



***REPORT
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE REGIONAL
COOPERATION COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT***

**BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE REGIONAL
COOPERATION COUNCIL**

**SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF THE REGIONAL
COOPERATION COUNCIL IN LINE WITH
ARTICLE 10 OF THE STATUTE OF THE
REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL**

SARAJEVO, 12 DECEMBER 2008

I. Introduction

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 10 of the Statute of the RCC. It covers the period between 1 October 2008, the closing date for the last report of the Secretary General of the RCC submitted to the RCC Board at its meeting held in Sarajevo on 6 October 2008, and 5 December 2008.

In the reporting period the Secretariat of the RCC continued with its substantial activities on the implementation of its Strategic Work Programme 2008 – 2009 as well as with the implementation of the conclusions of the RCC Board held on 6 October 2008. The secretariat also continued with the activities relating to the outreach campaign in the members from South East Europe, process of networking with RCC National Coordinators from South East Europe, political consultations with RCC members from South East Europe and outside the region, enhanced dialogue with other regional organisations and initiatives and consolidation of the RCC Secretariat.

The official opening of the Brussels Liaison Office took place on 20 October 2008. The reception organized to mark the opening was attended by approximately one hundred officials from the European Commission, including the Member of the European Commission responsible for Enlargement, Olli Rehn, the representatives of the Council of the European Union (EU), European Parliament, diplomatic missions accredited to the EU, RCC members, representatives of media, Brussels based think-thanks and civil society.

A complete list of events attended by the Secretary General of the RCC and the officials of the RCC Secretariat is attached to this Report as Annex I.

II. Political Consultations with RCC members from South East Europe

Political consultations with RCC members from South East Europe continued in the reporting period with meetings in Pristina, Zagreb, Ankara, Chisinau and Tirana. On 1 October 2008, the Secretary General met the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Kosovo (UN SRSG) and the Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Lamberto Zannier as well as Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo, Hajredin Kuqi. The discussions in Pristina revolved around the ways to utilize the RCC capacities in securing economic and social development of Kosovo. Secretary General Bišćević stressed the importance of involvement of Kosovo authorities in regional development projects, in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244. Secretary General of the RCC explained the general principled position of the RCC as a status neutral regional cooperation body with regard to any of the remaining open or controversial issues in Southeast Europe. During the visit, the RCC Secretary General also met with the EU Special Representative in Kosovo, Pieter Feith.

The RCC Secretary General continued the round of political consultations by meeting the Croatian Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Gordan Jandroković, in Zagreb on 7 October 2008. The central themes of the talks were the possibilities of promoting cooperation in Southeast Europe and the expected positive impact of Croatia's conclusion of accession talks with the EU on the European integration prospects of the entire region.

As part of his round of consultations in the region, Secretary General Bišćević visited Ankara on 15 October 2008, where he was received by Ertugrul Apakan, Undersecretary of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two officials agreed that in the changed international environment political leaders of Southeast Europe need to approach open issues with a sense of added urgency, and that they should firmly continue with reforms and strengthen self-responsibility to ensure stabilization and accelerated European integration of the region. The RCC Secretary General also visited the Turkish Chamber of Commerce to discuss stronger involvement of Turkish businessmen in regional economic projects.

On the side of the meeting of the Central European Initiative Meeting of the Heads of Government held on 28 November 2008 in Chisinau, Secretary General held a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, Andrei Stratan. The Republic of Moldova is holding the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEEC) Chairmanship-in-Office at a critical moment of the consolidation and completion of transition of the RCC Secretariat. The fully operational and independent functioning of the RCC Secretariat and the inception of a permanent mechanism of cooperation within the RCC framework focused on development is a joint achievement of the RCC members and the SEEC political umbrella headed by the Moldovan Chairmanship-in-Office.

III. Process of networking among RCC National Coordinators from South East Europe, RCC Secretariat, European Commission and relevant international financial institutions

In keeping with the conclusions of the first meeting with RCC National Coordinators from South East Europe, the RCC Secretariat elaborated a document entitled "Overview of Regional Cooperation Priorities – Level of Harmonization of National Activities and Strategies with the Strategic Work Programme of the RCC 2008 – 2009 as well as with the Multi-beneficiary IPA Programme 2008 Priorities". The document is based on the contributions received from RCC National Coordinators from South East Europe which outlined their national priorities for regional projects within the framework of the RCC. For more clarity, an accompanying grid was also drawn up showing a more graphic presentation of the received documents. Both documents are conceived as a starting point for further discussions and elaboration and shall be considered against the backdrop of the Multi-beneficiary IPA Programme strategy as well as against the priorities of the international financial institutions and bilateral donors.

The second meeting in the format of the RCC National Coordinators from South East Europe was held in Sarajevo on 7 November 2008 in order to discuss the above-mentioned documents as well as further steps in strengthening and consolidating this process. The ultimate goal of the process is the establishment of a networking framework for the elaboration of regional and transnational project-oriented cooperation. Information about this meeting and its results and main conclusions has been circulated to the members of the RCC Board as a separate document.

In order to achieve this goal, the representatives of the RCC members from South East Europe, the representatives of the European Commission and experts of the RCC Secretariat should meet on a regular basis. The purpose of their meetings should be to review and discuss concrete, relevant and targeted projects, proposed by the RCC members from South East Europe, putting focus on the RCC priority areas, priorities of the IPA Multi-Beneficiary Programme and priorities of other potential donors. It was decided to convene the next meeting in this format in the course of February 2009.

IV. Regional presentations of the RCC and its activities in the capitals of the RCC members from South East Europe

The RCC Secretariat successfully carried out a number of presentations in RCC members from South East Europe in order to present its priorities, projects and activities to over 500 representatives of governments, business sector and civil society. It was an important opportunity for networking between the RCC Secretariat and national experts as well as raising public awareness through media coverage of the events. The tour was organised in close cooperation with the RCC members from South East Europe and witnessed intensive interaction of the participants highlighting many ideas and proposals. RCC experts from the five priority areas lead by Jelica Minić, Deputy Secretary General and Head of Expert Pool started the tour on 1 October 2008 with the presentation in Chisinau. Subsequent presentations were held in Sofia on 15 October 2008, Belgrade on 10 November 2008, Podgorica on 12 November 2008, Skopje on 17 November 2008, Zagreb on 24 November 2008, Athens on 26 November 2008 and Ankara on 2 December 2008. It is expected that the tour of presentations will end in January 2009 with the presentation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

V. Cooperation with the EU

As the key interlocutor recognised by the EU for matters relating to regional cooperation in South East Europe, the RCC Secretariat and its officials continued cooperation and working contacts with representatives of the EU institutions.

The RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office has become fully operational in the reporting period and established regular contacts and consultations with representatives of European and Euro-Atlantic institutions, particularly European Commission, Council of the European Union, European Parliament and NATO. Meetings with heads of

diplomatic missions accredited to the EU from the RCC members from South East Europe have also taken place. Building a network of regular contacts and consultations, representatives of the Liaison Office had meetings with the member of the European Commission responsible for Consumer Protection and Transport, with the Deputy Director General for Energy in the European Commission, Director responsible for Regional Programmes in the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission, the Director for Western Balkans in the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission and the Head of Unit for Montenegro and Serbia in the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission.

On 9 and 10 October 2008, the RCC Secretariat hosted the Multi-beneficiary Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) Coordination Meeting. In his introductory remarks, RCC Secretary General stressed that Multi-beneficiary IPA Programme will open up new possibilities and a comparatively new platform for the RCC members from the region to come up with new initiatives and project proposals on a trans-border basis, in particular those related to the most urgent development needs of South East Europe.

On 20 October 2008, on the occasion of the opening of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels, Secretary General Bišćević had a meeting with the Member of the European Commission responsible for Enlargement, Olli Rehn. Commissioner Rehn commended successful and pragmatic approach of the RCC in addressing the priority areas, which enables the countries of South East Europe to work together on development projects in the light of their still evident differences. He also offered support to the establishment of a mechanism of permanent cooperation among the RCC Secretariat, the RCC members from South East Europe, the European Commission and international financial institutions, in preparing and implementing joint multinational regional projects.

On 4 November 2008 Secretary General Bišćević had a working meeting with the Deputy Director General in the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission, Jan Truszczyński. The Secretary General and the Deputy Director General for Enlargement discussed further activities of the RCC in cooperation with the European Commission.

Upon the initiative of the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission, the representative of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels held the briefing for the representatives of the European Commission's delegations in the Western Balkans responsible for justice and home affairs. The briefing was focused on the results and conclusions of the First South East Europe Coordination Conference in the area of Justice and Home Affairs, organized by the RCC Secretariat (Sarajevo, 15-16 September 2008), which gathered all organizations and initiatives active in the field of justice and home affairs in South East Europe.

The RCC Secretary General exchanged, on 4 November 2008, views with the European Parliament Working Group on the Western Balkans on the activities of the RCC as well as on political situation and developments in South East Europe. The meeting of the Working Group on Western Balkans discussed transition process from the Stability Pact

for South Eastern Europe into the RCC and new regional ownership over cooperation in South East Europe and was organized on the initiative of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels.

The practice of briefing the Working Group on Western Balkans (COWEB) of the Council of the EU by representatives of the RCC Secretariat continued also in the reporting period. The Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the Council of the EU and the Deputy Head of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels briefed the COWEB on 23 October 2008 and presented the most important current RCC activities and future plans, underlining the need for making visible results in the context of the regional cooperation and the EU integration process in the period ahead.

During the reporting period, the activities of the Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for relational with the Presidency of the Council of the EU focused on further development of the working contacts with the EU Troika officials in Brussels and in their respective capitals, with the representatives of the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU and others. He held consultations with the officials in Paris and Stockholm and exchanged views on the concrete ways for cooperation between RCC and the EU Presidencies.

The EU Presidencies officials and other partners have expressed positive assessment for the RCC Secretariat's working activities and its engagement in the past several months and have confirmed their full support for its future work directed towards fulfilling its regional cooperation and regional ownership priorities and goals.

The incoming Czech and Swedish EU Presidencies have confirmed that the region of South East Europe and, particularly Western Balkans, shall be among the priority agenda items during their terms-in-office and that they will make substantial efforts for supporting the concrete regional cooperation projects and for opening avenues for accelerating the EU integration process, despite the serious internal and external challenges next year.

VI. Political Consultations with members of the RCC outside of South East Europe

The RCC Secretary General continued the process of engaging the partners from outside South East Europe in sustained dialogue on the modalities of regional cooperation in South East Europe aimed at ensuring its stability, economic and social development and the overarching goal of European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

Consultations with the Minister of State in the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Gernot Erler, took place on 10 October 2008 in Berlin. The two officials exchanged views on the situation in South East Europe and underlined the importance of regional cooperation in the context of EU and Euro-Atlantic integration processes. They agreed on

the importance of strengthening mechanisms of cooperation between the RCC and the European Union institutions.

On 20 October 2008, the Secretary General met NATO Deputy Secretary General Claudio Bisogniero. The RCC Secretary General and the NATO Deputy Secretary General exchanged views on the general situation in South East Europe, with more focus on the security issues in the Western Balkans. Secretary General Bišćević informed Ambassador Bisogniero about RCC projects aimed at strengthening security and reducing risks in disaster prevention and protection, including setting up a regional firefighting centre and working on a regional insurance facility for natural disasters.

On 11 November 2008 Secretary General Bišćević held consultations with the officials of the Ministry of European and International Affairs of Austria. The Secretary General and the Austrian officials exchanged views on the overall situation and developments in the Western Balkans. The Austrian side assessed positively the development of cooperation within the RCC framework as well as the work of the Secretariat.

On 11 November 2008, Secretary General Bišćević also met Ambassador Herbert Salber, Director of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Conflict Prevention Centre. Ambassador Salber stressed that OSCE assesses very positively activities of the RCC and its Secretariat and looks for further strengthening of partnership between the two organizations. The OSCE considers the RCC activities in the field of justice and home affairs to be of particular importance for the region. In the framework of cooperation of the two organisations, the RCC Secretary General participated in the 16th meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Helsinki on 4 and 5 December 2008.

On 18 November 2008, Secretary General Bišćević met in London with the officials of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom officials stressed full political support that the United Kingdom had provided for and would continue to provide to the RCC and its activities. Although not in a position to become a member of the RCC Board, the United Kingdom remains ready to provide financial contributions to possible specific projects within the RCC framework in the areas of rule of law and security.

On 20 November 2008, the Secretary General met in Dublin with the officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland. With regard to the European integration, the Irish side stressed that the results of the referendum on the Lisbon Treaty did not influence the firm support of Ireland for the continuation of the EU enlargement. Ireland will continue to advocate the realization of the European perspective for the Western Balkans in all relevant EU forums.

On 19 November 2008, the RCC Secretary General met in London with Horst Reichenbach, Vice-President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Vice-President responded positively to the issue of EBRD's involvement in the networking process among the RCC Secretariat, RCC members from South East Europe, the European Commission and relevant international financial institutions, confirming

that EBRD stood ready to participate in the regular coordination meetings in the networking framework. He also stressed that the Western Balkans would remain a key priority of the EBRD's activities in the coming period. The EBRD Vice-President informed the Secretary General about the ongoing consultations in Brussels among the main stakeholders (European Commission, European Investment Bank (EIB), EBRD, Council of Europe Development Bank) on the new infrastructure facility, which will be available for the countries of South East Europe.

VII. Cooperation with other regional organisations and initiatives

Within the framework of cooperation with other regional organisations and initiatives, the RCC Secretariat hosted the Regional Coordination Meeting on 13 October 2008. Representatives of secretariats and chairmanships-in-office or presidencies of the Adriatic Ionian Initiative (AII), Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), Central European Initiative (CEI), RCC and the SEECP got together in Sarajevo in order to discuss further modalities of cooperation. 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 agreed to continue with the exchange of agendas of planned activities as well as with information and documents, organise thematic meetings when necessary and foresee participation in each other's events.

On 5 November 2008, the RCC Secretariat received a visit of a delegation of the CEI Executive Secretariat (CEI-ES) headed by Ambassador Pietro Ercole Ago, Secretary General of the CEI-ES. It was an opportunity for the two delegations to consider activities and projects that could be carried out jointly in order to maximise their efficiency and visibility. On this occasion the CEI-ES delegation handed a proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding between the RCC Secretariat and the CEI. Meetings of experts from both secretariats will be set up with the aim to further discuss concrete cooperation and a list of projects for joint cooperation drawn up by both organisations for consideration and prioritisation.

In line with the discussions and results of the above meetings, the Secretary General participated at the CEI Summit of Heads of Government organised under the Moldovan CEI Presidency in Chisinau on 28 November 2008. He stressed the importance of closer cooperation between Central and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe as an important impetus for EU enlargement.

VIII. Other activities of the RCC Secretary General

Alongside the above mentioned activities, the RCC Secretary General participated in a number of conferences and similar events where he presented the mission and activities of the RCC. He moderated the plenary session of Crans Montana Forum in Sarajevo on 8 October 2008. He participated in a conference entitled "Kosovo – 120 Days after the

Constitution's Adoption” in Berlin on 10 October 2008, the Southeast European airlines’ meeting in Dubrovnik on 23 October 2008 and in the European Energy Forum, held in Prague on 23 and 24 October 2008.

In November 2008, among other events, the Secretary General participated in the Vienna Economic Forum on 10 and 11 November 2008 and the Balkan Economic Summit in Istanbul on 25 and 26 November 2008.

IX. Financial Sub-Committee of the RCC Board

In the framework of the consolidation of the work of the RCC Secretariat and elaboration of its financial procedures, the first meeting of the Financial Sub-Committee of the RCC Board was held in Sarajevo on 10 November 2008. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the draft Financial Management Manual of the RCC Secretariat with a view to formulating a recommendation to the RCC Board as to its adoption. The participants of the meeting were also informed on the preparation of the Draft Budget for the RCC Secretariat activities for the year 2009. The participants formulated preliminary guidelines on the procedures concerning the elaboration of subsequent budgets. The Financial Sub-Committee formally recommended the adoption of the draft Financial Management Manual to the RCC Board.

The Draft Budget of the RCC Secretariat for 2009 was submitted for the preliminary examination and consideration to the Financial Sub-Committee on 26 November 2008, with request for submission of comments until 10 December 2008. Following the receipt of comments the RCC Secretariat shall prepare the final Draft Budget to be submitted to the Financial Sub-Committee for recommendation regarding its formal adoption by the RCC Board.

X. Priority Areas of the RCC Activities

I. Economic and Social Development

Working in close collaboration with the OECD, the RCC Secretariat organized on 10 October 2008 launch of the OECD’s new study “Defining and Strengthening Sector Specific Sources of Competitiveness in the Western Balkans” at RCC premises. The study, whose launch received good media coverage, comprises the first phase of the European Commission-funded/OECD implemented Regional Competitiveness project. The RCC Secretariat’s support to further project development and implementation will be discussed with the OECD in January 2009.

In the month of October 2008, the representatives of the RCC Secretariat actively participated in the first Regional Economic Forum of Parties to CEFTA. The RCC Secretariat’s proposals for enhanced regional cooperation – a number of which pertained

to trade – constituted well over half of the conclusions of the Forum, which subsequently identified the RCC as one of its most significant contributors. Forum conclusions are to be sent to 900 addresses of the institutions and organizations operating in the parties to CEFTA, including those directly responsible for regional cooperation.

The RCC Secretariat has also been acquainted with UN ECE's project concept aimed at strengthening public private partnership (PPP) capacities in the region. The RCC Secretariat has since presented the concept note at the October 2008 meeting of the Business Advisory Council (BAC) in Istanbul, in order to explore the views of influential members of the private sector in this regard. The RCC Secretariat plans to organize a stakeholder meeting in the near future in order to determine the way forward. The matter will also be discussed in greater detail with countries of the region that have expressed an interest in hosting a regional PPP center of excellence.

The RCC Secretariat recognizes the need for the RCC members from the region to improve their statistical indicators. Gender statistics, short-term statistical indicators and macro modeling have emerged as potential areas of involvement. The RCC Secretariat is currently taking stock of the current state of affairs regarding these statistics in the RCC members from the region.

Working in close collaboration with the UNDP, the RCC Secretariat organized the last annual meeting of the Electronic South East Europe Initiative (eSEE) at the RCC Secretariat's premises in Sarajevo on 27-28 October 2008. The meeting was held in conjunction with that of the Programme Advisory Committee of the newly established Centre for eGovernance Development (CeGD), and the preparatory meeting of the UNDP's new eGovernance program, eLEAD. It was an opportunity for participants to report on the latest accomplishments concerning the implementation of the eSEE Agenda Plus as well as for CeGD to solicit the inputs of beneficiary governments concerning its Annual Work Program.

In early December 2008, the RCC Secretariat's representatives participated in the Supervisory Board meeting of CeGD where it gave substantive contributions to the Center's operational procedures, strategic program, and annual work plan.

The RCC Secretariat is aiming to promote the implementation of the recommendations arising from the ILO executed Country Reviews of Employment Policy (CREPS) which were done for most of South East Europe in 2007. The RCC Secretariat has agreed with the ILO and the Council of Europe - the organizations that have supported this process – as well as the South East Europe Employment and Social Policy Network, to cooperate on the elaboration of a follow-up work plan. A draft questionnaire examining participants' areas of interest has been prepared by the RCC Secretariat but will require additional elaboration and refinement with the assistance of the ILO and Council of Europe.

Having consulted with the South East Europe Trade Union Forum, the representatives of the RCC Secretariat visited the newly established Adriatic Region Employer's Center and

the Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia in Zagreb in late November 2008 in order to learn more about their work and encourage cooperation between the trade unions and employers' organizations in the region. Discussion revolved around possible cooperation in the development of human capital, migration, and the EU accession processes.

On the eve of the 20th meeting of the South East Europe Health Network taking place in Podgorica at the end of November 2008, the RCC Secretary General expressed written support to the signing by all participants from the region of the Memorandum of Understanding on the future of the South East Europe Health Network which would, in effect, pave the way for the network's regional ownership through the establishment of a responsible secretariat in one of the RCC members from South East Europe. The RCC Secretariat also discussed further means of support to the Network with the responsible WHO counterpart and is considering appropriate means of the RCC involvement in the evaluation of expressions of interest once the call for proposals for the secretariat's location has been issued. The RCC Secretariat used the opportunity of the Network's 20th meeting to explore further means of RCC support, particularly in light of the need to transform existing projects into sustainable long-term programs.

II. Energy and Infrastructure

During the reporting period, the activities of the RCC Secretariat focused on cooperation with the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC). This cooperation primarily related to the preparation and the realization of The First Thematic Ministerial Conference ``Combating Climate Change in South East Europe`` within the agreed framework program Roadmap for Environmental Cooperation in South East Europe. In addition to this event, inside the previously mentioned framework program, three thematic high level events will be quarterly co-organized and hosted by the RCC Secretariat, namely: Natura 2000 in South East Europe, Multilateral cooperation on environmental issues through Multilateral Environmental Agreements in South East Europe and Priority environmental infrastructure investments in South East Europe. RCC Secretariat hosted and contributed to positive output of the Preparatory Expert Meeting that preceded the Ministerial Conference as well as of the Ministerial Conference that resulted with the adoption by the Ministers responsible for Environment of the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, of the Joint Ministerial Statement and Climate Change Framework Action Plan for Adaptation.

Taking into account EU policy towards the inland waterways development and SEETO future plans to increase the role of this transport mode, the RCC Secretariat met Sava Commission and World Bank representatives in order to support the complete realization of Detailed Design for Sava River Waterway. Participation in the Sava Commission Workshop on Environmentally Sustainable Management and Maintenance of the Inland Waterways was a part of the overall RCC Secretariat's activities to give more importance

to inland waterways as the economically effective and environmentally friendly mode of transport.

The RCC Secretariat also contributed to various regional meetings and events presenting the RCC Strategic Work Programme 2008-2009 and position concerning the future regional priorities (UN ECE ``Energy Week``, Priority Environmental Investment Programme (PEIP) Regional Meeting for Senior Officials from South East Europe and Donors). Meetings with the UN ECE representatives were used for additional consultations in relation to RCC Secretariat's intention to organize events in the area of transport and transboundary water cooperation. Due to multidisciplinary character of the previous mentioned areas, other relevant stakeholders will be included in preparation and realization of these events alongside the active participation of the European Commission.

Taking into account huge infrastructure investment needs in the region, particularly in relation to the power sector and necessity to speed up decision making process concerning new electricity investment, the RCC Secretariat took part in the Energy Community Investment Conference. RCC Secretariat participated in some other official events organized by the Energy Community Secretariat. These events included meetings of Energy Community institutions (Energy Community Gas Forum, Energy Community Electricity Forum, Permanent High level Group and Ministerial Council).

As a follow up of the Staff-to-Staff meeting with the UN ECE experts held in the beginning of June 2008, concrete cooperation on the preparation of the energy efficiency project proposal started with the representatives of the UN ECE EE21 Project, NALAS, FEDRE and RENEUER . The RCC Secretariat invited the Energy Community Secretariat to joint in this endeavor considering that Energy Community Secretariat should have the leading role in the project proposal development and further implementation.

The representatives of the RCC Secretariat participated in the workshop under title Local Sustainability and Actions in South East Europe. This was part of the overall efforts to enhance cooperation with the local authorities and civil society actors in the areas of infrastructure and energy considering that the ``bottom – up`` approach provided through this cooperation is extremely relevant to complement efforts on higher levels. Participating in the above mentioned workshop, the RCC Secretariat's representatives presented the organization and discussed possible areas of cooperation with other participants.

The RCC Secretariat approached to all its key partners with the ideas on cooperation asking for their opinion and reaction on proposed areas of cooperation. In that respect, some additional consultations with the REC and CEI have been already agreed.

III. Justice and Home Affairs

During the reporting period the RCC Secretariat continued to work, based on the RCC Strategic Work Programme 2008-2009, on the establishment of a structured regional cooperation mechanism, a system of direct, quick and constant circulation of information able to coordinate and integrate EU, regional and national partners' needs of cooperation.

The RCC Secretariat was actively pursuing actions to streamlining and raising the visibility, of the relevant regional initiatives active in the justice and home affairs area, enhancing their contribution to the performance on judicial cooperation.

Issues of particular importance and core priorities for European integration and Euro-Atlantic accession have been addressed by the EU – Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs, organized from 6-7 November 2008 in Zagreb. The ministerial meeting enabled regional cooperation to be enhanced particularly on migration and asylum, visa facilitation and liberalization, integrated border management, fight against trafficking of human beings and fire arms, anti-corruption, justice system issues as financial investigation and confiscation of the proceeds of crime. EU Presidency stressed the important role RCC Secretariat played in facilitating the implementation of international and regional legal framework on police, law enforcement and judicial cooperation, streamlining of regional organizations, and harmonization of national legislations in the field of criminal law with the EU norms and standards. At the margins of the Forum, relations between two parallel prosecutors' networks SEEPAG from South East Europe and PROSECO in Western Balkans has been addressed and the possibility of a first contact meeting between the two structures at the beginning of 2009, has been convened.

During the Meeting of the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs of the SEECF Participating States held on 31 October 2008 in Chisinau, the Ministers of Justice signed the Memorandum on Legal and Judicial Guarantees against Unlawful Processing of Personal Data, and the Ministers of Home Affairs signed the Common Declaration regarding the Strengthening of Cooperation in Combating Cybercrimes. RCC Secretariat has the task to implement both ministerial decisions.

The 29th Session of the Joint Cooperation Committee of the South East Cooperative Initiative – Regional Centre for Combating Trans-border Crime (SECI Centre) held on 11-12 November 2008 in Istanbul addressed the main issues related to the Center's activities: progress regarding SECI Centre's cooperation with EUROPOL; SECI Center's intention to strengthen the cooperation with OLAF, as well as with WCO and Interpol (Interpol Assembly in St. Petersburg discussed possible ways for SECI Center to use mechanisms of police cooperation such as I/24/7); SELEC Working Group has progressed in the negotiation of the new Convention; preparation of the Organized Crime Threat Assessment for South East European Region (OCTA SEE); editing the Regional Bulletin on Anti-Terrorism issues; establishment of a new task force on environmental issues at the proposal of Hungary.

The RCC Secretariat and SECI Centre have initiated discussions to formalize the cooperation and coordination between the two parties and to consolidate the bilateral relationship in the above mentioned areas considered of great importance for regional cooperation in combating organized crime.

RCC Secretariat favours the transformation of SEEPAG (South Eastern Europe Prosecutors' Advisory Group) in a more effective and efficient network of experienced prosecutors, able to provide real operational support, legal assistance, advice and guidance to SECI Centre's liaisons officers in the investigation of trans-border organized crime. The representatives of the RCC Secretariat stressed these issues during the 13th SEEPAG Meeting on "Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling People" held on 20-21 November 2008 in Tirana. A sensitive aspect that must be address also at the regional level is the establishment of an effective, functional and reliable witness protection system.

To avoid overlapping, duplication and fragmentation at regional level, the RCC Secretariat, with the SECI Centre and the Council of Europe's assistance, will facilitate SEEPAG and PROSECO (Prosecutors' Network in South-eastern Europe) to develop contacts and to initiate regional coordination.

With respect to the fight against corruption, the RCC Secretariat and the Regional Anticorruption Initiative (RAI) increased their common engagement on prevention and counteracting corruption.

At the RAI Steering Group Meeting held on 30-31 October 2008 in Chisinau, the senior representatives appointed by the governments noted that all the countries ratified the UN Convention on fighting corruption and some of them already implemented into national legislation its provisions. RAI Steering Group approved two projects for 2009: Anti-corruption Consultancy and Justice Integrity and High Level Corruption Survey – with the RCC Secretariat and the United States State Department partnership.

Corruption related to public and private sector has been addressed, during the South East Europe Regional Conference 'Suppression of Corruption in Public Procurement Systems' held on 12-13 November 2008 in Cavtat; OLAF, OECD, SIGMA, RAI and the RCC Secretariat's experts together with national representatives focused on the tools to detect and investigate corruption in public procurement, especially 'red flags' as a new instrument taken from the practice of international organizations and investment banks.

Addressed to revenue and law enforcement officers on risk management, investigation and prosecution of cross-border VAT fraud, South East Europe Workshop 'Challenges of Preventing and Prosecuting VAT Fraud in the Enlarging EU Market' held from 27-28 November 2008 in Sofia and organized by OLAF under EC Hercules II Program, reviewed prevention and risk management instruments, exchanged knowledge, lessons learned and experience on successful policies and investigation tools.

The RCC Secretariat continues to assist RAI in taking measures ensuring: sustainability, achievement of practical results, fostering the impact following the dissemination of anti-corruption best practice and lessons learned and identifying new priorities, as combating high level corruption more efficiently.

The RCC Secretariat continued to assist Migration, Asylum and Refugee Regional Initiative (MARRI) and both agreed on the fact that MARRI Center's level of expertise and specialization should increase, EU standards have to be carefully observed and the projects ideas to receive support from the RCC. Regarding this aspect, RCC advocates MARRI in achieving compliance with the IPA Multi-beneficiary Project "Promotion of Circular Migration in the Western Balkans". MARRI Regional Centre has to enhance its capacities to work closer with the European Commission, assisted by the RCC Secretariat and to complement the EU efforts towards the visa facilitation process and furthermore to have the visa liberalisation.

The RCC Secretariat actively supported the implementation of the Police Cooperation Convention (PCC) through projects and actions initiated by SEPCA and the new established regional cooperation structure, DCAF-PCC Secretariat, located in Ljubljana. SEPCA Sub-Board on Harmonization of Legislation, chaired by Romania, held its 1st meeting in Bucharest on 15 –17 October 2008 with RCC and PCC Secretariats' participation; the main target was to discuss the best practices in PCC implementation. Also SEPCA's Sub-board on Harmonisation Legislation concluded on the necessity of building police managers' awareness on international law provisions.

The RCC Secretariat together with the Austrian Ministry of Interior and its partners, Slovenia and Romania, commenced on 16 October 2008 in Bucharest preparations for implementation of the EC CARDS Regional Programmes 2005 on justice and home affairs, regarding the establishment of the International Law Enforcement Coordination Units – National Focal Points (ILECUs). ILECUs Project worth two million EUR, started on 1 September 2008, has duration of 24 month and involved six Western Balkans countries as beneficiaries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

To secure the continuation of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe's initiative I-24\7 Main Border Checking Point Project, Interpol organized on 25 November 2008, in Lyon, France a donor's meeting with the participation of the RCC Secretariat's representatives. For the implementation of the project's second phase the participants at the meeting requested the RCC Secretariat to provide further support and to build awareness in the ministries and parliaments of the beneficiary countries, and that the World Bank and Association of European Insurance Companies should be approached.

IV. Security Cooperation

Having accomplished the smooth transition from the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe in respect of the functioning task forces and initiatives - Disaster Prevention and

Preparedness Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE) and South Eastern and Eastern European Clearing House for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), focus was diverted in strengthening regional ownership of these initiatives. Meetings and discussions with national representatives on how regional ownership in different activities and initiatives can be achieved and the regional outreach streamlined and made more visible – process that will spread over a longer period of time.

Mutually acceptable and beneficial dialog was established and further developed with the major stakeholders in the regional defense and security cooperation, in particular with South East European Defense Ministerial (SEDM), DCAF, NATO, OSCE and others. RCC Secretariat's efforts focused on avoiding possible duplication of activities were well accepted and supported by all regional countries. Specific proposals were made to SEEDM CC for cooperation in Disaster management, defense industry conversion project development and SEEBRIG involvement in disaster relief operations in South East Europe.

The RCC Secretariat is offering full assistance to RACVIAC for its successful ongoing transformation in Center for Security Cooperation with a new structure and legal status adapted to regional countries requirements and building its fully regional ownership concept in the framework of SEECP-RCC.

The RCC Secretariat concentrated on increasing cooperation with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the European Commission's Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative. Active support was given to the DPPI SEE Chair-in-Office in preparing Strategy and Action Plan, as well as in addressing legal and administrative issues for the DPPI SEE Secretariat. SEECP Ministerial Conference, in April 2008, agreed that DPPI SEE will remain the coordinating body of the activities in an effort to contribute to the development of a cohesive regional strategy for disaster preparedness and prevention. The RCC Secretariat actively worked with the DPPI SEE Chair-in-Office and the DPPI SEE Secretariat on the establishment of legal framework concerning institutional relations between the RCC Secretariat and the DPPI SEE, with a view to signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions. Specific project proposal were offered to the United States administration for funding and were well accepted.

In cooperation with the World Bank and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), the RCC Secretariat has been facilitating the creation of the Southeastern Europe Catastrophe Insurance Facility (SEE-CRIF). Together with the World Bank and the UN/ISDR, the RCC Secretariat organized a Regional Conference on the SECE-CRIF in Zurich on 21 and 22 October 2008. More than fifty participants from South East Europe took part representing the Prime Ministers' offices, ministries of finance and ministries of foreign affairs and other institutions. Countries' representatives demonstrated particular interest in the initiative. The RCC Secretariat took the lead in this initiative and the follow-up letters to the Prime Ministers of the South East European countries were sent at the beginning of December 2008. It is expected that by the end of March – April 2009 the SECE-CRIF will be established.

A project on establishing a South Eastern Europe Firefighting Regional Center (SEEFREC) was developed in coordination with the DPPI SEE and submitted to the World Bank for consideration. Contacts with the President of the European Union Fire Officer Association was established and future professional, expert and capacity build up for SEEFRIG agreed upon.

A new agreement between the RCC Secretariat and the UNDP extending SEESAC's activities and transforming them to community violence prevention conceptual approach was signed. Full support was given to SEESAC for its application for the EU funding and the RCC Secretariat in cooperation with UNDP will further support the project implementation and fundraising.

Working contacts were established with the Head of Security Department of ASCE in South East Europe and the NATO Command in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Country visits continued and bilateral working relations established with relevant representatives of national institutions. In cooperation with the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary cooperation, the World Bank, non-governmental sector and the RCC members from South East Europe joint initiatives are under development. Extensive discussions with relevant actors were held in relation to following areas - Security Experts in Parliamentarian Staff and Defense establishments Working Groups, Proliferation of weapons and its influence on regional security cooperation; Regional forum of civilian experts working in security establishments; Women serving in the armed forces – establishment of national representative associations and organizing a regional forum; Heads of Military Intelligence regional conference on security cooperation and addressing challenges of common concern..

V. Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues

In the field of Building Human Capital the RCC Secretariat contributed in preparation of the Draft Programme for the Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA), from the aspect of enabling professional training for the national civil servants, in accordance with common priorities in the South East Europe region.

The RCC Secretariat has been involved in promoting the project idea on establishment of Regional Research Strategy, which has been endorsed by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The project has been presented at the Multi-Beneficiary IPA Programme Coordination Meeting, which took place at the RCC Secretariat premises, 9-10 October 2008.

RCC Secretariat exchanged views with relevant partners on the modalities to provide assistance to the Moldovan Chairmanship- in-Office of the SEECP, regarding their intention to organize Building Human Capital Event in Chisinau, in March 2009.

At the International Conference „Role of National Science Academies in the 21st Century“, held in Podgorica from 9 – 13 October 2008, the representative of the RCC Secretariat participated in lively discussion on the crucial role of the National Academies in attaining high intellectual achievements and capacity building for excellence. Speakers at the conference also pointed at the youth education as the precondition for European knowledge society and exchanged ideas on the best strategies for the future development of Academies of Science.

Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Conference Fostering and Building Human Capital for Sustainable Knowledge Societies of the South East Europe, which was held in Vienna on 16 October 2008 focused on the preparations of the International conference, which will be organized by the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital in Bucharest on 6-7 March 2009. Task Force Chairmanship presented the envisaged agenda of the Conference, which includes the plenary session and four thematic working groups. The representative of the RCC Secretariat exchanged ideas with the participants on the form and thematic design of the agreed contribution to regional development, innovation in view of enhancing efficiency and equity in human capital development, fostering human capital for labour market needs and competitiveness and human capital contribution to sustainable development.

The RCC Secretariat took part in the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital Mobility Programme for Capacity-Building in Regional Cooperation Management. First participant in this program visited the RCC Secretariat in the period 2-9 November 2008. The RCC Secretariat organised a programme for the visiting expert, which included meetings with the representatives of relevant national institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, meetings with the RCC Secretariat's officials, as well as practical work within the competences of the Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues Unit of the RCC Secretariat. The programme provided specific training to the middle-level civil servant, which enabled her further insight in managing regional activities and programmes in the field of education, science and research, and has been beneficial for broadening experts' network.

The RCC Secretariat's representative took part at the experts meeting on Ethnic Groups and Social Inclusion in Education and Training in the Western Balkans countries, which was held in Torino, 13 – 14 November 2008. The meeting brought together all IPA partners country national stakeholders, the representatives of international organizations active in the area and the representatives of the European Commission. Participants presented the main achievements and future plans concerning social inclusion of ethnic groups in education and training in the IPA beneficiaries and discussed developments in the areas of knowledge and expertise on policy main streaming, access, equity, effectiveness and efficiency of education and training policies for ethnic groups.

For the parliamentary cooperation as an over-arching theme, several events were being planned during the reporting period. Excellent cooperation continued with the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in Sofia. Two events were successfully completed in October and November 2008 in co-organization with the European

Parliament and the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation aimed at tackling the challenging issues of harmonization of legislation with the EU *acquis communautaire*. The first Regional workshop out of a series of two on the latter topic took place in Sofia on 1 and 2 October 2008 at the level of the members of parliaments of SEECP Participating States and the Members of the European Parliament. As a final result of this meeting adopted conclusion came out stressing the importance of the regional dimension and regional projects and the vital role of RCC in these endeavors. The follow-up seminar on the level of experts on the same topic has been also successfully achieved on 10-11 November 2008 at the premises of the European Parliament whereby the experts from parliaments from South East Europe had a chance to exchange their experiences on the procedures and the challenges of harmonization of their respective legislations with the EU *acquis communautaire*. In this seminar the RCC Secretariat's representative and the representative of the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation also presented their joint planned activities for the remainder of the year and the beginning of next year.

A Regional Workshop Strengthening of the institutional framework of the Parliamentary Cooperation in South Eastern Europe was organized by the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on 30 and 31 October 2008 in Chisinau. Close communication was maintained with regards to the outcomes of the workshop which mark a significant development in the institutionalization of regional parliamentary cooperation in giving a necessary added value and a chance to give parliaments from South East Europe a stronger voice. In this workshop several key proposals were made to the presidents of SEECP Participating States' parliaments for their next meeting in Chisinau in February 2009. The most significant in this area depict guidelines of proceedings of the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe and the creation of an interparliamentary working group/committee of the members of parliaments (appointment by the respective parliaments, acting as responsible "focal points" for regional parliamentary cooperation).

Furthermore, consultations with the Regional Secretariat and other stakeholders are continuing on the development of the working calendar for year 2009 with regard to the topics of parliamentary seminars and conferences organized for the next year.

XI. Setting up of the RCC Secretariat

The reporting period was marked by the finalization of the process of recruitment of the officials of the RCC Secretariat. Legal Advisor, appointed at the end of September 2008, commenced with the work in the RCC Secretariat as of 3 November 2008, while the decision on the appointment of the Assistant to the Head of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels is about to be made in the coming days before the end of December 2008.

The public announcement of still vacant post of the Expert on Infrastructure in the RCC Secretariat has been published on 10 November 2008 and has also been forwarded to the RCC National Coordinators from South East Europe for possible further wider dissemination. The applications process is open until 19 December 2008 and the short-listed candidates will be notified until 23 January 2009. The completion of the employment procedure for this will mark the end of the overall recruitment process of the officials of the RCC Secretariat.

As per technical and service staff, the position of the Receptionist has been readvertised in mid-November 2008 due to the expiration of contract with the person previously employed at the post. The decision on the employment of new Receptionist is expected to be made in mid-December 2008 following the finalization of the recruitment procedure. The RCC Secretariat currently comprises of a total of 35 staff members, out of which 31 RCC Secretariat's officials and four members of technical and service staff (public affairs assistant, driver/security officer, two drivers/couriers). A complete list of the RCC Secretariat's staff is appended in Annex II to the report.

Following the signing of the Headquarters Agreement between the RCC Secretariat and the the Kingdom of Belgium concerning the status of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels on 29 August 2008 in Brussels the activities have been carried out related to the registration of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels with the authorities of the Kingdom of Belgium and settling of necessary legal and logistical arrangements for the smooth and unimpeded functioning of the Office.

One of the remaining open issues related to the setting-up of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels and the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement between the RCC Secretariat and the the Kingdom of Belgium remains the question of the the application of the privileges and immunities of fiscal nature for the Head and Deputy Head of the Liaison Office. As outlined beforehand, the Kingdom of Belgium has conditioned the implementation of the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement related to the privileges and immunities of fiscal nature (in particular in relation to the taxation of income) in respect of the Head and Deputy Head of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels with the adoption of the authentic interpretation 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 the Agreement. In view of Belgian authorities such authentic interpretations should confirm the taxability of the officials of the RCC Secretariat in their countries/places of origin/permanent residence. In this view, having in mind the necessity to proceed with creating legal conditions for the establishment of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels, the Secretary General of the RCC initiated on 11 August 2008 a consultation procedure among the parties to the Host Country Agreement with the aim of reaching agreement on the authentic interpretation of Article 17.1 (d) of the Host Country Agreement and proposed a draft text of interpretative declaration which would confirm

the taxability of the RCC Secretariat's officials in their countries/places of origin/permanent residence. While only a few of the Parties to the Host Country Agreement have provided their replies as to the acceptability of the proposed draft interpretative declaration, the Secretary General of the RCC sent on 27 October 2008 a reminder addressed to the RCC National Coordinators from the Parties to the Host Country Agreement. To date, four Parties to the Host Country Agreement have submitted their explicit confirmations of the acceptability of the proposed draft text of the interpretative declaration regarding Article 17.1 (d) of the Host Country Agreement – Moldova, Montenegro, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The application of the respective provisions of the Headquarters Agreement concerning the privileges and immunities of fiscal nature of the Head and Deputy Head of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels, in particular in relation to the direct taxation, by the Kingdom of Belgium is directly dependant on the outcome of the above mentioned consultation procedure.

X. Membership of the RCC and the RCC Board

In the course of the reporting period there were no changes to the membership of the RCC and the RCC Board.

XI. State of financial contributions to the RCC Secretariat's budget

Until 1 October 2008, the following financial contributions to the RCC budget have been received:

-Czech Republic – 50.000 EUR – 19 December 2007

-Ireland – 50.000 EUR – 21 December 2008

-Latvia – 50.000 EUR – 21 December 2008

-Croatia – 80.000 EUR – 14 January 2008

-Austria – 150.000 EUR – 16 January 2008

-Montenegro – 40.000 EUR – 23 January 2008

-Romania – 140.000 EUR – 21 February 2008

-Slovenia – 50.000 EUR – 4 April 2008

-Switzerland – 181.000 EUR – 11 April 2008

- Norway – 103.026 EUR – 9 May 2008
- Hungary – 50.000 EUR – 26 May 2008
- Serbia – 60.000 EUR – 29 May 2008
- Bulgaria – 140.000 EUR – 13 June 2008
- Italy – 50.000 EUR – 19 June 2008
- Moldova – 40.000 EUR – 11 July 2008
- The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – 60.000 EUR - 22 July 2008
- Poland – 50.000 EUR – 30 July 2008
- Bosnia and Herzegovina – 60.000 EUR – 4 August 2008
- Sweden – 150.000 EUR – 25 August 2008
- European Community – 800.000 EUR (as the payment of the first installment out of committed 1.000.000 EUR pursuant to the Grant Contract signed on 30 June 2008) – 25 August 2008
- Germany – 200.000 EUR (in two installments, pursuant to the Agreement signed on 15 September 2008) – 26 September 2008 and 22 October 2008
- United States of America – 141.198 EUR (equivalent of 200.000 USD, pursuant to the Grant Agreement signed on 24 September 2008) – 2 October 2008
- France – 50.000 EUR – 17 October 2008
- Spain – 50.000 EUR – 5 November 2008
- Finland – 50.000 EUR – 2 December 2008

As per outstanding financial contributions of the RCC Board members to the RCC Secretariat's budget, out of 12 RCC members from South East Europe the contributions are still to be received by Albania (60.000 EUR), Greece (140.000 EUR), UNMIK/Kosovo (40.000 EUR) and Turkey (140.000 EUR).

All international donors have fulfilled their commitments as to the pledged financial contributions to the RCC Secretariat's budget.

XII. Future activities of the RCC Secretariat

In the coming period, in implementing the Strategic Work Programme 2008 – 2009, the RCC Secretariat will focus on project and result-oriented activities with a view to achieving overall economic and social progress in South East Europe, consolidating the region's European and Euro-Atlantic potential and perspective. The RCC Secretariat will encourage flexibility in order to create a climate and environment conducive to dialogue and cooperation.

In the process of implementation of the RCC Strategic Work Programme 2008-2009 close relationship will also be maintained with the Chairmanship-in-Office of the SEECP, currently held by the Republic of Moldova.

Forthcoming events of particular importance are the following:

-15 December 2008, Sarajevo – South East European Parliamentarians Workshop “Parliaments – support to harmonized energy reforms in South East Europe” co-organized by the RCC and Bosnia and Herzegovina

-19 December 2008, Sarajevo – visit to the RCC Secretariat by Ms. Doris Pack, Chairwomen of the Delegation for Relations with the Countries of South-East Europe of the European Parliament

-19 December 2008, Prague – consultations of the Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council with the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic in relation to the cooperation with the RCC during the incoming Czech Presidency of the EU Council

-15-16 January 2009, Brussels – IPA Multi-beneficiary Programming Coordination Meeting

-16 January 2009, Sarajevo – Joint Meeting of the Directors responsible for EU Affairs of the SEECP Participating States and the RCC Board

-January 2009, Sarajevo – RCC presentation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

-January-February 2009, Skopje – political consultations of the RCC Secretary General with the high-level officials of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

-10 February 2009, Brussels – Breakfast Policy Briefing by the RCC Secretary General on the topic of the RCC and regional cooperation in South East Europe organized by the European Policy Centre

-February 2009, Stockholm – consultations of the RCC Secretary General with the officials of the Kingdom of Sweden in relation to the cooperation with the RCC during the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU.

ANNEX I

LIST OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE RCC SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE RCC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS IN THE PERIOD FROM 1 OCTOBER TO 5 DECEMBER 2008

- RCC presentation in Moldova – Chisinau, 1 October 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital, Junior Political Advisor)
- Political consultations with the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations in Kosovo/Head of UNMIK and with representatives of Kosovo authorities under Security Council resolution 1244 – Pristina, 1 October 2008 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- Meeting with the EU Special Representative for Kosovo – Pristina, 1 October 2008
- Meeting with the Head of Mission of Moldova to the EU – Brussels, 1 October 2008 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Parliamentary Seminar “How can parliaments meet the challenges of the EU acquits communautaire” – Sofia, 1 – 2 October 2008 (Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- Meeting with the Head of Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the EU – Brussels, 2 October 2008 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Counsellor in the French Permanent Representation to the EU and Chair of COWEB- Brussels, 2 October 2008 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- Seminar for Young Politicians from South East Europe, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Lecture on Regional Cooperation and the Role of the RCC – Tivat, 2 – 3 October 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Participation at the 10th International Parliamentarian Conference organized by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung – Cavtat, 2- 4 October 2008 (Secretary General)
- Meeting with the Senior Immigration Advisor to the Head of EUPM – Sarajevo, 3 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)

- RCC Board meeting – Sarajevo, 6 October 2008 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Head of the Liaison Office, Chief of Staff, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council, Deputy Head of the Liaison Office, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Senior Expert on Security Issues, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues, Spokesperson, Political Advisors, Junior Political Advisor)
- Improving the Process of Economic Reform Legislations in Western Balkans (SEE) Countries - Miločer, 6 – 9 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- Political consultations with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia – Zagreb, 7 October 2008 (Secretary General)
- Meeting with the Member of the European Commission responsible for Transport – Brussels, 7 October 2008 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Director General of OLAF - Brussels, 7 October 2008 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office in Brussels)
- Meeting with the Deputy Executive Secretary of UNECE - Sarajevo, 7 October 2008 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation)
- Energy Community Investment Conference – Pristina, 7 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Crans Montana Forum – Sarajevo, 8 October 2008 (Secretary General)
- Meeting with MEP (Germany/ALDE)- Brussels, 8 October 2008 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office in Brussels)
- Meeting With Economic Chamber of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia/Association of Balkan Chambers of Commerce - Sarajevo, 8 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Multi-beneficiary IPA Coordination Meeting – Sarajevo, 9-10 October 2008 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Infrastructure

and Energy, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Senior Expert on Security Issues, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues, Advisors in the Liaison Office)

- Meeting with NATO representatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Special Advisor to the Commander and Deputy Commander – Sarajevo, 9 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- Meeting with Minister Counsellor in the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU and the Deputy Head of Mission of the Czech Embassy in Pristina - Brussels, 9 October 2008 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- Meeting with the Deputy Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Delegation of Serbia to the Danube Conference- Brussels, 9 October 2008 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- International Conference “Role of National Science Academies in the 21st Century” – Podgorica, 9 – 13 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- International Conference “Kosovo – 120 Days After Constitution’s Adoption” – Berlin, 10 October 2008 (Secretary General, Junior Political Advisor)
- Political Consultations with the Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany – Berlin, 10 October 2008 (Secretary General, Junior Political Advisor)
- Launching of the Regional Investment Strategy Report – Sarajevo, 10 October 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with the Counsellor in the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU - Brussels, 10 October 2008 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- Regional Coordination Meeting – Sarajevo, 13 October 2008 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Chief of Staff, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Political Advisors)
- 4th Conference on Cooperation between the Police and Prosecutors’ Offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo, 13 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)

- Meeting with the Member of the European Commission responsible for Consumer Protection- Brussels, 13 October 2008 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Director of the Centre for Liberal Strategies- Brussels, 13 October 2008 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Speaker of the Bulgarian Parliament – Sofia, 14 October 2008 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Bulgarian Parliament – Sofia, 14 October 2008 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Head of Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the EU – Brussels, 14 October 2008 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Head of the Western Balkans Task Force in the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union - Brussels, 14 October 2008 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- RCC presentation in Bulgaria – Sofia, 14 – 15 October 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Security Issues, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital, Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues and Junior Political Advisor)
- SEPCA Meeting – Bucharest, 14 – 17 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Political Consultations with the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey – Ankara, 15 October 2008 (Secretary General, Political Advisor)
- Meeting with the Advisor to the Government of Moldova – Brussels, 15 October 2008 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- International Workshop “Ideal Model” – EU project on the establishment of International Law Enforcement Coordination Units (ILECUs) – Bucharest, 15 – 17 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Presentation of the RCC to IPA 2008 Regional Quality Infrastructure Project - Brussels, 16 October 2008 (Advisor)

- CEFTA Forum – Sarajevo, 16 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Conference “Fostering and Building Human Capital for Sustainable Knowledge Societies of the SEE”, Regional Preparatory Meeting – Vienna, 16 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- Energy Community Gas Forum – Ljubljana, 16 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- DPPI SEE Regional Meeting – Skopje, 16 – 17 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- Meeting with the Head of Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the EU – Brussels, 17 October 2008 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- SEE Network of Policy Makers – Podgorica, 19 – 21 October 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with the Member of the European Commission responsible for Enlargement – Brussels, 20 October 2008 (Secretary General, Head of Liaison Office, Deputy Head of Liaison Office, Spokesperson, Advisors in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with NATO Deputy Secretary General – Brussels, 20 October 2008 (Secretary General, Head of Liaison Office, Deputy Head of Liaison Office, Spokesperson, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Reception to mark the opening of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels – Brussels, 20 October 2008 (Secretary General, Head of Liaison Office, Deputy Head of Liaison Office, Spokesperson, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Friends of MARRI meeting – Skopje, 20 – 22 October 2008 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Sava Commission Workshop on Environmentally Sustainable Management and Maintenance of the Inland Waterways – Belgrade, 21 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Meeting with Council of Europe representatives – Directorate for Human Rights and Legal Affairs – Economy Crime Unit – Sarajevo, 21 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)

- Meeting with OSCE representatives, Director of Department of Security Cooperation (DSC) – Sarajevo, 21 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- World Bank Group’s Multi-Donor Investment Climate Advisory Service - Foreign Investment Advisory Services – Vienna, 21 – 22 October 2008 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Conference of the Association of European Airlines – Dubrovnik, 22 October 2008 (Secretary General)
- European Commission’s Donor Coordination Meeting – Brussels, 22 – 24 October 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development and Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Conference “Establishment of Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility for South East and Central European Countries”, jointly organized by the World Bank, UN/ISDR and the RCC Secretariat – Zurich, 22-26 October 2008 (Secretary General, Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- European Energy Forum organized by ANO pro Evropu – Prague, 23 October 2008 (Secretary General)
- Meeting with Balkan Expert from USAID – Brussels, 23 October 2008 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Briefing for the EU Council Working Group on Western Balkans (COWEB) – Brussels, 23 October 2008 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council, Deputy Head of Liaison Office in Brussels)
- Participation in Donor Coordination Conference – Brussels, 23- 24 October 2008, (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Advisor in Liaison Office)
- First European Heritage Forum “Heritage and Dialogue” – Brussels, 23 – 24 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- Meeting on Energy Efficiency Project Proposal with UNECE EE21 Project, NALAS, RENEUER and FEDRE representatives – Sarajevo, 24 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Participation in the regional Conference on e-Justice – Thessaloniki, 24-25 October 2008 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)

- Conference “Youth Politics and Youth Party Organizations in SEE” – Sarajevo, 24 – 26 October 2008 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with the World Bank representatives on Sava Waterway Rehabilitation Project – Sarajevo, 27 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- eSEE Initiative” Working Group and „bSEE Taskforce”, CeGD Programme Advisory Committee Meeting, eLead REGATA Preparatory meeting – Sarajevo, 27 – 28 October 2008 (Secretary General, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development and Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- OSCE Conference on Regional Security a model for the Mediterranean – Amman, 27 – 29 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- Briefing for the European Commission on the results of the 1st Coordination Conference of the organizations and initiatives in the area of justice and home affairs from South East Europe for the representatives of the European Commission’s Delegations in the Western Balkans countries – Brussels, 28 October 2008 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the UN ECE Regional Advisor, Trade and Timber Division – Sarajevo, 28 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Business Advisory Council meeting – Istanbul, 29 October 2008 (Secretary General, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- World Economic Forum on Europe and Central Asia “Confronting Challenges in Defining a Collaborative Future” – Istanbul, 29- 31 October 2008 (Secretary General)
- Meeting with the Head of Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the EU – Brussels, 29 October 2008 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic – Athens, 29 October 2008 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Head of Mission of Montenegro to the EU – Brussels, 30 October 2008 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Participation in the RAI Steering Group Meeting - Chisinau, 30- 31 October 2008 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)

- Joint Meeting of the SEECP Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs – Chisinau, 30 – 31 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- 12th Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Steering Group Meeting – Chisinau, 30 – 31 October 2008 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- 20th RACVIAC MAG meeting – Zagreb, 30 – 31 October 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- Annual Police Experts meeting on “Fighting the Threat of Cyber Crime” – Vienna, 30 – 31 October 2008 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Regional environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (CER) Course for Local Sustainability and Action at the Venice International University at the San Servolo – Venice, 3-5 November 2008 (Secretary General, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Meeting with the Director for South Eastern Europe in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium - Brussels, 3 November 2008 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- Meeting with the Minister-Counsellor in the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU and incoming Chair of COWEB - Brussels, 3 November 2008 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- Meeting with Regional Statistics Advisor, Statistical Division UN ECE – Sarajevo, 3 November 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Expert on Economic and Social Development and Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- Briefing for the European Parliament Working Group on Western Balkans – Brussels, 4 November 2008 (Secretary General, Head of Liaison Office, Deputy Head of Liaison Office, Advisors in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with International Trade Center representatives, Head of the Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia and Senior Advisor– Sarajevo, 4 November 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Multi-Stakeholder Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Inclusion in South East Europe – Belgrade, 4 – 5 November 2008 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)

- Seminar on Promoting South East Europe – NATO Integrations – Zagreb, 4 – 6 November 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- Visit of the Secretary General of the CEI Executive Secretariat – Sarajevo, 5 November 2008 (Secretary General, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues, Political Advisor)
- Participation in Friends of Europe event: Saving Europe’s Water – Brussels, 5 November 2008 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs – Zagreb, 6-7 November 2008 (Secretary General, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- International Conference “Business and Security” – Belgrade, 6 – 7 November 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- Meeting of the RCC National Coordinators from South East Europe– Sarajevo, 7 November 2008 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Chief of Staff, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Senior Expert on Security Issues, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital, Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues, Political Advisors, Junior Political Advisor)
- Meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo, 7 November 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- SEECP Health Ministerial Meeting – Chisinau, 7 November 2008 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Participation at the Fifth SEE Regional Women’s Members of Parliament Workshop - Zagreb, 9- 10 November 2008 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Vienna Economic Forum – Vienna, 10 November 2008 (Secretary General)
- Parliamentary seminar for Western Balkans parliaments – Brussels, 10 – 11 November 2008 (Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- RCC presentation in Serbia - Belgrade, 10 November 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Senior Expert on Security Issues, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues, Expert on Justice and Home Affairs and Junior Political Advisor)

- Briefing for “Promising young politicians” from Serbia - Brussels, 10 November 2008 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Member of Foreign Affairs Committee, Belgian Senate (Liberal) - Brussels, 10 November 2008 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Political Consultations with the officials of the Ministry of European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria - Vienna, 11 November 2008 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- Meeting with the Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre – Vienna, 11 November 2008 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- Meeting with the Head of Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe - Brussels, 11 November 2008 (Head of Liaison Office and Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the President of EU Economic and Social Committee – Brussels, 11 November 2008 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- 29th Session of the Joint Cooperation committee of the SECI Center – Istanbul, 11 – 12 November 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- 6th Workshop on the Cross-border Disaster eResponse in the Region – Kranj, 11 – 13 November 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- RCC presentation in Montenegro – Podgorica, 12 November 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues, Spokesperson, Expert on Justice and Home Affairs and Junior Political Advisor)
- South East Europe Regional Conference on “Suppression of Corruption in Public Procurement Systems” – Cavtat, 12 – 13 November 2008 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Preparatory expert meeting for the Ministerial Conference “Combating Climate Change in SEE” – Sarajevo, 13 November 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Meeting with representatives of the European Commission’s Infrastructure Project Facility for the Western Balkans – Sarajevo, 13 November 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)

- Conference “Ethnic Groups and Social Inclusion in Education and Training in the Western Balkans countries” – Torino, 13 – 14 November 2008 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- CEFTA Forum – Zagreb, 13 – 15 November 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting on Armed Violence and Development for the countries of Eastern and South East Europe and the Caucasus – Sarajevo, 14 November 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- Ministerial Conference “Combating Climate Change in SEE” – Sarajevo, 14 November 2008 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Meeting with the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the EU - Brussels, 17 November 2008 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- RCC presentation in The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Skopje, 17 November 2008 ((Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Security Issues, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues and Junior Political Advisor)
- Participation in the European Policy Centre Forum on Balkan Europe: What transformation in South East Europe? Progress in the Balkans and Turkey towards EU integration – Brussels, 17 November 2008 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Political Consultations with officials of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom, – London, 18 November 2008 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- Consultations with the EU Presidency representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic - Paris, 18 November 2008 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- Participation in IFI Advisory Working Group on Energy / Environment – Brussels, 18 November 2008 (Deputy Secretary General, Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)

- Meeting with Director for Regional Programmes in the DG Enlargement of the European Commission – Brussels, 18 November 2008 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Deputy Director General for Energy in the European Commission – Brussels, 18 November 2008 (Head of Liaison Office, Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Head of Romania Unit Romania in DG REGIO of the European Commission – Brussels, 18 November 2008 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- 1st Social Forum of the Energy Community – Tirana, 18 – 19 November 2008 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- IFIAG Working Group meetings on Energy and Transportation – Brussels, 18 – 19 November 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- UN ECE “Energy week” and meetings with representatives of UN ECE Divisions dealing with transport and environmental issues – Geneva, 18 – 21 November 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Meeting with Vice-President of the EBRD – London, 19 November 2008 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- Participation in Brainstorming on post-2008 support to IFIs – Brussels, 19 November 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Participation in IFI Advisory Working Group on Transport – Brussels, 19 November 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the State Department Director of Media Center - Brussels, 19 November 2008 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Consultations with the officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland – Dublin, 20 November 2008 (Secretary General and Chief of Staff)
- Meeting with Permanent Representative of Romania to the EU – Brussels, 20 November 2008 (Head of Liaison Office, Deputy Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
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- SEEPAG meeting “Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling People” – Tirana, 20 – 21 November 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)

- Delivery of a keynote address - Balkans Group at the Institute of International and European Affairs – Dublin, 21 November 2008 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- Meeting with the Permanent Representative of Greece to the EU – Brussels, 24 November 2008 (Head of Liaison Office, Deputy Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- RCC presentation in Croatia – Zagreb, 24 November 2008 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Security Issues, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Spokesperson, Expert on Economic and Social Development and Junior Political Advisor)
- Meeting with Director of Gender Task Force of Croatia – Zagreb, 24 November 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Director of the Agency for Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe – Zagreb, 24 November 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- UNDP Western Balkans Cluster Meeting – Zagreb, 24 – 25 November 2008 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with the Mayor of Woluwe-St-Pierre, Member of the Parliament of Bruxelles Capital – Brussels, 25 November 2008 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Participation in the Seminar on Justice, reconciliation and EU integration of the Western Balkans – Brussels, 25 November 2008 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Participation in the Briefing on the future of the European Parliament with the former EP Secretary General Julian Priestley – Brussels, 25 November 2008 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- I 24-7 main boarder checking point project continuation meeting – Lyon, 25 November 2008 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Consultations with the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Sweden and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – SIDA - Stockholm, 25 November 2008 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)

- RCC presentation in Greece – Athens, 26 November 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Security Issues, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues, Expert on Justice and Home Affairs and Junior Political Advisor)
- Meeting with the Head of Unit Montenegro and Serbia in the DG Enlargement of the European Commission – Brussels, 26 November 2008 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisors in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Director in the DG Enlargement of the European Commission – Brussels, 26 November 2008 (Head of Liaison Office, Deputy Head of Liaison Office, Advisors in the Liaison Office)
- Economic Summit “The New Investment Environment in Balkans” – Istanbul, 26-27 November 2008 (Secretary General)
- SEE Health Network – Podgorica, 26 – 28 November 2008 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with Egis BCEOM International Company representatives – Sarajevo, 27 November 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- CEI Summit of the Heads of Government – Chisinau, 28 November 2008 (Secretary General, Political Advisor)
- Priority Environmental Investment Programme (PEIP) Regional Meeting for Senior Officials from South East Europe and Donors – Brussels, 28 November 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Meeting with Minister-Counselor in the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU and incoming Chair of COWEB - Brussels, 28 November 2008 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- Entrepreneurship in Higher Education – Workshop – Torino, 29 – 30 November 2008 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- Fostering and Building Human Capital for Sustainable Knowledge Societies in SEE – Podgorica, 1- 2 December 2008 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- RCC presentation in Turkey – Ankara, 2 December 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Security Issues, Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Expert on Economic and Social Development, Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues and Junior Political Advisor)

- Supervisory Board Meeting, Center for eGovernance Development – Ljubljana, 2 – 3 December 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- 13th Athens Energy Community Electricity Forum – Athens, 2 – 3 December 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Joint Seminar on security cooperation in South East Europe organized by RACVIAC and the RCC Secretariat – Coordination Meeting of Security Sector Initiatives – Zagreb, 3 – 4 December 2008 (Head of Liaison Office, Senior Expert on Security Issues, Political Advisor)
- Meeting with Director of the Regional Transfrontier Co-operation SEE, East West Institute – Sarajevo, 4 December 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Meeting with Senior Vice President for Programs and Development, International Center for Democratic Transition – Sarajevo, 4 December 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Seminar for journalists from the region “Reporting EU Integrations” – Sarajevo, 4 December 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- MARRI Regional Forum – Ohrid, 4 – 5 December 2008 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Sixteenth meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council – Helsinki, 4- 5 December 2008 (Secretary General, Junior Political Advisor)
- International Conference “How Can Independent Research Centers (Think-Thanks) Be Successfully Involved in Security Politics” – Belgrade, 5 December 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- Briefing for journalists – Sarajevo, 5 December 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues, Spokesperson)

ANNEX II

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

SECRETARY GENERAL

1. Mr. Hido Bišćević- Secretary General of the RCC

EXPERT POOL

1. Ms. Jelica Minić- Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool
2. Ms. Emira Tufo- Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Head of Economic and Social Development Unit
3. Mr. Miroslav Kukobat- Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Head of Infrastructure and Energy Unit
4. Mr. Virgil Constantin Ivan Cucu- 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. Nand Shani- Expert on Economic and Social Development
8. Mr. Predrag Vujičić- Expert on Justice and Home Affairs
9. Ms. Mimika Loshi- Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues
10. Ms. Maja Taylor- Assistant to the Head of Expert Pool
11. Ms. Elvira Ademović- Assistant to the Expert Pool

FRONT OFFICE

1. Mr. Miroslav Papa- Chief of Staff
2. Ms. Dinka Živalj- Head of Media Unit/ Spokesperson
3. Mr. Alphan Solen- Political Advisor
4. Ms. Alenka Hudek- Political Advisor
5. Ms. Jasna Arsić-Đapo, Legal Advisor
6. Mr. Ivan Bojanić- Junior Political Advisor
7. Ms. Jasna Sinančević- Personal Assistant to the Secretary General
8. Ms. Nataša Mitrović- Assistant to the Chief of Staff

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. Alma Ganić- Accountant
6. Ms. Dijana Kešelj- Translator

LIAISON OFFICE IN BRUSSELS

1. Mr. Stanislav Daskalov- Head of Office
2. Mr. Basil Coronakis- Deputy Head of Office
3. Mr. Sorin Sterie- Advisor
4. Ms. Lidija Topić- Advisor
5. Ms. Martine Dell- Office Administrator

**SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR RELATIONS WITH
THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

1. Mr. Jovan Tegovski- Special Envoy of the Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union

RCC SECRETARIAT'S TECHNICAL AND SERVICE STAFF

1. Ms. Selma Ahatović- Lihic- Public Affairs Assistant
2. Mr. Siniša Cvetković- Driver/Security
3. Mr. Fikret Kadrić- Driver/ Courier
4. Mr. Denis Sulić- Driver/ Courier