



***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, 15 September 2009*

## **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 9 May 2009 and 9 September 2009.

In the period under consideration the RCC Secretariat started an active implementation of the RCC Strategic Work Programme 2009 - 2010, in particular contributing to the development of regional cooperation in South East Europe and cooperation with the European Union (EU), its institutions and other relevant Brussels – based institutions.

The pivotal event was the first Annual Meeting of the RCC held on 4 June 2009 in Chisinau which endorsed the 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Secretary General of the RCC and the Strategic Work Programme of the RCC for period 2009 – 2010. The RCC Secretary General continued with political consultations with RCC members and met with high officials at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, the United States Department of State, World Bank and Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Fostering the idea of regional cooperation and its importance for the socio-economic development, European integration and overall advancement of South East Europe, the RCC Secretary General participated in Croatia Summit in Dubrovnik on 9-10 July 2009.

In the reporting period, Secretary General met with the Director responsible for Western Balkans and the Director responsible for Regional Programmes in the Directorate-General for Enlargement of the European Commission. The RCC Secretary General also held joint meeting with representatives of the European Commission and the Swedish Presidency of the EU Council as preparations for the organization of the high-level conference devoted to the Western Balkans, to be jointly organized by the Swedish EU Presidency and the European Commission with active participation of the RCC, which is scheduled to take place in Brussels on 9 December 2009. The RCC Secretary General also participated at the Crans Montana Forum in Brussels, on issues related to enlargement, security, justice and home affairs policies, which took place at the end of June 2009.

The RCC Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool briefed the representatives in the Working Group on Western Balkans of the Council of the EU (COWEB) on 28 May 2009 and the Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relation with the Presidency of the Council of the EU held a briefing for the COWEB representatives from capitals (COWEB Capital) on 3 June 2009. The RCC Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool held meetings with the Head of Unit for Regional Programmes in the Directorate-General for the Enlargement of the European Commission to discuss the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) Multi-beneficiary programming cycle 2011 – 2013 as well as the strategic cooperation between the European Commission and the RCC and possible modalities of European Commission's future support to the RCC. The RCC Secretary General, together with the RCC Secretariat's delegation, participated in a Multi-Beneficiary IPA Programme (MB IPA) Regional Coordination Meeting, held

on 9 and 10 June 2009 in Zagreb. On this occasion, the RCC Secretariat's representatives informed that the RCC Secretariat had carried out stocktaking in the region on attitudes to regional cooperation and priorities among members from the region. The RCC Secretariat also carried out stocktaking on the establishment and activities of the regional taskforces and initiatives in South East Europe. In addition to the importance the RCC devotes to the MB IPA, the RCC Secretariat is also maintaining open dialogue with other donors, in an effort to map evidence of the full scope of assistance and cooperation in the region.

The RCC Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool visited the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and held meetings with focus on areas of cooperation between the RCC and the OECD, in particular concerning the Investment Compact for South East Europe and Regional Strategy for Research and Development for the Western Balkans.

The Head of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office participated as a speaker at the Conference devoted to increase of scholarships to students from Western Balkans, organised by the Czech Presidency of the EU Council, the European Commission, the King Boudouin Foundation and the RCC Secretariat. A number of meetings were held by the officials of the Liaison Office with the representatives of the Directorate-General for Enlargement of the European Commission and other Directorate-Generals of the European Commission relevant to RCC priorities. Close cooperation is being established and meetings held with the newly elected Members of the European Parliament who are particularly active on issues related to South East Europe. Permanent contacts with the diplomatic representatives of permanent representations to the EU and NATO as well as with the representative of the South-East European Cooperation (SEEC) Participating States have been maintained and further deepened. Communication has been maintained with the representatives of international and regional media and leading Brussels 'think-thanks'.

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

The central events and activities of the reporting period focused on the first Annual Meeting of the RCC held on 4 June 2009 in Chisinau back-to-back with the Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the SEEC within the framework of the SEEC Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Moldova, held respectively on 4 and 5 June 2009. The Annual Meeting marked the first year of functioning of the RCC and presented an opportunity for stock-taking and discussing future activities in the context of the development of regional cooperation in South East Europe. The RCC Annual Meeting endorsed the 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Secretary General of the RCC on Regional Cooperation in South East Europe and the Strategic Work Programme of the RCC for the period 2009 – 2010. The Annual Report and the Strategic Work Programme for 2009-2010 were previously discussed and

accepted or adopted respectively by the RCC Board on 14 May 2009. The participants of the Annual Meeting of the RCC, both representing RCC members from South East Europe and from the international RCC members- countries, international organizations and international financial institutions- overwhelmingly expressed strong support for the work and achievements of the RCC and its Secretary General in the first year of its functioning as well as to the Strategic Work Programme 2009-2010 as a sound and realistic basis for the RCC activities in the coming year. The RCC succeeded in initiating, developing and facilitating concrete projects against the challenging background of political situation the region, adverse effects of the economic and financial crisis, natural gas supplies shortages and other challenges.

The Annual Meeting was somewhat overshadowed by the fact that the delegation of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) on behalf of Kosovo in accordance with the United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 1244 (UNMIK/Kosovo) did not attend the meeting because the authorities of the country hosting the Annual Meeting, declined to grant entry visa to duly designated and notified member of delegation coming from the Kosovo authorities. The non-attendance of a delegation despite the mutually agreed and accepted framework set by the Joint Declaration on the Establishment of the RCC and the Statute of the RCC poses a serious challenge to the all-inclusive character of the cooperation under the RCC auspices and undermines the overall positive achievements. With this in mind, the RCC Secretary General and the RCC Secretariat took appropriate steps to ensure the participation of all the RCC members in the Annual Meeting through timely consultations with the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the host country pleading for a flexible and pragmatic approach. A note verbale aimed at the facilitation of entry visas for the Republic of Moldova for the delegation of UNMIK/Kosovo was also forwarded and extensive consultations on this matter were held also with other RCC members.

Fully appreciating the internal delicacy of the issue for the host country of the RCC Annual Meeting, with the support of all the stakeholders, the RCC Secretariat encouraged the competent authorities of the host country to spare no effort in searching for a pragmatic and flexible solution to enable the attendance of UNMIK/Kosovo in the first Annual Meeting of the RCC, in full compliance with the statutory documents of the RCC. It is the firm opinion of the RCC Secretariat that creating conditions for the development of regional cooperation in South East Europe remains an obligation of all the RCC members and the RCC Secretary General has on a number of occasions invited all the partners in the RCC to do their utmost in assisting the RCC Secretariat in achieving this goal.

### **III. Consultations of the RCC Secretary General with RCC members**

The RCC Secretary General continued the dialogue with senior representatives of RCC members in order to maintain their active engagement in regional cooperation within the RCC framework.

As part of the process of continuing political consultations with RCC members, the RCC Secretary General met Mr. Gernot Erler, Minister of State and Dr. Emily Haber, Special Envoy for South East Europe at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany on 28 May 2009. The discussions focused on the preparation for the forthcoming Annual Meeting of the RCC on 4 June 2009 in Chisinau, political situation in the region and the prospects of the RCC in the next stage. Secretary General Bišćević informed of the preparations for the RCC Annual Meeting in Chisinau and of the measures which the RCC undertook in order to ensure the all inclusive character of the RCC framework. He underlined the necessity to preserve the unity and all inclusive character of the RCC as well as the necessity to start a thorough debate on the role and mandate of the RCC after the inception and consolidation period is over. Minister Erler commended the role and activities of the RCC as well as its importance for the region. He also stressed the importance of the RCC in elaborating regional projects that would engage the region in genuine cooperation. Such enhanced role of the RCC is crucial for future evolution of the RCC and its acceptance in the region.

The RCC Secretary General also held talks with senior officials in the Department of State of the United States of America and the World Bank in Washington on 21 July 2009. Secretary General Bišćević informed Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia Stuart Jones and other United States officials on the current challenges facing South East Europe, underlining the strategic importance of keeping the EU enlargement process open as well as the importance of the EU and international support to regional economic, infrastructure and social development, as a guarantee to stability and prosperity of the region. The United States officials confirmed the continuation of strong support to the RCC as the key partner in the context of the development and strengthening of regional cooperation in South East Europe. The interlocutors agreed that bringing South East Europe together around development projects can be a valuable contribution by the RCC and stressed the need to ensure all-inclusiveness as a ground rule for the RCC as well as to find a permanent solution to the issue of participation of all members within the RCC framework.

The RCC Secretary General also held talks with World Bank Vice-President Shigeo Katsu and other officials. He warned that the world economic crisis could have serious impact on national economies in South East Europe and called for stronger engagement of the international financial institutions in designing and implementing adequate regional and national recovery programmes to counter its effects. Secretary General Bišćević thanked for the strong World Bank support to the RCC in its formative year, especially on projects to establish the South East European Fire-fighting Regional Center (SEEFREC) and the Southeastern and Central European Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (SECE-CRIF), which are expected to be finalized in a near future. He also invited the Bank to support the development of the Regional Strategy for Research and Development in the Western Balkans, which is being developed under RCC auspices. Vice-President Katsu stressed that the World Bank remains an important RCC partner in promoting development in South East Europe to the benefit of its people.

RCC Secretary General Bišćević met Mr. Yannis Valinakis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Dimitrios Katsoudas, Secretary General for European Affairs in the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 3 September 2009. Deputy Minister Valinakis expressed strong support for the work of the RCC in its initial year of functioning and pointed out the importance of regional cooperation for the economic and social development of South East Europe and its European and Euro-Atlantic integration process. He also expressed strong interest in the conference on the Western Balkans that the Swedish EU Presidency is organising with the European Commission with the participation of the RCC on the effects of the financial crisis on the development and European integration of the region. Mr. Katsoudas expressed strong support of Greece for the RCC and offered assistance of his country for making the work of the RCC more visible and recognizable. Greece is very much interested in strengthening regional cooperation especially as regards projects that would be visible in the entire region of South East Europe and that would cover the missing links in energy and rail and road transport networks in the region. The two officials agreed on the importance of feasible, regional projects, especially in infrastructure and energy, which would serve as a stimulus for the countries of the region to engage in deepened cooperation, address the economic and social effects of the crisis, continue with reforms aimed at European integration and benefit from the period leading to accession negotiations.

#### **IV. Cooperation with the SEECP**

In view of the closely knit structure of the RCC and the SEECP, the former being the instrument for fostering regional project-oriented cooperation and the latter its political umbrella, the RCC continued close cooperation with the SEECP, especially with the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Moldova. A delegation of the RCC Secretariat led by Secretary General of the RCC Hido Bišćević participated in the SEECP Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and SEECP Meeting of the Heads of State and Government which were respectively held on 4 and 5 June 2009 in Chisinau within the framework of the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Moldova. The SEECP Summit adopted the Chisinau Declaration and Chisinau Joint Statement. The Declaration welcomed the launching and the results of the RCC, reconfirmed the inclusive character of regional cooperation processes in South East Europe and stressed the importance of active participation of all RCC members from the region. In terms of results and future activities of the RCC, the Declaration gave full support to the networking mechanism, and stressed the importance of the EU MB IPA in developing regional projects through the RCC networking mechanism. The Declaration supports the RCC in facilitating the establishment of the SECE-CRIF and SEEFREC and supported the pivotal role of the RCC in streamlining and coordination of regional task forces and initiatives in South East Europe. The Declaration recognized the possibilities of enhancing cooperation and developing large-scale regional projects in transport and energy, inland waterways, civil aviation, reconstruction and rehabilitation of railways, land transport infrastructure and harbours, building channels and irrigation facilities. The Chisinau Joint Statement addresses the topics of Forging Partnership for Cooperation and Development, Partnership for European Integration, Partnership for Development and

Prosperity and Partnership for Strengthening Rule of Law. It also tasks the RCC to establish a high-level expert panel aimed at stimulating in-depth discussions on economic and financial measures in response to the crisis. The Summit also endorsed the 2008-2009 Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General and the Strategic Work Programme for the period 2009 – 2010 extending political support and commitment of the governments of South East Europe for the priorities in the coming period. The participants strongly supported the first phase of the RCC activities, making references to the necessity that in the next phase the RCC should embark on the process of coordination and fostering of concrete regional projects.

## **V. Cooperation with the EU and its institutions**

In the reporting period the RCC Secretariat, in particular the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels, continued to cultivate and conduct regular contacts and consultations with representatives of European and Euro-Atlantic institutions, particularly the EU Presidency, the EU Council and its General Secretariat, the European Commission, the European Parliament and NATO, resulting in a number of meetings held.

The High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU Javier Solana met with RCC Secretary General Hido Bišćević on the occasion of his visit to Sarajevo on 19 May 2009 and reiterated EU support to RCC activities. High Representative Solana underlined the significance of the RCC mandate at the regional level coupled with the efforts at the national level in implementing the reforms on the path to the EU. Secretary General Bišćević informed the EU High Representative on the first year of RCC operation and thanked for the support provided by the EU in the context of the RCC activities aiming at promoting the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect as well as facilitating development projects in the region.

The RCC Secretary General met Pierre Mirel, Director in the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission on 25 May 2009 and briefed him on the recent developments in South East Europe, particularly in light of the preparations for the upcoming SEECF Summit and the RCC Annual Meeting in Moldova on 4-5 June 2009. The Secretary General informed about the participation of UNMIK/Kosovo at the RCC meetings, in particular at the meetings taking place in Sarajevo and procedures adopted by the Council of Ministers in Bosnia and Herzegovina in regard of issuing of visas to members of UNMIK/Kosovo delegation holders of passports issued by Kosovo authorities. Two officials also discussed the direction of the future position and role of the RCC.

Joint meetings were held by the RCC Secretary General with representatives of the Commission and Swedish EU Presidency on the preparations of the Conference to be organized by the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU and the European Commission, with active participation of the RCC, to take place in Brussels on 9 December 2009. The Conference will focus on impact of financial crisis on the region, on

the progress of the enlargement process as well as on regional cooperation in South East Europe.

RCC Secretary General Bišćević met with Timo Summa, Director in the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission on 29 May 2009 in Sarajevo and on 23 June 2009 in Brussels. In light of the preparations for the RCC Annual Meeting in Chisinau, emphasis was put on the efforts to ensure all-inclusiveness of regional cooperation activities within the RCC framework. Secretary General Bišćević and Director Summa also touched upon the possible modalities for involvement of the European Commission in the RCC activities and financial framework beyond 2010. The RCC Secretary General informed that the Chisinau Declaration extended support to the RCC and the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General detailing the results and achievements in the past year as well as to its future role and activities as laid out in the Strategic Work Programme of the RCC for period 2009 – 2010. Director Summa reiterated the support of the European Commission to the RCC and its intention to remain committed to regional cooperation in South East Europe through the RCC. He invited the RCC Secretariat to prepare a platform outlining areas in which the RCC can add value with regard to regional cooperation and which would serve as a basis for the future involvement of the European Commission.

The RCC Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool took part in a comprehensive consultation process with the Regional Programmes Unit of the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission regarding support to the RCC in the period 2011 -2013, as well as regarding the participation of the RCC in the overall programming process for the Multi-annual MB IPA in the period 2011- 2013. The contents, format and share of the European Commission's involvement in further support to the RCC have been discussed.

RCC Secretary General Hido Bišćević, RCC Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool Jelica Minić as well as other representatives of the RCC Secretariat participated in the Multi-beneficiary IPA Coordination Meeting that was held in Zagreb on 9 and 10 June 2009. RCC Secretary General Hido Bišćević presented the results of the SEECF Summit, developments in regional cooperation in South East Europe and the MB IPA Programme. He emphasized the necessity of all-inclusiveness of cooperation in all fields and the strategic role of the IPA Multi-beneficiary Programme. Mr Bišćević also stressed that there was a pressing need for socioeconomic development, economic recovery and the political issues to be addressed in cooperation. Mr Bišćević stated that a more coordinated and consolidated approach on national level was needed and the regional platform must be used better. The Secretary General added that the role of the RCC should be as a key interlocutor for the EU for the development of South East Europe. The political situation still being complex in the region, networking and small steps are important, and support of the Commission and other partners is essential. Large scale trans-regional projects on energy, infrastructure, transport and human capital are today even more relevant.

The Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool Jelica Minić informed the participants that RCC considered MB IPA programme as a very important mechanism and that the RCC Secretariat had presented to the European Commission a number of Preliminary Project Ideas (PPIs) after a thorough regional consultation process with beneficiary countries- members of the RCC and regional initiatives affiliated to the RCC framework. As a result of the RCC regional and EU recognition, the representatives of the RCC Secretariat have been included in the future work of special groups to define the strategic approach for the financing of the next MB IPA programming cycle 2011-2013.

The increased level of cooperation and trust between the RCC Secretariat and the European Commission resulted in the invitation extended to the Advisors in the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels to participate in the evaluation committees of project proposals under MB IPA Programme 2008 related to the fight against corruption, organized crime and trafficking as well as to civil society facility on environment, energy efficiency, and health and safety at work.

The practice of briefing the COWEB by representatives of the RCC Secretariat continued also in the reporting period. The RCC Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool briefed the COWEB on 28 May 2009 and presented the RCC activities and efforts in coordination of established initiatives as well as the stage of the preparations of the projects to be submitted for MB IPA funding. The Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the Council of the EU briefed the COWEB Capitals format on 3 June 2009.

In the reporting period notable cooperation was achieved with the current and future EU Presidencies. During the second half of the mandate of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, the Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council continued with a proactive approach and intensified cooperation with different representatives of the former Czech EU Presidency and has, in parallel, established good working relations with the representatives of the current Swedish EU Presidency.

Tangible results of good cooperation and communication with the Czech EU Presidency in the reporting period were two briefings – one for COWEB given by the Deputy Secretary General of the RCC/Head of Expert Pool and one for COWEB Capitals given by the Special Envoy (making in total five briefings and thematic presentations in COWEB format during the six-months Presidency term-in-office). On the suggestion from the RCC Secretary General, the Presidency agreed to make a reference on regional cooperation and the role of the RCC in the conclusions of the May 2009 General Affairs and External Relations (GAERC) Council meeting welcoming the successful start of the RCC and appreciating the RCC Secretariat's efforts in promoting regional cooperation as an important element for the European perspective of the Western Balkans. Although faced with challenges due to the internal and external unfavourable developments, the Czech EU Presidency invested considerable efforts in bringing the countries of the Western Balkans closer to the realization of their European perspective.

The Swedish EU Presidency has confirmed that South East Europe and, particularly Western Balkans, shall be among the priority items on its Agenda and that it will make substantial efforts in supporting concrete regional cooperation, as well as in opening avenues for accelerating the EU integration process, despite the serious internal and external challenges in the second half of 2009. In the Presidency Working Program, among other things, it has been noted that the continued enlargement process is of strategic importance and that the Presidency will work for further concrete progress of the accession process of the candidate countries, the membership perspectives for the potential candidate countries and the issues concerning visa liberalization. The Presidency has confirmed its support for the RCC work and suggested that RCC should become stronger in terms of relevance and leadership and more operational in terms of persuading the public administration in the countries of the region to cooperate more with RCC. In light of the initial consultations with the RCC, the Presidency decided to organize with the European Commission and with a strong involvement of the RCC a high-level Conference on the Western Balkans. After several preparatory meetings on this subject (including two between the RCC Secretary General and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs) it has been agreed that this Conference, to be held in Brussels on 9 December 2009, would discuss possible measures to counter adverse effects of economic crisis in the Western Balkans countries, the EU integration process in the post-Thessaloniki period and the regional cooperation. The Presidency has also expressed its intention for continuing with the practice of inviting the RCC Secretary General and other RCC Secretariat representatives at the important events and other relevant meetings to be organized during its term-in-office (such as are the plans for one briefing for COWEB on 21 September 2009 and one briefing for COWEB Capitals in October or November 2009) and to provide high-level participation at the most important events organized by the RCC or within the SEECP framework. In addition, there are plans for holding consultations between the RCC Secretary General and the representatives of the Swedish EU Presidency in the course of this autumn.

Contacts were also initiated with the Spanish Permanent Representation to the EU and the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs having in mind that these two countries will assume the Presidency of the EU Council in the first and second half of 2010 respectively. These early contacts indicate that Spain intends to secure appropriate follow-up of the Czech and Swedish EU Presidency efforts in respect to regional cooperation processes in South East Europe, however taking a more cautious position concerning the EU accession perspectives of the candidate and potential candidates from the region. Along the same lines, in order to maintain continuity and ongoing communication with subsequent EU Presidencies, the RCC has also initiated early contacts with representatives of the Federal Public Service for Foreign Affairs of Belgium which resulted in a preliminary agreement on holding consultations with the RCC Secretary General in the second half of 2009. Furthermore, communication with representatives of the Federal Public Service for Foreign Affairs and the Federal Public Service for Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue of Belgium has led to an agreement on starting activities with a view to organizing a joint Ministerial conference as a follow-up to the Bucharest Employment Process during the Belgian EU Presidency's

term-in-office. The RCC Secretary General has entered into communication in this regard with the competent minister in the Belgian Government.

## **VI. Outreach activities and visibility**

The RCC Secretariat continued its series of presentation of activities, mission and structure to a wider circle of government officials, business sector, civil society and the media. Presentations were held in Pristina on 18 May 2009 and in Brussels on 23 June 2009. The presentations were an opportunity to overview the results achieved in the first year of activities of the RCC Secretariat and discuss plans for the future in light of the RCC Strategic Work Programme 2009 – 2010. The RCC presented its achievements and plans, and how the advancement of RCC members from South East Europe on the path of European and Euro-Atlantic integration has increased potentials and readiness for regional cooperation. The Brussels presentation was attended by approximately one hundred officials from the European and Euro-Atlantic institutions, International Financial Institutions and international organizations, ambassadors and diplomats from the region, Brussels-based business organizations, think-tanks and journalists.

The RCC Secretary General participated in Croatia Summit in Dubrovnik on 9-10 July 2009 where he contributed to the discussion at the panel “Energy Landscape in Europe: A New Platform for Cooperation” giving an overview of the situation in South East Europe with the emphasis on the possibilities for further development of the regional energy infrastructure that would provide a strong boost to the accelerated economic development. The Secretary General highlighted energy insufficiency and supply variability as outstanding issues and presented a number of concrete ideas like resource pooling, energy exchange and joint storage facilities to address them. He explained the significance of enhanced coordination among all actors in tackling regional problems and underlined the important role of the RCC and its partners in this context informing the participants on the conference on regional development that is going to take place in December 2009 in Brussels co-organised by the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU and the European Commission.

The RCC Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool participated in the Bled Strategic Forum on 30 and 31 August 2009 entitled “The Politics of Economic Crisis: Redefining Economic and Geopolitical Landscapes in Europe and Eurasia”. The Forum gathered a number of participants from political and economic circles as well as academia. Deputy Secretary General Minic participated in the panel “The Strengthening of Economic Integration of the Western Balkans on the Way to Recovery”, where she, *inter alia*, presented the activities of the RCC in the area of economic and social development focused in particular on the countering adverse effects of current economic crisis in South East Europe at the regional level. The Bled Strategic Forum was also attended by the Head of the RCC Secretariat’s Liaison Office in Brussels.

The RCC Secretariat’s Liaison Office in Brussels received delegations of young people and civil servants from the region and briefed them on the RCC activities and the position

of regional cooperation in light of European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the Western Balkans. In the period under consideration the representatives of the Liaison Office have received three such delegations from the region – one with representatives from Albania and the other two with representatives from all countries of the Western Balkans. This practice is deemed to contribute to raising the visibility of the RCC.

## **VII. Cooperation with other regional organizations and initiatives**

Secretary General of the RCC Hido Bišćević and Secretary General of the Central European Initiative (CEI) - Executive Secretariat Ambassador Pietro Ercole Ago, signed, on 12 May 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that formalized cooperation and provided a general framework for enhancing project-oriented cooperation between the RCC Secretariat and the CEI-ES on issues of interest for South East Europe, transfer of know-how, seminars and training courses. The MoU will enable the RCC Secretariat and the CEI-Executive Secretariat to carry out jointly a number of activities taking advantage of available funds and expertise as well as assuring the best use of the existing cooperative network.

The eighth Coordination Meeting of Regional Organizations was held on 12 June 2009 at the headquarters of the CEI – Executive Secretariat in Trieste. The meeting was attended by representatives of secretariats of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (AII), the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), the CEI, the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the RCC and the SEECP. A representative of the European Commission was also present at the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a platform not only for discussing and comparing activities with a view to avoiding overlapping and duplication, but also for seeking synergies between regional initiatives and organizations and their secretariats, as well as for preparing the ground for joint projects and activities in the areas of common interest. The participants agreed to continue with the exchange of agendas and planned activities with the aim to harmonize events and activities on all levels.

## **VIII. Evaluation of general and institutional aspects of the RCC activities in the reporting period**

There were several important developments and trends influencing the regional cooperation in South East Europe and the RCC framework in the reporting period. The effects of the economic crisis on the region became additionally exacerbated. Its economic and social ramifications are likely to exert an influence on regional cooperation capacities of individual RCC members in the short and medium term. In addition to this, the pace of European and Euro-Atlantic integration process for candidates and potential candidates from the region, despite some objectively positive steps, is in need of new vigour and more resolute commitment.

The most significant event for the RCC was the completion of the first year of functioning (set-up and consolidation phase) of the RCC Secretariat and successful graduation to the phase of genuine project-oriented regional cooperation discussed at the RCC Annual Meeting on 4 June 2009 in Chisinau. The Annual Meeting sent positive steam into the wings of the RCC by endorsing the 2008-2009 Annual Report on Regional Cooperation of the RCC Secretary General, positively appraising the efforts in the inception and consolidation phase of the RCC, and more importantly, by giving the vote of confidence to the Strategic Work Programme of the RCC for period 2009 – 2010 outlining concrete areas of activity in the forthcoming period. All the stakeholders rallied behind the RCC format of promoting regional cooperation as a platform for ensuring stability and way forward for the region of South East Europe. Strong messages were also voiced concerning the necessity to uphold and implement the principle of all-inclusiveness of the RCC format.

However, the Annual Meeting revealed again that the principle of all inclusiveness is likely to be put to the test repeatedly due to internal or bilateral delicacies in individual countries. The Agreement that the SEECP Participating States and UNMIK on behalf of Kosovo in accordance with UNSC Resolution 1244 concluded with Bosnia and Herzegovina on host country arrangements for the RCC Secretariat clearly stipulates the responsibilities of the host country to allow entry without immigration restrictions to participants in meetings organized within the RCC framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina has, in early May 2009, adopted a conclusion to review each individual application and decide about granting entry visas to applicants, holders of passports issued by the Kosovo authorities, on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration special interests of the country. Such decision, although involving somewhat cumbersome procedure for obtaining an entry visa, in particular as the decision had to be taken in each every case by the Council of Ministers itself, enabled holders of passports issued by Kosovo authorities to attend meetings and events organized within the RCC framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina as members of delegation of UNMIK on behalf of Kosovo in accordance with UNSC Resolution 1244, although passports issued by Kosovo authorities are normally not recognized by Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Intensive contacts between the RCC Secretariat and the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular relevant services of the Council of Ministers, resulted in the adoption, on 3 September 2009, of a new conclusion by the Council of Ministers, which foresees somewhat less complicated procedure for the issuing of visas to the holders of passports issued by Kosovo authorities, who participate at the meetings within the RCC framework as part of the delegation of UNMIK on behalf of Kosovo in accordance with UNSC Resolution 1244, which permanently authorizes the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina to issue entry visas on separate blank paper to all participants at the RCC meetings or officials of the RCC Secretariat who are holder of passports issued by Kosovo authorities. The commencement of the application of such a new procedure, is expected to provide for less complicated framework for assuring the participation of the representatives of all RCC members at the RCC meetings in line with the provisions of the Host Country Agreement.

In addition to this, the issue of passports issued by Kosovo authorities will have to be taken into consideration within the framework of the RCC Annual Meetings which are, in accordance with the Statute of the RCC, held back-to-back with the SEECP summits and hosted by the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office. A challenge in this context arises from the non-existence of a formal and legally binding obligation of the individual SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office, apart from political responsibility, to grant an entry visa to a holder of a passport issued by Kosovo authorities so that they can participate in the meeting as part of the delegation of UNMIK on behalf of Kosovo in accordance with UNSC Resolution 1244. In this situation the RCC depends on the sense of responsibility of individual SEECP Chairmanships-in-Office and their ability to overcome serious national issues in order to preserve the all-inclusiveness of the RCC.

The RCC Secretariat is taking both potential impediments to regional cooperation very seriously and has been doing its utmost to assiduously provide technical facilitation in the process of obtaining visas for participants at meetings organized under its umbrella in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as for the RCC Annual Meeting in the Republic of Moldova. Simultaneously, the RCC Secretary General has been conducting extensive consultations on this matter with RCC stakeholders and encouraging them to take a pragmatic and flexible approach in enabling and sustaining the all inclusive character and unity of regional cooperation which is the responsibility of all RCC members.

The Annual Meeting also opened the door to a contemplation process on the future role and positioning of the RCC. While praising the achievements of the first year of functioning, many delegations, RCC members, expressed their belief that in the next phase the role of the RCC should be strengthened. Therefore, it is necessary to make a critical evaluation and to give strategic outlines for its future mid-term activities. Changes at the regional scene, within the EU and in the general global context will influence the future role and impact of the RCC, demanding permanent adjustments in its political engagement, programming role and in promoting and assisting implementation of the regional cooperation projects. It will be crucial to establish whether the stakeholders want to continue to see the RCC as a facilitator, as has been the case so far, or as a provider of regional cooperation, bestowing more leverage.

The European Commission has already signalled to the RCC Secretariat that it intended to review the nature of its engagement in the RCC beyond year 2010 until which date the current tri-fold financing mechanism will be in place. While reiterating its support to the RCC and its intention to remain committed to regional cooperation in South East Europe through the RCC beyond 2010, the Commission invited the RCC Secretariat to prepare a platform outlining areas in which the RCC can add value with regard to regional cooperation and which would serve as a basis for the future involvement of the European Commission.

In the period of its first year of operation the RCC has established itself as the key interlocutor for regional coordination and horizontal programming. The RCC has mapped ongoing regional initiatives and interests for the new initiatives in the region. In cooperation with all stakeholders, the RCC has already coordinated the development of a

number of regional projects and has undertaken the leading role in their regional coordination to apply for MB IPA funding, thus particularly complementing and adding value to National IPA Programmes. Moreover, the RCC Secretariat prepared a Project Portfolio with 22 Preliminary Project Ideas which were presented to the European Commission for possible financing under MB IPA 2010 in the beginning of May 2009. Several of these project ideas have been retained for further consideration and elaboration. Furthermore, following the debates at the MB IPA Coordination Meeting held on 9 and 10 June 2009 in Zagreb, the representatives of the RCC Secretariat will participate in Working Groups established in order to develop the IPA Multi-beneficiary three-year strategy 2011-2013 on each priority sector and to elaborate the strategic choices together with the preliminary project ideas.

As regards positive and very substantial cooperation with successive EU Presidencies, it is notable that a positive assessment for the RCC Secretariat working activities and its engagement has been expressed by relevant representatives of current and future EU Presidencies and partners from the EU Council. They have reaffirmed their full support to the future RCC work underlining the expectations that RCC will develop more concrete actions in result-oriented projects and it will become more ambitious and proactive. They have also pointed out the need for the countries of the region to work more closely and to take on the present economic crises as an opportunity for advancement of their cooperation, as well as the importance of the inclusiveness and ownership of the regional cooperation. It is also worth mentioning that the EU Council Annual Report on the Common Foreign and Security Policy in 2008 contains a clear reference to the RCC.

## **IX. Priority areas of the RCC Activities**

The five priority areas, representing the main direction of the RCC Secretariat's work are economic and social development; infrastructure and energy; justice and home affairs; security cooperation and building human capital and cross-cutting issues, including parliamentary cooperation. During the reporting period, under each of these objectives the RCC Secretariat, in particular its Expert Pool, focused on the following activities:

### **1) Economic and Social Development**

#### **Public Private Partnerships**

Throughout the months of May and June 2009, the RCC Secretariat finalized all preparations for the upcoming Ministerial Conference on Public Private Partnerships, jointly organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the RCC Secretariat, to be held on 25 September 2009 in Sarajevo. The agenda, speakers and financing arrangements were confirmed; the venue and logistics secured; and the invitations delivered to all relevant parties. The conference is part of the efforts to launch the project *Public Private Partnerships for Regional Infrastructure Development in*

*Southeast Europe*, which was submitted to the European Commission for possible financing under the MB IPA.

### **Women Entrepreneurship**

The RCC Secretariat has finalized preparations for holding a broad-based stakeholders meeting to discuss a possible new project for South East Europe: *Enhancing Women Entrepreneurship*. The stakeholders meeting, that will take place in Sarajevo on 1 October 2009, will aim to identify potential donors and providers of technical expertise and credit lines to the project, as well as to pinpoint the target group of women beneficiaries. As such, the meeting is intended to pave the way for organizing a regional women entrepreneurship conference at the end of the year where a regional women entrepreneurship network could also be launched. In short, the project aims to help women entrepreneurs from the region to network, access credit, and gain the technical skills and knowledge necessary to grow their businesses. Preparatory work is being done in consultation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), while the Turkish Chairmanship-in-Office of the SEECP has expressed a strong interest in lending support to this initiative.

### **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

On 10 June 2009, the RCC Secretariat hosted a one-day seminar *Using Modern Information and Communication Technologies to Harness the Potential of Southeast Europe's Scientific Diaspora*, which was co-organized with the Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office in Ljubljana. Bringing together a wide range of experts on the subject, the seminar shared best practices of ICT-based diaspora networking and inclusion in national human capital development strategies.

On 12 May 2009, the representative of the RCC Secretariat attended the meeting of the Management Board of the Centre for eGovernance Development and on 1 June 2009 the meeting of its Supervisory Board. On 30 June 2009 the representative of the RCC Secretariat attended the quarterly meeting of the eSEE initiative in Podgorica, where the discussion concerned the initiative's next Ministerial conference and the necessity to revitalize the eSEE Agenda Plus by identifying its priorities and rescheduling some its deadlines, including appointment of a new chairperson.

### **Consultations with the Investment Compact for South East Europe**

On 19 May and 22 June 2009, consultations were held with the OECD Investment Compact for South East Europe in Belgrade and Paris respectively, with a view to identifying future modes of cooperation between the OECD and the RCC, and also to explore the possibility of handing over the South East Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC) over to the RCC, as proposed by the OECD.

The OECD has also committed to participate in the upcoming Ministerial Conference on Public Private Partnerships where it will present the results of the Investment Reform Index 2009.

### **Consultations with the Nordic Investment Bank**

On 17 June 2009, the representatives of the RCC Secretariat accompanied by the representatives of the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in series of consultations with the Nordic Investment Bank (NIB) in Helsinki, where they presented the idea of establishing a Southeast Europe Investment Bank (SEEIB) to the NIB, which, in turn, presented its mode of operation and provided insights into the idea of SEEIB. The consultations highlighted the gravity of the challenges ahead for SEEIB, and in particular the crucial question of how the bank might collect sufficient funds and survive until it obtained a credit rating. The poor (or non-existent) credit ratings of its member states could well pose a problem for obtaining resources from the capital markets. The NIB has kindly offered the benefit of its future advice regarding the establishment of SEEIB.

### **Employment**

Having secured funding from the Government of Belgium and the participation of the European Commission (Directorate-General for Employment), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Council of Europe, the RCC Secretariat organized the first *Meeting of the South East Europe Employment Network* under the RCC umbrella on 23 June 2009 in Sarajevo. Having been latent for one year, the Employment Network was presented on this occasion with several proposals for a comprehensive work plan (created by the ILO and the RCC Secretariat, respectively) to guide its future operations, the implementation of which is to be tracked through regular subsequent meetings. The Network also discussed how to structure its future work in the realm of employment reforms and expressed a strong interest in following the example of the South East Europe Health Network whereby individual countries lead individual projects for the entire region. As previously, the Network remains keen on establishing a formal secretariat. In the meantime, individual countries have expressed an interest in taking a lead with respect to organizing future meetings, albeit the impetus and political mandate is still to come from the RCC.

### **Social Dialogue**

Having secured funding from the Government of Switzerland, the RCC Secretariat organized the first regional meeting of the social partners under the RCC umbrella on 22 June 2009 in Sarajevo. As the first meeting of its kind in several years, it provided an excellent opportunity for first contacts and discussions of common problems between trade unions and employers' associations from the region. The RCC Secretariat would be ready to support this group in identifying common socio-economic objectives *vis-à-vis* the governments of South East Europe, thus taking a first step towards a tri-partite social dialogue. And while it was not possible to identify in the course of this first meeting, all the social partners' common concerns, those present expressed their strong support towards working in this direction and solicited the RCC's support in encouraging governments' interest in the social partners.

Given that those present at the meeting expressed their intention to communicate their satisfaction with achieved outcomes to both the international and non-attending regional partners, the RCC Secretariat hopes that regional social dialogue can, in the future, benefit from greater support and gradually move in a very concrete direction of

establishing both a bi-lateral and tri-partite social dialogue mechanism on the regional level.

### **Health**

In May 2009, the South East Europe Health Network (SEEHN) issued a call for proposals from countries interested to host its future Secretariat. The *21st Meeting of the Health Network* took place on 25-27 June 2009 in Bucharest at which time the RCC and SEEHN held a ceremony to mark the signing of their MoU. The SEEHN also celebrated the completion of the signing of its own regional Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and two Ministerial Declarations on Mental Health and the Implementation of International Health Regulations, respectively. Participants also discussed the location of the seat of the new SEEHN Secretariat, the designation of Regional Health Development Centers based on proposals from its members, and the preparatory process for the upcoming Third Ministerial Forum of South East European Ministers of Health in 2010.

## **2) Energy and Infrastructure**

### **Environment**

During the reporting period, the activities of the RCC Secretariat focused on cooperation with the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), UN ECE Water Convention Secretariat and Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean.

This cooperation primarily related to the realization of the environmental events within the established framework program Roadmap for Environmental Cooperation in South East Europe agreed between the RCC Secretariat and REC. The *Natura 2000 in South East Europe* meeting was organized jointly with the REC and hosted by the RCC Secretariat (Sarajevo, 29 May 2009). This event considered major challenges and common priorities in the region and potential country specific cross-border future priorities. The RCC Secretariat actively participated in the Priority Environmental Infrastructure Investments in South East Europe event (Sarajevo, 18-19 June 2009) when a set of recommendations and possible activities were introduced by each participating country as an input to the Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA).

Cooperation with the UN ECE Water Convention Secretariat and the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean concentrated on the realization of a three-day *International Workshop on Transboundary Water Resources Management in South-Eastern Europe* (Sarajevo, 18-20 May 2009). The workshop highlighted cooperation on shared water resources management as a crucial component of the stability and prosperity in South East Europe. It promoted high level discussion on key issues facing transboundary waters and cooperation in the region linked with: (i) institutional and legal settings for cooperation, (ii) multipurpose use of water resources and (iii) climate change adaptation. It allowed sharing good practices, identifying bottlenecks and challenges as well as options for the region on the way ahead. Moreover, the workshop was a determinant step in the preparations of the second assessment of transboundary waters under the UN ECE

Water Convention. At the workshop, participants worked together to develop an accurate picture of all transboundary waters in South East Europe - both surface and groundwater - with the aim to monitor and bring positive changes to their management and lay the ground for strategic directions for future work under the Convention and in other political fora. The RCC Secretariat contributed in fundraising for realization of this costly event as well.

### **Energy**

The RCC Secretariat cooperated with the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS) participating at the 13th Permanent High Level Group meeting (Sarajevo, 25 June 2009) and 6<sup>th</sup> *Energy Community Ministerial Council meeting* (Sarajevo, 26 June 2009) and two other events organized by the ECS in order to support energy efficiency and renewable developments (``greening`` the Energy Community).

The RCC Secretariat co-organized, jointly with the Serbian Parliament and in coordination with the ECS a tailor-made workshop for parliamentary committee responsible for energy issue with the title ``The Energy Community and the Regional Security`` in order to raise awareness of parliamentarians on the substance, scope and dynamics of necessary energy reforms in order to improve the lawmaking process and parliamentarians ability to oversee their governments` activities. Contact with the Bosnia and Herzegovina Parliamentary Assembly representatives has been established in order to organize similar a tailor-made workshop for them by the end of this year as well.

The RCC Secretariat participated in a few events obtaining support from the organizers and presenting its position on security of energy supply, climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources (the 5<sup>th</sup> *BGS Congress*, the 20<sup>th</sup> *Session of the Steering Committee of the UNECE EE21 Project* and the *IENE 3<sup>rd</sup> SEE Energy Dialogue*). Meeting with the representatives of the Institute of Energy for South East Europe (IENE) was used to examine possibilities for deepening cooperation and the follow-up activities in that respect were agreed.

Based on the existing CEI infrastructure - already established network of CEI National Energy Focal Points, continuous cooperation between the RCC Secretariat and the CEI-Executive Secretariat resulted in launching an initiative on sustainable energy development in the region after the signing of a MoU on cooperation between the two organizations. After expected expression of interest by the RCC members from South East Europe and the CEI members, other relevant stakeholders would be included in initiative development.

### **Transport**

The RCC Secretariat sustained intensive cooperation with the International Commission for Sava River Basin (Sava Commission) in order to promote inland waterways as an economically viable and environmentally friendly transport mode. Cooperation with the Sava Commission related to the preparation and realization of the *International Workshop on Transboundary Water Resources Management in South-Eastern Europe* as well. Additionally, the RCC Secretariat participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Meeting of the Parties to*

*the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin.* Implementation of the Framework Agreement is extremely important for the region and success story of regional cooperation that can be replicated to other parts of South East Europe and even other regions.

The RCC Secretariat has started preparations for organizing jointly with the UN ECE Transport Division a high-level event in order to back the implementation of the UN General Assembly Resolution on Road Safety by the RCC members from South East Europe during 2010, having in the mind huge number of accidents and continuous increase of casualties on the roads in the region.

Furthermore, the RCC Secretariat started preparations together with the South-East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO) in order to contribute to the realization of a high-level event organized by the EU Presidency and the European Commission in Brussels on 9 December 2009.

### **3) Justice and Home Affairs**

#### **Combating organized crime and terrorism**

The Southeast European Cooperation Initiative Regional Center for Combating Trans-Border Crime (SECI Center) has become an efficient operational platform in the areas of drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, credit card frauds, and customs fraud. The main concern arose during the *30<sup>th</sup> Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of the SECI Regional Centre for Combating Trans-border Crime, 2- 3 June 2009*, Vlore referred to the draft Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC) Convention.

EU representatives proposed amendments to the SELEC Convention on personal data protection and the future of the SECI Center – Europol relations. The RCC Secretariat strongly supported the adoption of the SELEC Convention with the European Commission and Europol's active involvement. In respect to the EU proposals, JCC and SECI participants had a realistic approach and adopted a balanced solution of convening a last meeting of SELEC Working Group in July 2009 in Ljubljana and an extraordinary JCC meeting on 11-12 September 2009, in Thessaloniki to approve the SELEC Convention draft and to elect a SECI Center new Director and Deputy Director. RCC Secretariat's representative asked JCC to be invited as observer in the SELEC Working Group.

The SECI Center identified and sent to the RCC Secretariat for consideration and support two projects ideas: *“Transforming the SECI Regional Center for Combating Trans-border Crime into the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC)”* and *“Strengthening the analytical capabilities in order to prepare a Common Threat Assessment on Organized Crime for South East European Region (OCTA-SEE)”*. Both project proposals have been introduced in the RCC Projects Portfolio and discussed at the Zagreb IPA Multi-Beneficiary Regional Coordination Meeting on 9 and 10 June 2009.

The RCC Secretariat's representative held a lecture "*Terrorism as a threat to the Balkans region – considerations, estimates and risks*" at the Third Seminar of the Military Intelligence Service of Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina on "*Asymmetric Threats in the Balkans*", held from 25 to 28 May 2009 in Sarajevo.

The RCC worked closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in promoting the rule of law and cooperation in South East Europe in the key areas such as criminal justice and transnational organized crime. Cooperation between the UNODC and the RCC Secretariat was enhanced with the signing in Vienna, on 21 May 2009 of an MoU to build security and the rule of law in South East Europe. A joint priority is to address the challenges posed by illicit drugs, organized crime and corruption in the region.

A MoU on durable partnership and mutual cooperation is being developed between the RCC Secretariat and the Geneva Centre for International Governance regarding common training, consultancy and governance facilitation activities on: rule of law, good governance, legal and judiciary reforms, and fight organized crime and corruption. The regional approach is essential and constitutes a unique opportunity to exchange experience, views, best practices and lessons learned among justice officials, law enforcement officers, experts, policies and strategies makers.

The RCC Secretariat, together with the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, started the preparation for a South East European Counter-Terrorism Workshop aiming to promote cooperation and coordination and to prevent duplication and overlapping among the regional sub-bodies; at the same time, this workshop will provide a forum enabling regional and international stakeholders to discuss sub-regional, regional and international cooperation in counter-terrorism matters.

### **Courts and prosecutors' cooperation**

The RCC Secretariat continues to support the convergence between two regional prosecutors' networks Prosecutors' Network in South-Eastern Europe (PROSECO) and South Eastern Europe Prosecutors Advisory Group (SEEPAG). The RCC Secretariat's and SEEPAG's representatives took an active role in the positive process of coordination between SEEPAG and PROSECO. The main characteristics of the two regional networks of prosecutors are: PROSECO works for Western Balkans countries and SEEPAG advises SECI Center, which makes them complementary rather than in competition to each other.

The *14th Meeting of the SEEPAG*, organized from 13 - 16 May 2009, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina by the SECI Center and the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina was attended by the RCC Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool. The RCC Secretariat facilitated the achievement of positive results and the clarification of the relations between SEEPAG and SECI Center, as well as SEEPAG and PROSECO: the SEEPAG Secretariat shall form part of the SECI Center's Secretariat and benefit from the administrative and financial resources of the Center; SEEPAG has to be represented in JCC; coordination between SEEPAG and PROSECO will increase,

most of the focal-contact points are the same prosecutors; the decision on how SEEPAG and PROSECO will merge is on the South East Europe Prosecutor's General Forum.

Consultations have started between the RCC Secretariat and SEEPAG to conclude a MoU on bilateral cooperation.

From 27 to 29 May 2009 the RCC Secretariat's representatives and Italian experts had consultations and discussions in Sarajevo with representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Sarajevo Municipal Court and High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the consultations focused on: *e-justice*, judicial collaboration platform for cross border cooperation (JWEB), complete automation of trial folder and enhanced use of e-folder (JUMAS), possible short term synergies and joint actions with the European Commission.

### **Fight against corruption**

An RCC – Regional Anticorruption Initiative (RAI) common Project on “*Integrity and Resistance to Corruption of the Criminal Judicial System in South East European Countries*”, which is financed by the Department of State of the United States of America, started to be implemented by the Transparency International. The project consists of a survey, organized in each of the members of the RAI coordinated by national Ministries of Justice and Interior, as well as General Prosecutor's offices, in cooperation with civil society, with the purpose to assess, at the national level, legal practitioners (judges, prosecutors and police officers) experience in investigating, prosecuting and trailing high level corruption, the existence of corruption as a phenomenon in their professional activity and the vulnerabilities to corruption of the national criminal justice systems. Target countries are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia.

During the last IPA MB Regional Coordination Meeting (Zagreb, 9-10 June 2009) the Project Idea regarding the “*Regional network of (independent) specialized anti-corruption agencies*,” developed by the RCC Secretariat and RAI were retained for future strategic discussions.

### **Migration, asylum and refugees**

With the assistance of the RCC Secretariat and Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI) Regional Center, the Chairmanship-in-Office of the SEECF of the Republic of Moldova organized on 24 April 2009, in Chisinau, the *First Meeting of the Heads of Consular Services of the SEECF Participating States “Possibilities of facilitating the visa regime for experts from SEECF countries”*. The main results of the meeting were: a permanent mechanism has to be established among the SEECF Participating States with the RCC Secretariat and MARRI support; Turkey expressed its readiness to continue the process and to host the future meeting during its SEECF Chairmanship-in-Office in autumn 2009; the participants decided that the topic for the next meeting will be related to the consular aspects of the SEECF Participating States and the EU.

A *MARRI Regional Forum* took place on 29 May 2009 in Ohrid. The Ohrid Declaration emphasizes the progress in the process of coordination and project cooperation with the RCC and the need to take necessary steps towards ensuring MARRI's close and all-round cooperation with the RCC.

The IPA MB Regional Coordination Meeting held on 9 and 10 June 2009 in Zagreb retained for future strategic discussions the RCC – MARRI preliminary project idea on „*Regionally Integrated Approach of MARRI Member States for Successful Preventing and Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings (THB)*“.

### **Police and law enforcement cooperation**

The RCC Secretariat supported police and law enforcement networks to deepen cooperation within South East Europe, ensuring that the different aspects of this cooperation progress consistently. The RCC Secretariat's cooperation with Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCA) continued on the basis of joint support for project implementation. SEPCA declared its commitment to contribute to the launched consultation process for drafting a Multi-annual Regional Strategy in the area of Justice and Home Affairs.

The *Meeting of the SEPCA Sub-Board on Fighting Organized Crime*, on 25-26 June, 2009 in Sarajevo focused on police cooperation and joint operations for suppression of organized crime.

The national organized crime rate and the measures on tackling dangerous forms of criminality were discussed. Personal contacts, exchange of views and information were considered indispensable for better and more efficient cooperation; better connection between existing projects is necessary in order to reach real synergy and get positive results. Dissatisfaction with inefficient work of prosecutors that does not follow the pace of police cooperation was expressed.

The RCC Secretariat and SEPCA supported the Police Cooperation Convention (PCC) Secretariat to implement the Vienna 2006 Convention.

During an EU Project on the Establishment of Law-Enforcement Coordination Units (ILECUs) Meeting organized in Ljubljana, Slovenia from 8 to 10 June 2009, the RCC Secretariat assistance envisaged securing the synergies with other regional projects and that no duplication of efforts and activities will occur. The overall Report of the On-the-spot-analysis (OTSA) stated the following: basic awareness on ILECU's exists and things are moving, but unfortunately in most of the beneficiary countries there is no strong and visible ownership of the project and there is no project leadership at the senior administration level; as positive developments, in all countries nucleus exists and these nuclei are well embedded in the national operational law enforcement environment and have the potential to be extended into a full ILECU's.

### **Developing strategic partnerships**

The RCC Secretariat continued its strategic partnership with the UNODC. Convergence and harmonization has been maintained with EU, Council of Europe, UNODC, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and OECD strategies, projects and programs.

The RCC Secretariat continued developing contacts and identifying opportunities of cooperation with civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) specialized in Justice and Home Affairs, research institutes and academics (HEUNI, ISPAC, ASSER Institute, Marshall Centre), international professional associations of judges, prosecutors, police officers, lawyers.

## **4) Security Cooperation**

### **Disaster preparedness and prevention**

On 12 May 2009, the RCC and the World Bank participated in the Donor Coordination Forum in Sarajevo. The Southeast and Central Europe Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (SECE CRIF) project was presented to the donor community and a pledge for assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina increased.

The legal documents were translated in the relative South East European languages and offered to interested countries for further consideration and decision making.

On 16-19 June 2009, the RCC Secretariat's representative participated at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction – Second session in Geneva, organized by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR). During the Session the RCC Secretariat's representative took part in the following Special Events – Risk reduction and Insurance – the World Bank Group's menu of Instruments, South East Europe and Disaster Risk Reduction, How to Mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction in Development – Experience from Governments in Regional Consultative Committee member countries, EU Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction. At the Session SECE CRIF project was presented to donors.

As agreed at the First Meeting of SECE CRIF shareholders Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina informed the RCC Secretariat and the World Bank that due to budgetary constraints they were not in the position to finance their equity contributions to the project. In this respect, the World Bank and the RCC Secretariat are exploring the possibility of establishing a special lending SECE CRIF regional facility that could help the participating countries. The World Bank, jointly with the RCC and the UN/ISDR, will work closely with the European Commission and other international partners to identify other potential sources of funding for countries' equity contributions.

A project on establishing a South East Europe Firefighting Regional Centre (SEEFREC) was developed in coordination with the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative

for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE) and supported by the World Bank and UN/ISDR. The first preparatory meeting on the establishment of SEEFREC was held at the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat in Sarajevo on 15-16 July 2009. Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, the World Bank, the UN/ISDR, the European Commission, the DPPI SEE and the RCC Secretariat, discussed operational aspects of the SEEFREC establishment and agreed on the future steps. They elaborated on the possible structure, role and mandate of civil protection in disaster risk reduction in South East Europe and invited other RCC members from the region to join SEEFREC. The next preparatory meeting, to be hosted by Montenegro and prepared jointly with the RCC Secretariat in October 2009, will gather heads of national fire disaster management institutions from South East Europe and relevant international partners in order to finalize terms of reference for a comprehensive feasibility study on fire disasters and management needs in South East Europe. The World Bank and the UN/ISDR confirmed their readiness to seek financial support for the preparation of the feasibility study and the workshops related to the establishment of SEEFREC.

The RCC Secretariat has provided assistance to the UNDP in drafting and presenting to the European Commission two projects for possible financing - Regional Joint Fire Fighting Centre (as a sub-project of SEEFREC) and the Military Objects Conversion for Local Development purposes in South East Europe.

### **Non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons**

Upon the undertaken initiative by UNDP and South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) for possible setting up of an institutional mechanism for receiving earmarked and non-earmarked financial contributions from RCC members from the region and distributing them to the regional task forces and initiatives, the RCC Secretariat presented the idea to RCC Board on 14 May 2009. Upon the request of the RCC Board, the UNDP/SEESAC developed and submitted to the RCC Secretariat for further evaluation and approval of the RCC Board, drafts on – an Agreement between Donor and RCC, Procedures for Funds Allocations, a Project Disbursement Approval Form, a Project Document Template, Terms of Reference for an RCC Trust Fund and a SEESAC Resource Mobilization Strategy. These Draft documents outline in detail the mechanism that could form a Trust Fund where the countries from the region can transfer earmarked and non-earmarked funds for regional activities and exert full control and result orientated streamlining of available scarce resources through the RCC Secretariat. The implementation of such an idea will be a long-term process. The submitted proposal documents are circulated to the RCC Board members for consideration at the RCC Board meeting on 15 September 2009.

### **Coordination and streamlining of regional taskforces and initiatives**

The representative of the RCC Secretariat participated as a keynote speaker at the *10-th WG 2 Workshop on Military Base Conversion*, co-organized by the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro and RACVIAC- Centre for Security Cooperation in Podgorica. The aim of the Workshop was to provide an opportunity to representatives from different ministries, regional and local authorities, international organizations, NGOs, financial

institutions and businesses from South East Europe to discuss all aspects of Military Base Conversion (MBC). The Workshop concentrated on evaluating and discussing how – to enable efficient exchange of expertise and lessons learned in the field of MBC, - to strengthen networking and assist regional countries in capacity building, - to develop national MBC projects and liaise with stakeholders, thus securing synergy between MBC projects, and encouraging cooperation on both national and international level, - to learn principles and standards related to conversion of former military bases and their implementation into practice, - through MBC project development to support the economic revival of regions by conversion of military bases into a compound of effective, sustainable businesses and social structures, thus reducing the negative socio-economic effects and supporting regional business, - to coordinate governmental, municipal, business and community efforts in order to facilitate achievement of the conversion goals and to evaluate the impact of global economic recession on the MBC process. UNDP representatives presented the Military Objects Conversion for Local Development purposes in South East Europe project, which was supported by all participants.

### **Consultations with relevant regional and international partners**

Upon receiving a letter – proposal from the Ministry of Defence of Bulgaria, Defence Policy and Security Directorate a joint initiative was undertaken and the *First meeting of Defence Policy Directors and International Cooperation Directors of the Ministries of Defence from South East Europe* was organized in Sofia on 21-22 May 2009.

The Meeting focused, in an informal way, on enhancing regional defence and security cooperation and opportunities to join efforts to face common security challenges. It intended to allow networking, building relationships, and strengthening trust as a basis for furthering regional security cooperation in the defence arena. Representatives of the General Secretariat of the EU Council and the Presidency of the EU as well as representatives from North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) International Staff addressed the meeting acknowledging its high value. Discussion took place on National Views on Regional Cooperation - General Assessment of Existing Formats and Results Achieved. The delegations discussed various requirements for enhancing transnational/multinational defense cooperation capabilities, proposed initiatives to meet possible expectations, and formulated techniques and capabilities to improve the region-wide transnational defense cooperation efforts. Delegates discussed what effective mechanisms of defense and security regional cooperation can be developed in the RCC framework. All participants expressed full support to the joint Bulgarian –RCC Secretariat's initiative for organizing the Defence Policy Directors meeting and pointed out their expectations that this initiative will turn to be an annual event. A general understanding prevailed that the future meetings should be kept informal with the RCC Secretariat's assistance on the organizational modalities.

Following consultations with the COWEB coordinator, General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, with the Director of Intelligence of the EU Council Military Staff and with the Ministry of National Defence of Romania a letter-proposal was issued by the Head of the Military Intelligence Directorate of the Romanian Ministry of National

Defence to co-organize with the RCC Secretariat the First Meeting of the Heads of Military Intelligence Agencies from South East Europe under the auspices of the Director of Intelligence of the EU Council Military Staff. The meeting will take place on 5 and 6 October 2009 in Bucharest.

In the reporting period, the RCC Secretariat continued successful cooperation with civil society organizations in the region.

## **5) Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues**

### **Education**

The RCC Secretariat's representatives contributed to several events during the reporting period. The RCC Secretariat's representative participated in the *Sixth Regional South East Europe Networking Conference on Citizenship and Human Rights Education*, held on 20 May 2009 in Becici, which was co-organized by the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Education and Science of Montenegro. The Conference is a part of the Council of Europe's Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Programme 2006-2009, with the main goal of systematic development of standards in teacher training in different fields. The Conference was a great opportunity for the participants to present the aims and ongoing activities of their institutions and organizations in regard the state of Teacher Training, as well as to exchange views and ideas for the future cooperation in the field of Civic Education and Human Rights.

*The 10th meeting of the Education Reform Initiative in South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) Governing Board and Consultative Body*, held on 23 June 2009 in Zagreb, has been organized by the ERI SEE Agency in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of Croatia. Presentation of the RCC Secretariat's representative, together with the announcement of the host country of ERI SEE Agency (Croatia), on planed withdrawal of financing and hosting of the mentioned institution, sparked a vigorous discussion on the perspectives of ERI SEE. The Governing Board proposed the establishment of a working group, which will have the task to come up with an optional module for future functioning of the Initiative, including legal status, financing, internal rules, scope of activities as well as the future seat of the Agency.

*The Second meeting of the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital of the RCC* was held on 24 June 2009 in Zagreb. The representative of the RCC Secretariat gave an introductory presentation on the recent developments regarding the improvement of human capacities in South East Europe. Co-Chairs presented a Task Force Plan of Action 2009-2010, while the Task Force Secretariat explained ongoing activities in the scope of the Capacity Building Programme for Regional Cooperation and introduced new Task Force Internet Platform – online calendar. Capacity Building Programme aims at fostering relevant capacities and know-how within the Ministries responsible for education, science and research in managing regional activities and programmes. The

RCC Secretariat has prepared the program of activities for three groups of two practitioners for the time of their study visit to the RCC Secretariat in autumn 2009.

*International Conference on Non-formal Education and Adult Learning*, held in Šibenik, Croatia, has been co-organized by the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, National Andragogy Society, and Croatian Agency for Adult Education. The Conference gathered experts from various national institutions of the countries from the region, as well as the representatives of different international organizations. The event aimed at exchanging experiences and best practices in two particularly important educational aspects - not only for the educational systems in South East Europe, but also for those in the EU Member States - Non-formal Adult Education and Life-Long Learning. During the bilateral consultations and informal discussions, all the counterparts expressed firm support to the idea of organization of the Regional Conference on Adult Education and Life-Long Learning.

Quality Insurance in education depicts one of the priorities of the RCC activities. In that light the representative of the RCC Secretariat participated at the *International Conference Monitoring School Quality in Serbia*, 10-13 June 2009, Belgrade, which has been co-organized by the Serbian Ministry of Education and the Inspectorate of Education of the Kingdom of Netherlands. Representatives of international institutions expressed their full support to the realization of the training at the regional level, since, in their opinion, all the countries in the region are in need of further development of the Quality Assurance in education systems. Counterparts from the region agreed that the project idea should be presented and further developed at the regional conference, which could be organized at the RCC Secretariat premises in Sarajevo at the beginning of the next year.

### **Research and Development**

The RCC Secretariat has been involved in coordination of activities towards the development of a Project “Regional Strategy for Research and Development for the Western Balkans”, which has been endorsed by the RCC members from the Western Balkans. Following the Ministerial conference - *Developing the Regional Research Strategy for the Western Balkans*. (held in Sarajevo on 24 April 2009) and the adoption of the Joint Statement on Developing Regional Strategy for Research and Development for the Western Balkans a Follow-up Meeting was organized by the RCC Secretariat on 7 September 2009, where participants discussed future steps and activities in the context of the elaboration of the Regional Strategy.

Cooperation with the OECD is proceeding with regard to the preparations and follow up to the Regional Conference on the Regional Research Strategy for the Western Balkans and the preparation of the Regional Strategy for Research and Development in the Western Balkans. OECD representatives expressed willingness to take part in the future activities in cooperation with RCC on research and in general in building of human capital. They also showed readiness to outreach to a number of individual donor governments which could be interested to allocate their development assistance for

supporting the first phase of building the Regional Strategy for Research and Development in the Western Balkans, before the availability of funds from MB IPA.

The biannual *Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkans* meeting held in Liblice, Czech Republic, has been organized by the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, European Commission DG Research and the Albanian Ministry of Education and Science which holds the current Co-Chairmanship of the Steering Platform on Research. Participants underlined their commitment to the pursuit of the Joint Statement from the Ministerial meeting on Developing Regional Strategy on Research and Development for Western Balkans, as well as their firm commitment for the whole Western Balkans' full integration in the European Research Area.

### **Public Administration Reform**

A joint meeting was held between the RCC Secretariat representatives and the Executive Director of the Centre for International Governance, which is an integral part of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. The director of Geneva Institute expressed interest in exploring and identifying new opportunities of collaboration with the South East European region. The RCC Secretariat organized and participated at the meetings of the Executive Director of the Geneva Institute with Montenegrin officials, as the representatives of the host country of Regional School for Public Administration (ReSPA). They expressed their satisfaction with the proposed training program for the young diplomats in the region.

## **6) Parliamentary cooperation**

The reporting period marked the continuation of activities related to the legislative acquiring of the *acquis communautaire*. The parliamentary seminar on the visa and migration issue dedicated to parliamentary expert staff was held in the National Assembly of Republic of Serbia on 18-19 May 2009. The RCC Secretariat, the European Parliament and the Serbian National Assembly co-organized this seminar in close coordination with the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation. Next cycle of parliamentary seminars organized with the European Parliament will follow in the last three months of 2009.

The RCC Secretariat took part also in co-organization of the first *Conference on Parliamentary oversight of intelligence agencies in South East Europe* which took place on 26-27 May 2009 in Sarajevo. The Conference was done in cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Joint Committee on Parliamentary Oversight over Intelligence and Security Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norwegian Institute of Foreign Affairs, NATO Headquarters in Bosnia and Herzegovina, OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Intelligence and Security Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On this two-day event Members of Parliament from South East Europe took part and concluded that such conference should become an annual event whereby exchange of experience could be done on the issues of parliamentary oversight over security and intelligence sector.

## **X. Setting up of the RCC Secretariat**

Following the finalization of the appointment procedure the Expert on Infrastructure and Energy assumed the post in the RCC Secretariat on 1 June 2009. This appointment marked the end of the initial recruitment process for the RCC Secretariat.

Following departure of the Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development from the RCC Secretariat as of 13 July 2009, the position was publicly advertised in line with the Personnel Policies and Procedures of the RCC Secretariat. The vacancy advertisement (open for applications until 10 August 2009) was also circulated to the RCC National Coordinators from South East Europe in line with the established practice. The interviews with selected short-listed candidates will take place in Sarajevo on 18 September 2009. Following these interviews the RCC Secretary General will make a decision on the appointment in line with procedure envisaged by the Personnel Policies and Procedures of the RCC Secretariat.

The Assistant to the Head of Expert Pool, who took the maternity leave as of beginning of January 2009, and was replaced on a temporary basis until return from the leave in line with the provisions of the Personnel Policies and Procedures of the RCC Secretariat returned to the post as of 1 June 2009.

The Accountant, who is taking the maternity leave as of 20 July 2009, is currently replaced on a temporary basis until return from the leave, in line with the provisions of the Administrative and Staff Regulations of the RCC Secretariat.

The RCC Secretariat currently comprises of a total of 37 staff members, out of which 31 RCC Secretariat's officials and five members of technical and service staff (public affairs assistant, driver/security officer, two drivers/couriers, receptionist). A complete list of the RCC Secretariat's staff is appended in Annex II to the report.

Regarding the setting-up of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels there remains the outstanding question of the application of the privileges and immunities of fiscal nature for the Head and Deputy Head of the Liaison Office. In this view, the RCC Secretary General sent a communication to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in early January 2009, proposing to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a Party to and, at the same time, a depositary of the Host Country Agreement to consider the possibility of initiating the process of amending relevant provisions of the Agreement in order to provide for confirmation of taxability of officials of the RCC Secretariat in their countries/places of origin and/or permanent residence. This proposal of the RCC Secretary General is currently under consideration by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## **XI. 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.

## **XII. State of the financial contributions to the RCC Secretariat's budget**

Until 9 September 2009 the following contributions were made to the RCC Secretariat's budget:

- Czech Republic	50,000.00 EUR	18 December 2008
- Italy	50,000.00 EUR	17 February 2009
- Bosnia and Herzegovina	30,000.00 EUR (remaining portion of contribution unpaid – 30.000 EUR)	4 March 2009
- Bulgaria	140,000.00 EUR	6 March 2009
- Moldova	40,000.00 EUR	17 March 2009
- Serbia	60,000.00 EUR	19 March 2009
- Croatia	80,000.00 EUR	30 March 2009
- Latvia	50,000.00 EUR	7 April 2009
- Norway	98,331.83 EUR 33,350.10 EUR (rollover of 2008 unspent funds-additional to contribution)	7 April 2009 July 2009
- Sweden	150,000.00 EUR	21 April 2009
- Romania	140,000.00 EUR	27 April 2009
- European Commission	550,000.00 EUR 550,000.00 EUR	4 May 2009 6 August 2009
- Albania	60,000.00 EUR	14 May 2009
- France	50,000.00 EUR	20 May 2009
- Montenegro	40,000.00 EUR	22 May 2009
- Ireland	50,000.00 EUR	2 June 2009
- Turkey	125,000.00 EUR (remaining portion of	10 July 2009

- Finland	contribution unpaid – 15.000 EUR) 1,363.18 EUR (rollover of 2008 unspent funds -additional to contribution)	July 2009
- Hungary	16,201.42 EUR (rollover from unspent funds from 2008 as advance to the contribution –remaining portion of contribution unpaid-33,798,58 EUR)	July 2009
- Poland	16,183.57 EUR (rollover from unspent funds from 2008 as advance to the contribution –remaining portion of contribution unpaid-33,816,43 EUR)	July 2009
- Slovenia	16,201.42 EUR rollover from unspent funds from 2008 as advance to the contribution –remaining portion of contribution unpaid-33,798,58 EUR)	July 2009
- Switzerland	121,000.00 EUR	17 July 2009
- The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	60,000.00 EUR	20 July 2009
- Greece	140,000.00 EUR	10 August 2009

### **XIII. Future activities of the RCC Secretariat**

Forthcoming events of particular importance in the period until the next RCC Board meeting (Sarajevo, 4 December 2009) are the following:

- 16 September 2009, Sarajevo – signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the RCC Secretariat and MARRI;
- 17 September 2009, Sarajevo - Meeting of the High-Level Expert Panel aimed at stimulating in-depth discussion on economic and financial measures in response to the current crisis;
- 24 September 2009, Sarajevo – signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the RCC Secretariat and the SECI Center;
- 25 September 2009, Sarajevo - Ministerial Conference „Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Strategic Infrastructure Networks: Developing the PPP Enabling Environment in South East Europe (SEE)“ – coorganized by the RCC Secretariat and the UNDP;
- 1 October 2009, Sarajevo – Conference „Enhancing Women Entrepreneurship in South East Europe“ – jointly prepared with the UN ECE;
- 5-6 October 2009, Bucharest – Meeting of the Heads of Military Intelligence of South East Europe – coorganized by the Ministry of National Defence of Romania and the RCC Secretariat;
- 12 October 2009, Sarajevo – Meeting of the representatives of the RCC members from South East Europe in the Financial Sub-Committee to the RCC Board;
- 13 October 2009, Sarajevo – Meeting of the Financial Sub-Committee to the RCC Board;
- 14 October 2009, Bucharest- RCC presentation in Romania;
- 15-16 October 2009, Sarajevo – Workshop „Building New South East Europe –Role and Potentials of the Media“- coorganized by the RCC Secretariat and the OSCE;
- 20 October 2009, Sarajevo – Public lecture on possible measures aimed at countering adverse effects of economic crisis in the region (exact title to be finalized) – coorganized by the RCC Secretariat, Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV) and the Faculty of Economics of the University of Sarajevo;
- 28-29 October 2009, Sarajevo – Interuniversity Conference on Higher Education;
- 26-27 November 2009, Sarajevo – Workshop on Illicit Drugs – organized in cooperation with the OSCE;
- 4 December 2009 – RCC Board meeting;

## ANNEX I

### **LIST OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE RCC SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE RCC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS IN THE PERIOD FROM 9 MAY TO 9 SEPTEMBER 2009**

- The 5<sup>th</sup> Congress of Balkan Geophysical Society organized by the Balkan Geophysical Society and the Association of Geophysicists of Serbia – Belgrade, 10 - 12 May 2009 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Meeting with the Advisor for RCC issues, US Department of State - Brussels, 11 May 2009 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Head of the Enlargement Strategy Unit in DG Enlargement, European Commission – Brussels, 12 May 2009 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Participation in EU Conference on Scholarships for Western Balkan Students – Brussels, 12 May 2009 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with representatives of the European Central Bank – Sarajevo, 12 May 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Management Board Meeting of CeGD – Ljubljana, 12 May 2009 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Signing of MoU on Cooperation with Central European Initiative (CEI )- Executive Secretariat – Sarajevo, 12 May 2009 (Secretary General, Political Advisor, Legal Advisor)
- OSCE – Human Dimension Seminar on Strengthening the Rule of Law in the OSCE Area with special focus on the effective Administration of Justice – Warsaw, 12 – 14 May 2009 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs and Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Briefing for SEE journalists - Sarajevo, 13 May 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues, Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure, Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- Meeting with representatives of IFC– Sarajevo, 13 May 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- RCC Board meeting – Sarajevo, 14 May 2009 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Head of Liaison Office, Chief of Staff, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council, 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, Legal Advisor, Junior Political Advisors)
- Conference on Mutual Legal Assistance in the SEEPAG countries – Sarajevo, 14 – 15 May 2009 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
  - Participation at the “European Forum Wachau” organised by the Ministry of European and International Affairs of Austria – Krems, 16-17 May 2009 (Secretary General)
  - Participation at the International Workshop “Transboundary Water Resources Management in Southeastern Europe - A Regional Stability and Prosperity Process Component” – Sarajevo, 18-20 May 2009 (Secretary General, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
  - Meeting with representative of the Belgian Federal Public Service for Employment, Labor and Social dialogue – Brussels, 18 May 2009 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
  - Final Conference on the European Liberty and Solidarity in the Center for European Policy Studies – Brussels, 18 May 2009 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
  - RCC Presentation in Pristina – Pristina, 18 May 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues, Senior Expert on Security Issues, Expert on Economic and Social Development, Spokesperson, Junior Political Advisor)
  - Meeting of Political Directors of the Regional Partnership (Visegrad Group+2) – Brussels, 18 May 2009 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
  - Visa and Border Management Seminar – Belgrade, 18 – 19 May 2009 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Regional SEE Networking Conference on Citizenship and Human Rights Education – Besci, 18 – 20 May 2009 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
  - Participation in the debate “Solidarity for societal security: coming together to make Europe safer” - Brussels, 18 May 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
  - Meeting with Representative of the Federal Public Service Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue - Brussels, 18 May 2009 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council , Advisor in the Liaison Office)
  - Participation at the Ceremonial address by Mr. Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice president of the USA – Sarajevo, 19 May 2009 (Secretary General)

- Meeting with Young civil servants from the Western Balkans – Brussels, 19 May 2009 (Head of Liaison Office, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council, Deputy Head of Liaison Office, Advisors in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with OECD Investment Compact - Belgrade, 19 May 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting Business Advisory Council (BAC) SEE – Belgrade, 19 May 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Information Society and eDemocracy Conference – Belgrade, 19 May 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool)
- Participation at the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Regional Partnership and of Western Balkan Countries organised by the Slovenian chairmanship of the Regional Partnership – Brdo kod Kranja, 20 May 2009 (Secretary General)
- Participation in the first meeting of the South East European Defence Policy Directors (SEEDPD) - Sofia, 21-22 May 2009 (Deputy Secretary General, Head of Liaison Office, Senior Expert on Security Issues, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the of the Competition Authorities of the SEECP– Chisinau, 21 May 2009 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Ceremony of signing of the MoU with UNODC– Vienna, 21 May 2009 (Secretary General, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Legal Advisor)
- Meeting with Head of Information and Communication Unit in the European Commission and with the Ambassador in the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for the organization of the December Conference– Brussels, 25 May 2009 (Secretary General, Head of Liaison Office, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with Director in DG Enlargement of the European Commission – Brussels, 25 May 2009 (Secretary General, Head of Liaison Office, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the President of the Chamber of Commerce Belgium-Luxembourg South-East Europe - Brussels, 25 May 2009 (Head of Liaison Office, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with Senior Experts of the World Bank - Brussels, 25 May 2009 (Secretary General, Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with Representative of Enlargement Strategy Unit and COWEB Representative from Greece – Brussels, 26 May 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Seminar of Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina Military Intelligence Branch “Asymmetric Threats in Balkans” – Sarajevo, 26 – 28 May 2009 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- Advanced Research Workshop – International Centre for Democratic Transition (ICDT) – Skopje, 26- 28 May 2009 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- Meeting with Representatives on e-Justice from the Ministry of Justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Sarajevo, 27 May 2009 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Briefing for the Council Working Group on Western Balkans (COWEB) - Brussels, 28 May 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Head of the Liaison Office, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Political Consultations with Minister of State of Germany and the German National Coordinator for RCC – Berlin, 28 May 2009 (Secretary General, Political Advisor)
- Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkan Countries – Liblice/ Prague, 28 May 2009 (Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- Meeting with Head of Regional Programmes Unit in the DG Enlargement of the European Commission – Brussels, 28 May 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Head of Liaison Office, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- ReSPA Meeting and International Conference on Non-formal Education and Adult Learning – Podgorica and Sibenik/ Croatia - 28 – 31 May 2009 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- Meeting with the Sarajevo Canton Court - Sarajevo, 29 May 2009 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- EPC Policy dialogue on ‘The Future of the EU Enlargement ‘ – Brussels, 29 May 2009 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- Environmental Conference – Natura 2009 – Sarajevo, 29 May 2009 (Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure)
- Vision of the European Serbia – Belgrade, 29 May 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool)
- MARRI Regional Forum – Ohrid, 29 May 2009 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin – Belgrade, 1 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Meeting with Deloitte – Sarajevo, 1 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)

- CeGD Supervisory Board – Ljubljana, 1 June 2009 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting of the SEECP Political Directors - Chisinau, 2-3 June 2009 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff, Political Advisor, Junior Political Advisor)
- Director of Bruegel (Brussels based think-tank) – Brussels, 2 June 2009 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Joint Cooperation Committee of the SECI Center – Vlore, 2-3 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Briefing for the Council Working Group on Western Balkans –Capitals Format(COWEB - Capitals) – Brussels, 3 June 2009 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- Increasing Energy Efficiency for Secure Energy Supplies – Geneva, 3 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- RCC Annual Meeting – Chisinau, 4 June 2009 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Head of Liaison Office, Chief of Staff, Spokesperson, Political Advisors, Junior Political Advisor)
- Meeting of the SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs – Chisinau, 4 June 2009 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Head of Liaison Office, Chief of Staff, Spokesperson, Political Advisors, Junior Political Advisor )
- Meeting of the Heads of States and Government of the SEECP Participating States – Chisinau, 5 June 2009 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Head of Liaison Office, Chief of Staff, Spokesperson, Political Advisors, Junior Political Advisor)
- Meeting with Counselor in charge of the Western Balkans in the Cabinet of the High Representative for CFSP – Brussels, 5 June 2009 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- Participation at the meeting of the Ad Hoc Council/The European Government Business Relations Council – Zagreb, 8 June 2009 (Secretary General)
- Meeting with Counselor in the Permanent Representation of Sweden and COWEB chair during the Swedish EU Presidency – Brussels, 8 June 2009 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- The Energy Community and the Regional Security – Belgrade, 8 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure)
- EREF Developing Human Capital and Managing Migration for more Competitive European Regions – Nova Gorica/ Slovenia, 8 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-cutting Issues)

- ILECU's Project Meeting – Ljubljana, 8 – 10 June 2009 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- IPA Multi-Beneficiary meeting – Zagreb, 9 – 10 June 2009 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Senior Expert on Security Issues, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-cutting Issues)
- ICT and Scientific Diaspora: Using Modern Information Communication Technologies to Harness Potential of the SEE Scientific Diaspora – Workshop – Sarajevo, 10 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting of the Selection Committee for the seat of SEEHN – Copenhagen, 10-11 June 2009 (Legal Advisor)
- International Conference on Monitoring School Quality in Serbia – 10 – 13 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- Meeting with Economist, World Bank - 11 June 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Conference on “Agriculture and Enlargement” – Zagreb, 12 June 2009 (Secretary General, Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Peer learning and networking visit of SEE experts to the Public Accreditation Agency for Higher Education of Albania – Tirana, 12 – 13 June 2009 (Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-cutting Issues)
- Meeting with President of the Standing International Conference of Inspectorate – Belgrade, 13 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-cutting Issues)
- Serbia and Regional Integration – Belgrade, 15 June 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool)
- Social impact of the economic crisis in the Western Balkans – Zagreb, 15 June 2009 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with Head of Section, Regional Programmes Unit, DG Enlargement, European Commission – Brussels, 15 June 2009 (Advisors in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with Representative of Section for Regional Cooperation, Cultural Heritage, RCC, OHR, DG Enlargement, European Commission – Brussels, 15 June 2009 (Advisors in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with OECD Consultant – Brussels, 15 June 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with Albanian Delegation of young civil servants - Brussels, 16 June 2009 (Head of Liaison Office, Deputy Head of Liaison Office, Advisors in the Liaison Office)
- The Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction – Geneva, 16 – 19 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)

- Consultation Meeting with the Nordic Investment Bank (NIB) regarding possible establishment of a Southeast Europe Investment Bank (SEEIB) – Helsinki, 17 June 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Participation in the High-Level Conference on the implementation of the European Charter for Small Enterprises in the Western Balkans, organized by the European Commission – Brussels, 17-18 June 2009 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- 3rd SEE Energy Dialogue, Threats and Opportunities in the Energy Markets in the Current Economic Crisis" – Thessaloniki, 17 – 20 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure)
- Participation at the first South-East Europe Aviation Workshop organized by Croatia Airlines and the Association of European Airlines – Dubrovnik, 17-18 June 2009 (Secretary General)
- Meeting with Representatives of Regional Programmes and line DGs, ETF and OECD, European Commission - Brussels, 18 June 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Environmental conference – PEIP – Sarajevo, 18 – 19 June 2009 (Expert on Energy and Infrastructure)
- Meeting with the representative of the World Bank Sarajevo Office - Sarajevo, 19 June 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Visit to TEPAV including bilateral meetings with TEPAV representatives and participation at the conference on “Existing level of cooperation in SEE and RCC role” - Ankara, 22 June 2009 (Secretary General)
- Meeting with the OECD Investment Compact: Discussion of possible avenues for future cooperation between the RCC and OECD Investment Compact – Paris, 22 June 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Advisor in the Liaison office)
- Meeting with Principal Administrator in the Science and Technology Policy Division and Head of the Country Studies Unit, Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry – Brussels, 22 June 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool)
- Social Dialogue and Employment and Social Policy Network Meeting – Sarajevo, 22 – 23 June 2009 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- RCC presentation in Brussels – 23 June 2009 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Head of Liaison Office, Chief of Staff, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Spokesperson, Advisors in the Liaison Office, Junior Political Advisor)

- Meeting with Head of Regional Programmes Unit in the DG Enlargement of the European Commission - Brussels, 23 June 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Advisors in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Director in the DG Enlargement of the European Commission-Brussels, 23 June 2009 (Secretary General, Head of Liaison Office, Chief of Staff, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- 10th Workshop on Military Base Conversion – Podgorica, 23 – 26 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- Meeting of the Governing Board of ERI SEE – Zagreb, 23 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital, Legal Advisor)
- Participation in the Crans-Montana Forum on issues related to enlargement, security, justice and home affairs policies - Brussels, 24-26 June 2009 (Secretary General, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Energy Community Permanent High Level Group meeting – Sarajevo, 25 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Meeting with the representative of the Economic Institute Zagreb regarding idea for the competitiveness boosting project “Fostering Innovation Capacity of Small and Medium Enterprises in Western Balkans” – Sarajevo, 25 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Kingdom of Belgium and NATO - Brussels, 26 June 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Presentation of the Swedish EU Presidency Priorities by the Swedish Permanent Representative to the EU at the Center for European Policy Studies - Brussels, 26 June 2009 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- 21st meeting of the SEE Health Network – Bucharest, 25 – 27 June 2009 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Energy Community Ministerial Council meeting – Sarajevo, 26 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Participation at the International Conference on "Are the EU and the Balkans drifting apart" organised by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation – Berlin, 29 June 2009 (Secretary General)
- Participation in the TAIEX Multi-country Seminar on Anticorruption Measures: regional clinic activities - Brussels, 29-30 June 2009 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- eSEE Working Group and bSEE Taskforce meeting – Podgorica, 29 – 30 June 2009 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)

- Meeting with Single Sky & Modernization of Air Traffic Control and International Issues Representatives, DG for Energy and Transport, European Commission - Brussels, 30 June 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with Director of the Croatian Agency for Public Private Partnership – Sarajevo, 30 June 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool)
- Meeting with representatives of the South East Europe Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group – Sarajevo, 1 July 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Meeting with the representative of the IDM – Sarajevo, 1 July 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- Meeting with the NGO Center for Energy Efficiency in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo, 1 July 2009 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Participation in IPA MB Donor Coordination meeting - Brussels, 2 July 2009 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with representatives of the Council of Europe – Brussels, 2 July 2009 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital)
- Meeting with the spokesperson of the European Peoples Party (EPP) – Brussels, 6 July 2009 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Advisor to the Prime Minister of Italy – Brussels, 6 July 2009 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Participation in the evaluation committee of project proposals under MB IPA 2008 Programme related to civil society facility on fight against corruption, organized crime and trafficking – administrative checking - Brussels, 6 - 8 July 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria – Brussels, 7 July 2009 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Participation at the Ministerial Meeting of the Initiative of Cross-Border Cooperation of towns and local authorities at Tri-junction of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Republic of Croatia with potential donors – Igalo, 8 July 2009 (Secretary General)
- International Conference: “Visa liberalisation in the Western Balkans – Bratislava, 8 July 2009 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Meeting with the Head of Mission of Albania to the EU - Brussels, 9 July 2009 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Director of Hans-Seidel Foundation– Brussels, 9 July 2009 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)

- Participation at the Croatia Summit – Dubrovnik, 9 - 10 July 2009 (Secretary General)
- Participation in the “Conference on Regional Arms exports report” organized by the SEE Clearinghouse on small arms and light weapons (SEESAC) - Becici, 9 - 10 July 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Participation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Railway Reform Workshop for Task: Access to Railway Network “Developing common procedures for harmonisation of network statements in SEETO” – Sarajevo, 9 – 10 July 2009 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy and Expert on Infrastructure)
- Meeting with the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the EU – Brussels, 10 July 2009 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the desk officer in DG TREN of the European Commission on Transport Community Treaty of the Western Balkan countries – Brussels, 13 July 2009 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Participation in the evaluation committee of project proposals under MB IPA 2008 Programme related to Civil Society Facility, support to Partnership Actions “Environment, Energy Efficiency, Health and Safety at Work - Brussels, 13 - 17 July 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with a Representative of the Chief Intelligence Policy Branch EUMS, General Secretariat of the Council of the EU - Brussels, 14 July 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Secretary General of the Association of European Wholesalers of Medicaments - Brussels, 14 July 2009 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the desk officer for RCC in the Policy Unit of the General Secretariat of the Council - Brussels, 14 July 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with Team leader of Cross border Institution building – Sarajevo, 14 July, 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Meeting with Foreign Investment Promotion Agency in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo, 14 July, 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Preparatory meeting regarding the establishment of SEEFREC – Sarajevo, 15-16 July 2009 (Secretary General, Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- Meeting with a representative of the University of Novi Sad – Sarajevo, 15 July, 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Meeting with a representative of the Legal Department of the European Parliament - Brussels, 15 July 2009 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Commissioner responsible for Environment - Brussels, 15 July 2009 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)

- Meeting with the Head of Unit in DG Industry of the European Commission- Brussels, 16 July 2009 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Consultations with UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs - New York, 20 July 2009 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- Participation in the evaluation committee of project proposals under MB IPA 2008 Programme related to civil society facility on fight against corruption, organized crime and trafficking – evaluation of concept notes - Brussels, 20 - 24 July 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Consultations with representatives of United States State Department- Washington, 21 July 2009 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- Consultations with the representatives of the World Bank–Washington, 21 July 2009 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- Meeting with the desk officer for RCC in the Policy Unit of the General Secretariat of the Council - Brussels, 23 July 2009 (Head of Liaison Office)
- ISIS Europe (International Security Information System) Conference launching the Peace Report 2009 – Brussels, 23 July 2009 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- Meeting with the Advisor of the Prime Minister of Romania - Brussels, 27 July 2009 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with Counselor in the Permanent Representation of Sweden and COWEB chair during the Swedish EU Presidency – Brussels, 28 July 2009 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- Meeting with the Deputy Head of Regional Programmes Unit in the DG Enlargement of the European Commission - Brussels, 29 July 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Director of Marketing and Consultant, Gallup – Europe - Brussels 30 July 2009 (Advisor in the RCC Liaison Office)
- Meeting with Policy Officer, International dimension of the Framework programme, S/T relations with enlargement and Gulf countries, DG Research of the European Commission - Brussels, 3 August 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Participation in the evaluation committee of project proposals under IPA 2008 MB Programme related to civil society facility on fight against corruption, organized crime and trafficking – Full evaluation and reports - Brussels, 3 - 14 August 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Minister of Health of Greece - Athens, 4 August 2009 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Acting Head of service within TAIEX Unit, managing the program “People to people“ - Brussels, 13 August 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)

- Meeting with a representative of TESLA private equity management – Sarajevo, 13 August, 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Participation in the evaluation committee of project proposals under MB IPA 2008 Programme related to Civil Society Facility, support to Partnership Actions, “Environment, Energy Efficiency, Health and Safety at Work - Brussels, 17 - 21 August 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria - Sofia, 18 August 2009 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with a member of the Foreign Policy and Defense Committee of the Bulgarian Parliament – Sofia, 18 August 2009 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with a representative of Deloitte (Croatia and Serbia) – Sarajevo 19 August, 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with representative of Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies – Sarajevo, 20 August, 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Transport of Greece - Athens, 24 August 2009 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with Swiss Cooperation Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina - State Secretariat for Economic Affairs – Sarajevo, 25 August, 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece - Athens, 26 August 2009 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with Foreign Investment Promotion Agency in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo, 26 August, 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with representatives of Foreign Policy Initiative – Sarajevo, 27 August, 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Participation in the third meeting of the Budapest Process Working Group on the South East European Region “Practical Implementation of Readmission Agreements in the South East European Region”- Zagreb, 27 - 28 August 2009 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Participation in Bled Strategic Forum - Bled, 30 - 31 August 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Head of Liaison Office)
- XVI Scientific Meeting with International Participation “Technology, Culture and Development” – Palic/Serbia, 31 August – 3 September, 2009 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-cutting Issues)

- Consultations of the RCC Secretary General with the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece – Athens, 3 September 2009 (Secretary General, Political Advisor)
- Follow-up Meeting to the Ministerial Conference „Developing Regional Strategy for Research and Development for the Western Balkans“ – Sarajevo, 7 September 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Ministerial Conference on Illegal Migration, Organised Crime, Corruption and Terrorism – Brdo pri Kranju/Slovenia, 8-9 September, 2009 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Meeting with the representatives of Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission – Brussels, 9 September, 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Meeting with the Director of the CEFTA 2006 Secretariat – Brussels, 9 September, 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- EU Enlargement Policy and Civil Society in the Western Balkans – Brussels, 9-12 September, 2009 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)

## **ANNEX II**

### **LIST OF OFFICIALS OF THE REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL (RCC) SECRETARIAT (as on 9 September 2009)**

#### **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. Mr. Miroslav Kukobat- Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Head of Infrastructure and Energy Unit
3. Mr. Virgil Constantin Ivan Cucu- Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Head of Justice and Home Affairs Unit
4. Mr. Efrem Radev- Senior Expert on Security Cooperation, Head of Security Cooperation Unit
5. Mr. Mladen Dragašević- Senior Expert on Building Human Capital, Head of Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues Unit
6. Mr. Nand Shani- Expert on Economic and Social Development
7. Ms. Amna Redžepagić – Expert on Infrastructure
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 Gadžić- Accountant (currently on maternity leave as of July 2009 – temporarily replaced by Ms. Mirjana Preljević)
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
5. Ms. Vanja Vekić- Receptionist