

REGIONAL COORDINATION MEETING

Sarajevo, 13 October 2008

AGREED MINUTES

1. The seventh Regional Coordination Meeting was held on 13 October 2008 in Sarajevo at the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (AII), the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), the Central European Initiative (CEI), the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP). The list of participants is hereto attached in Annex I.

The Meeting was chaired by Mr Hido Bišćević, Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council.

2. The participants adopted the Agenda which is hereto attached as Annex II. They exchanged information on projects and scheduled events of 2008/2009. They discussed developments and progress achieved since the last Regional Coordination Meeting hosted on 31 March 2008 by the BSEC PERMIS in Istanbul. The participants reiterated their commitment to fully implement the Istanbul Agreed Minutes.
3. The participants agreed that holding annual coordination meetings would be beneficial for streamlining the respective activities and synergizing efforts of regional organizations and their secretariats. They further examined the ways of harmonizing their respective activities by means of exchanging information on calendars and agendas, elaborating joint projects and activities in the areas of common interest and participating in each other's high-level events. They referred to the Indicative list of modalities for cooperation, adopted at the sixth Regional Coordination Meeting as basis for further coordination and streamlining of efforts and activities.
4. The participants ascertained that there is growing demand coming from participating countries for increased cooperation and coordination between the regions of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe and the Black Sea Area. Since some countries are members of more than one regional organization or initiative, it is necessary to increase not only cooperation among and between secretariats but also internal coordination with national administrations. The aim of such increased interaction is avoiding duplication and overlapping and a more economic use of resources.

5. In view of the above, the participants agreed to:

- Continue with the exchange of agendas of meetings and planned activities with the aim to harmonize events on all levels, including the highest.
- Foresee the participation of the presidency/chairmanship-in-office and secretariats of the regional initiatives encompassed by the regional coordination process at high-level events.
- Continue with the exchange of information and documents of particular importance – final declarations, or similar.
- Update the list of contact points within secretariats and chairmanships-in-office and their coordinates and disseminate it to all the participants of the meeting.
- Task the RCC Secretariat to coordinate cooperation until the next meeting.
- Task the RCC Secretariat to carry out a consultation process among secretariats with a view to identifying areas of common interest and possibilities for concrete cooperation.
- Organize thematic or specialized joint meetings when necessary,

6. The participants agreed that the next Regional Coordination Meeting will be organized by the CEI Executive Secretariat in Trieste in spring 2009.