inspection
RSPC SEE	Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe
RTD	Research and Technical Development
SAP+	Stabilization and Association Process Plus (cumulation zone with EU, EFTA, Western Balkans and Turkey)
SECE CRIF	South East and Central European Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility
SECI	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative
SECI Centre	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative, Regional Centre for Combating Organized Crime
SEDM	South East Europe Defence Ministerial
SEDRI	Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative
SEE	South East Europe
SEEC	South East Europe Clearing House
SEECIC	South East European Counter-Intelligence Chiefs Forum
SEECCEL	South East Europe Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning
SEECPC	South-East European Cooperation Process
SEE-ERA.NET	South East European – European Research Area Network
SEE-ERA.NET PLUS	South East European – European Research Area Network Plus
SEEFREC	SEE Fire fighting Regional Centre network
SEEHN	SEE Health Network
SEEIC	South East Europe Investment Committee
SEELS	South East European Law School Network
SELEC	Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre
SEEMIC	South East Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs
SEE MoD-GS	South East Europe Ministries of Defence and General Staffs
SEENSA	National Security Authorities of South East Europe Countries
SEE PPP Network	South East Europe Public Private Partnership Network
SEEPAG	Southeast European Prosecutors Advisory Group
SEPCA	Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association
SEESAC	South East Europe Small Arms and Light Weapons Clearing House
SES	Single European Sky
SEETO	South-East Europe Transport Observatory
SIDA	Swedish Development Agency
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
SMEM	Serbian Ministry of Energy and Mining
SPMU	Strategic Police Matters Unit
SSR	Security Sector Reforms
STREW	Structural Reform in Higher Education in Western Balkans Countries
SWG RRD	Standing Working Group on Regional Rural Development
SWP	Strategic Work Programme
SWEROAD	Swedish National Road Consulting

TACSO	Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organizations
TCT	Transport Community Treaty
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport network
TF	Task Force
TFCS	Task Force on Culture and Society
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNCTED	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VC	Venture Capital
WB	World Bank
WBIF	Western Balkans Investment Framework
WBPN	Western Balkans Prosecutor Network
WG	Working Group
WHO	World Health Organization
WINPRO	Witness Protection in the Fight against Serious Crime and Terrorism
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WPON	Women Police Officers Network