



***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
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COOPERATION COUNCIL**

SARAJEVO, 16 September 2010

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 15 May and 10 September 2010.

I. Summary

The reporting period was marked by the finalization and adoption of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013 by the RCC Board and its subsequent endorsement by the whole RCC membership at the RCC Annual Meeting (Istanbul, 22 June 2010) as well as by the Heads of State and Government of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) Participating States at their 13th Meeting (Istanbul, 23 June 2010).

The adoption of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme for the next three years was preceded by intensive consultations within the RCC framework in light of preparation of the new strategic document. The tour of high-level consultations in the region by the RCC Secretary General proved instrumental on that path by highlighting the priorities of the region in particular in the fields of transport and energy. Intensive cooperation between the RCC Secretariat and relevant services of the European Commission in the preparation of the RCC strategic document was matched by coordination of activities with the Presidency of the Council of the EU manifested, inter alia, through participation of the RCC Secretary General at the High-Level EU-Western Balkans Meeting on 2 June 2010 in Sarajevo as well as the Conclusions of the Chair reaffirming the European perspective of the countries of the Western Balkans and important role of regional cooperation within the RCC on that path.

The participants at the RCC Annual Meeting as well as the SEECP high-level meetings taking place back-to-back in Istanbul in June 2010 extended full support to the activities within the RCC framework underlining the importance of effective, targeted and all-inclusive regional cooperation. In this vein, the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013 was endorsed along with the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General on Regional Cooperation in South East Europe. The incumbent RCC Secretary General was reappointed for the next two years and the RCC membership was augmented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

In parallel to the preparation of the RCC strategic document, two meetings of importance for the future operations of the RCC took place. The Coordination Meeting on streamlining of regional task forces/initiatives co-organized by the RCC Secretariat and the Turkish SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office set a framework of joint activities on the path towards more efficient and effective regional cooperation in South East Europe. The meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on possible rising of portion of financial contributions of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) members from South East Europe as well as internal repartition of such contributions showed the will to explore the possibilities of using already agreed financial parameters in order to strengthen the principle of regional ownership having also in mind the restraints caused by the current economic and financial crisis.

The RCC Secretariat continued with the promotion of regional cooperation and in particular activities within the RCC framework through continued publication of the Newsletter, which has

proven to be an adequate tool for reaching the wider public as well as stakeholders in the region and beyond.

In the area of economic and social development the focus of activities was on the preparation of the process of transition of the South East European Investment Committee (SEEIC) from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to the RCC as well as on providing RCC's contribution to the Regional Competitiveness Initiative (RCI). In this context a number of meetings and consultations have been held. The RCC Secretariat's representatives actively participated in the second Steering Committee meeting of the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF). The RCC Secretariat has been actively engaged in re-invigorating the activities of the e-SEE initiative and possible updating of e-SEE Agenda +, including through providing support to preparations for the forthcoming e-SEE ministerial conference envisaged for autumn 2010. In the field of infrastructure and energy, focus was kept on the continuation of cooperation with the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS) in planning and realizing joint activities as well as on preparation of joint organization of the first meeting of the Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative (SEDRI) Task Force, together with the Central European Initiative (CEI). The RCC Secretariat, finalized, with the European Commission, the preparations for the organization of the Conference of the Governing Body of the Implementation of Single European Sky in South East Europe (ISIS) Programme, which took place on 8 September 2010 in Budva. In the area of justice and home affairs the RCC Secretariat continued with active coordination of activities of relevant regional taskforces and initiatives as well as with the cooperation with key international partners. The RCC Secretariat was actively involved in the establishment of the Women Police Officers Network in South East Europe (WPON). The reporting period was particularly marked by the South Eastern Europe Regional Anticorruption Conference, organized jointly by the RCC Secretariat, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) and Transparency International in Bucharest on 20-21 May 2010. The conference provided opportunity to present the "2009-2010 Survey on fighting high-level corruption, justice system integrity and resistance to corruption", undertaken by RAI and Transparency International. The RCC Secretariat continued with the work on the preparation of the Strategic Regional Document in the field of justice and home affairs. In this context, the First Meeting of the Steering Group for Regional Strategy (SGRS) was held in Sarajevo on 6-7 July 2010, which laid out the modalities of methodology and timing of the future work on the drafting of the three years Regional Strategy and Action Plan on Justice and Home Affairs. In the field of security cooperation focus of activities was on preparation of the 2nd South East Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs Conference (SEEMIC), to be co-organized by the RCC Secretariat and the Military Intelligence Agency of the Ministry of Defence of Serbia in Belgrade in September 2010. In this view, a Working Group meeting was held at the end of June 2010 in Belgrade, with the aim of preparation of the SEEMIC meeting, which gathered representatives of military intelligence agencies from the RCC members from South East Europe. Cooperation with relevant defence cooperation fora in South East Europe has been further enhanced, in particular with South Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) and South-East Europe Clearinghouse Conference (SEEC), with the aim of reducing duplication of activities and achieving full synergy at the regional level. In the field of building human capital, the RCC Secretariat continued with providing support and assistance to the Education Reform Initiative for South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) in the process of the establishment of its new institutional structure. In this view, the RCC Secretariat became a party to the new Memorandum of Understanding on the Role and

Organisation of the ERI SEE, which was signed at the ministerial level in Brdo kod Kranja on 5 June 2010. The focus of activities in the reporting period was on the transfer of activities of Ljubljana Process to the regional ownership, with the aim of taking over of the coordination role by the RCC as of the end of 2010. Necessary decisions in this respect are expected to be taken by the RCC Board at the meeting on 16 September 2010. In the area of parliamentary cooperation, the reporting period was marked by the 8th Conference of the Speakers of Parliament of the SEECP Participating States “Perspectives on establishing a Parliamentary Assembly”, which took place in Antalya on 6-8 June 2010. The important conclusions related to the further development of parliamentary cooperation in South East Europe envisage also active involvement of the RCC and its Secretariat in the discussions on possible modalities of further institutional strengthening of parliamentary cooperation in South East Europe.

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

RCC Board meeting

In the reporting period, the last meeting of the RCC Board was held on 18 May 2010 and represented a pertinent stepping – stone towards the approval of the 2009-2010 Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General on Regional Cooperation in South East Europe, fine – tuning and ensuring a pervasive character of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013 amid preparations for its endorsement at the RCC Annual Meeting and the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) Summit and discussing planned future events and state of contributions to the RCC Secretariat’s budget. The Secretary General presented his 2009-2010 Annual Report on Regional Cooperation in South East Europe and highlighted its distinctive analytical approach to reporting on regional cooperation. Its acceptance by the RCC Board members confirmed, above all, that the methodology and its distinctive approach to reporting dovetail perfectly with the RCC’s vision of more efficient targeted and project orientated cooperation in the region. He further touched upon the planned future events and state of contributions to the budget of the RCC Secretariat for 2011 and beyond. The crux of the discussion during the meeting, however, gravitated towards the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013. The cooperation between the RCC Secretariat and the European Commission in this sense has had an utmost positive benefit on the final outcome of the document. This was emphasized by the Secretary General in several overt interventions during the meeting, recurrently highlighting as well the added value of the continuous inflow of inputs from the RCC members. The expected result was achieved: a document that envisages directions of the activities of the RCC in the next three years, reflecting the needs of the region, added value of development of specific projects and cooperation within the RCC framework in each of RCC’s priority areas, as well as objective capacities of the Secretariat.

The discussions and interventions made by the RCC members exhibited a firm support for the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013, particularly because it will represent a solid basis for RCC’s activities in the next three years. The significant impact that the RCC Strategy will have on regional cooperation and specifically its ability to profile an advanced dimension of the RCC tasks reverberated in the discourses of many members of the RCC. This positive perception about the document and its impact was accompanied by several intrinsic recommendations that predominantly dealt with comprehensiveness, wording and consistency. Among other, a gamut of proposals has been articulated that dealt with the inclusion of references on monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Strategy and Work

Programme. These recommendations proved important for completing, at a later stage, the final 'polished' version of the document, with the pertinent assistance of the European Commission. The RCC Board members have further underlined the principle of regional ownership as the prerequisite for an all-inclusive, targeted and project orientated regional cooperation in South East Europe. The Secretary General expressed his gratitude to the RCC Board members for the comments and suggestions made whose value fed the guidelines for the completion of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013. The section of the agenda pertaining to the planned future events was dominated by discussions related to the High Level EU – Western Balkans meeting that was organized under the aegis of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU. Subsequently, discussions on the state of contributions to the RCC Secretariat's budget were modest. The Secretary General commended the RCC Board members for their contribution to the 2010 budget and invited those who have not yet done so to provide their contributions with minimum possible delay.

In the conclusion of the meeting, the Draft 2009 – 2010 Annual Report of the Secretary General on Regional Cooperation in South East Europe was proposed for acceptance by the RCC Board through written procedure. Subsequently, the text of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013 was accepted, in principle, by the RCC Board. The Secretariat in this context was tasked to finalize the document in close cooperation and with the assistance of the European Commission, having as a basis the inputs received as well as to proceed with the appropriate recommendations made by the members of the RCC Board. Following its adoption, on 17 June 2010, the RCC Strategy and Work Programme was proposed and subsequently endorsed by the complete RCC membership at the RCC Annual Meeting on 22 June 2010 as well as by the Heads of State and Government of the SEECP Participating States at the SEECP Summit on 23 June 2010 in Istanbul.

RCC Annual Meeting

The second Annual Meeting of the RCC took place on 22 June 2010 in Istanbul, back to back with the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of State and Government of the SEECP. The meeting was co-chaired by the Secretary General of RCC and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and attended by a great majority of RCC members. The Annual Meeting endorsed the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General on Regional Cooperation in South East Europe, the nomination proposal by the SEECP Political Directors to reappoint the incumbent RCC Secretary General for the next two years' mandate and the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013. The latter, was the gist of the meeting given its pivotal role in providing an impetus to the RCC activities, responding to the needs of the region, and profiling the added value of an enhanced cooperation in key priority areas in South East Europe. In his address, the Secretary General emphasised the impact that sustainable cooperation and the principle of all-inclusiveness will have on the dialogue, mutual understanding and good neighbourly relations. The process, as it was reflected, then becomes indispensable for the advancement towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration, resolution of the remaining issues, continuation of the reforms and general re-profiling of the region into a zone of peace, predictability, shared values and common vision in Europe.

The meeting proved to be a pertinent opportunity to evaluate the results achieved over the past two years and contemplate on the period ahead. In this context, RCC Secretariat's commendable role was recurrently emphasised throughout the meeting as well as that of the RCC Strategy and

Work Programme 2011 – 2013. Equally important was the reference made by the RCC members to further strengthen the already ongoing prolific coordination of the RCC with the SEECP Chairmanship - in- Office. Other noteworthy recommendations have dealt with the potential role of the RCC in the development of the regional transport infrastructure, and the necessity to continue the pertinent process of streamlining of regional task forces/initiatives. The latter's scope, modalities and criteria to be used were in the focus of the Coordination Meeting on Streamlining of the Regional Task Forces and Initiatives in South East Europe, which took place on 19 May 2010 in Sarajevo. A pragmatic and project orientated approach remains indispensable in making the RCC's endeavours tangible. The discussions during the RCC Annual Meeting exhibited as well that a prioritized regional cooperation, coordinated with the EU agenda, will serve as an impetus, among other, for the social and economic development of the regional RCC members individually and the entire region. The meeting proved to be very successful in providing strategic guidance for the priority areas of cooperation as well as to reaffirm the principle of regional ownership and all-inclusiveness. The RCC Secretary General expressed his gratitude to the members of the region for their growing awareness of the added value that regional cooperation brings to the national and regional levels. He further underlined the pertinent role that the EU and its institutions, particularly the European Commission, have in supporting the role of the RCC.

The meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of State and Government of the SEECP

The SEECP Meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of State and Government of the SEECP were chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the President of the Republic of Turkey respectively. The meetings convened at the highest level of representation and enlivened a new sound platform that certainly will feed the spirit of cooperation in the region. This stems from an overt will of having a politically, economically and socially prosperous region based on common European values. A stepping – stone in this direction was the adoption of the Istanbul Declaration, which as well endorsed the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013, the Annual Report of the Secretary General on Regional Cooperation in South East Europe and approved the decision concerning the reappointment of the incumbent Secretary General for the next two years' mandate. Among these pertinent decisions, a particularly noteworthy one to mention was the acceptance of the application of Slovenia to become the 12th SEECP Participating State. The Secretary General emphasized, in his address to the meeting of the SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs that RCC managed to amass the full spectrum of qualities that a valuable and regionally owned framework should possess. This derives from the region's dedicated commitment to European and Euro-Atlantic integration as well as profiling a durable, stable and developed architecture for the region. He commended the utmost support granted by the European Commission, international partners and regional actors in the process of preparation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013.

An overall recognition of the inextricable link between an enhanced regional cooperation and the promotion of stability, security of the region along with European and Euro-Atlantic integration thoroughly marked the discussions of the meetings. The participants articulated the importance of the positive dynamism in the region for enlivening ideas such as the regional firefighting center, coordination of activities in fighting organized crime, cooperation in the fields of energy and infrastructure, parliamentary cooperation, development of regional research and development centers, coordination in preparation of the EU Danube Strategy into practice. A

further momentum for the RCC's regional endeavors was the strong support manifested for the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013. Its scope of achieving tangible and concrete results represents the cornerstone of the dedicated commitment of the countries from the region. The Declaration adopted by the SEECP Heads of State and Government on 23 June 2010 exhibited among other, the participants' common support for the RCC in meeting its priority areas of cooperation as well as the necessity to pursue a project orientated approach to cooperation in the region. The process of streamlining and enhanced cooperation between the RCC and the SEECP was once again positively contextualized, particularly given the utmost support afforded to the Coordination Meeting of 19 May 2010. Among other, the participants have welcomed Montenegro as the next country holding the Chairmanship-in-Office of the SEECP. The Secretary General expressed his conviction that the RCC and the upcoming SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office will mutually benefit from a supportive and prolific collaboration. Following myriad of discussions, an agreement evolved that Serbia will hold the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office in 2011 – 2012 and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2012 – 2013.

Consultations of the RCC Secretary General with RCC members

The RCC Secretary General met in Pristina on 29 June 2010 with the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations/Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) Lamberto Zannier, Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo Hajredin Kuci, Acting President of the Kosovo Chamber of Commerce Safet Gerxhaliu and with the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) in Kosovo Pieter Feith. RCC Secretary General informed Ambassador Zannier on the adoption and endorsement of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013 as well as envisaged key future activities within the RCC framework. Both interlocutors agreed that the effects of the economic crisis on the region are significant and that efforts at the regional level to counter these effects need to be further strengthened. The RCC Secretary General also encouraged Kosovo authorities to embark on the identification of possible projects of regional character, in particular in the area of infrastructure and transport, following the conclusions of the Western Balkans conference held in December 2009 in Brussels. The Deputy Prime Minister expressed full support to the activities of the RCC and reaffirmed the commitment of Kosovo authorities for their active participation in regional cooperation processes in South East Europe. Deputy Prime Minister confirmed the interest to engage in constructive dialogue with the neighboring RCC members in respect of possible elaboration of joint projects in specific areas of regional cooperation and particularly underlined economic cooperation, with emphasis on cooperation of Chambers of Commerce as well as cooperation of Academies of Science as the best areas of possible regional cooperation. With regard to the modalities of cooperation within the RCC framework, Deputy Prime Minister expressed view that the participation under UNMIK/Kosovo label would not be further acceptable to the Kosovo authorities, while they are not in a position to accept the representation by UNMIK, which remains contrary to the Kosovo constitutional and legal order. The RCC Secretary General stressed the commitment to fully respect the institutional arrangements for participation in the RCC and called for balanced and understanding approach that would not contribute to the strengthening of divisions or undermine the RCC Secretariat's capability to focus on the core of its mandate, in particular in the light of the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 -2013.

Consultations with high-level officials of Albania took place on 30 June 2010 in Tirana. In this framework, the RCC Secretary General met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ilir Meta, Deputy Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Leonard Beqiri and Minister of Public Works and Transport Sokol Olldashi. The RCC Secretary General presented RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013. On the line of the results of the Western Balkans Conference of December 2009, the Secretary General also outlined the importance of developing large-scale infrastructural projects of regional character in South East Europe and the possibilities for regional RCC members in this context. Deputy Prime Minister Meta expressed full support to the RCC and its activities, and confirmed the commitment of Albania to actively engage in the implementation of the RCC strategic document for the next three years. Albanian officials confirmed the intention of Albania to discuss potential regional projects of common interest with the neighboring RCC members. As good-neighboring relation remain an important criteria for the EU membership, Albania considers that the establishment of constructive dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina remains an important element of possible further steps on the path towards EU membership.

Consultations of the RCC Secretary General with officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro took place on 29 July 2010 in Sarajevo. Ensuring a progressive cooperation between the RCC and SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office best captures the gist of the consultations held by the RCC Secretary General with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and RCC National Coordinator of Montenegro, Ambassador Nebojša Kaluđerović. The meeting belongs to a series of successful attempts at strengthening cooperation and synergy between the RCC and SEECP, this one having the main purpose of crafting another pertinent stepping – stone in this sense, within the framework of preparations of the programme of the Montenegrin SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office. The meeting approached several important aspects of the RCC – SEECP cooperation that partake the Montenegrin SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office. Reflecting on the momentum of this cooperation, the RCC Secretary General voiced several proposals that best fit the regional context both in terms of addressing the current socio - economic problems and sustaining the much needed impetus for a prolific regional cooperation, which is yet to be fully achieved. Specifically, the Secretary General noted the necessity to elaborate a regional strategy for the development and reconstruction of South East Europe, proposed the idea of organizing a South East European Economic Summit that could possibly be organized in conjunction with the SEECP high-level events in 2011 as well as amplifying the visibility of the activities of both the RCC and SEECP to the general public, European and international partners. The two sides agreed that a permanent contact and coordination would be conducive to ensuring further compatibility of activities – this being another key contribution to the regional efforts in assuming ownership over regional cooperation.

The reporting period included as well a meeting of the RCC Secretary General with the Deputy Director-General responsible for South East Europe in the German Federal Foreign Office, Nikolaus Graf Lambsdorff which was held in Berlin on 2 August 2010. The discussions focused on the political developments in the region and efforts of the RCC to promote a genuine regional cooperation. Among the main issues discussed was the overall socio-economic and political climate in the region, as well as occurring trends of RCC's all-inclusive agenda, particularly its significance in meeting the challenges befallen upon the region. The Secretary General thoroughly elaborated on the regular dialogue that he sustains with the political leaders from the region. Furthermore, the Secretary General reflected on the much needed efforts in order to

overcome the cumbersome socio-economic situation in South East Europe. These are already visible, as it was stated by the RCC Secretary General, from the enhanced cooperative climate that stems from the dedicated commitment of countries to regional cooperation. The dialogue concluded with the general recognition of the necessity to sustain a focused regional cooperation to the benefit of a prosperous and stable region in which relations are guided by principles of good neighborliness.

Coordination Meeting on Streamlining of Regional Taskforces and Initiatives in South East Europe

The importance and the gamut of benefits that streamlining the regional task forces/initiatives will produce resonated thoroughly across many RCC meetings. The Coordination Meeting on Streamlining of Regional Taskforces and initiatives in South East Europe that took place on 19 May 2010 in Sarajevo sought to provide that pertinent starting point. The meeting convened representatives of the SEECP Troika, the EU institutions – the Presidency of the EU Council, the European Commission and the General Secretariat of the EU Council – which represent the EU in the Board of the RCC as well as the RCC Secretariat. The two pillars defining the scope of the meeting are profiling the modalities and criteria to be applied in the process of streamlining of regional taskforces and initiatives in South East Europe as well as strengthening of synergy and coordination between the SEECP and the RCC.

While emphasizing the necessity to secure an effective progress on full synergy and coordinated action among all stakeholders in the streamlining process, the participants have called on the need to avoid redundant overlapping of the mandates and activities of regional taskforces. This becomes indispensable for regional cooperation in South East Europe to acquire an enhanced effectiveness, synergy and coherence. In this context, the participants have agreed that RCC Secretariat and the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office will jointly produce a questionnaire with the purpose of inquiring on achieved results and added value that various task forces and initiatives are projecting. The discussions have further focused on the possibility of having an advanced coordination of activities between the SEECP and the RCC as well as target a comprehensive harmonization between the two. In this sense, the parties have agreed to hold regular coordination meetings involving the SEECP Troika, RCC Secretariat and the EU institutions on a quarterly basis. Ensuring continuity for the programs of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the SEECP as well as coherence with the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013 were at the forefront of objectives of the meeting. The participants will seek to achieve that during annual planning meetings, which as agreed, will be carried out once a year prior to the takeover of the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office. The annual planning meeting will convene the SEECP Troika, the RCC Secretariat and the EU institutions.

Cooperation with the European Union (EU) and other Brussels-based institutions

In the reporting period, further development of cooperation with the EU institutions and other relevant Brussels – based institutions and stakeholders continued, particularly, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the General Secretariat of the EU Council and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), resulting in a number of meetings held. In special focus were activities in relation to elaboration of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013.

The RCC Secretary General held a meeting with the Mr. Štefan Füle, Member of the European Commission responsible for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy, to exchange

views on the political developments in the region and the role of RCC in the context of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013, the conclusions of the EU-Western Balkans High level Meeting held in Sarajevo on 2 June 2010 and its follow-up. Commissioner Füle gave support to the approach of the RCC Secretary General and would consider asking RCC to take one or two additional steps in using not only Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) framework but also the broader enlargement approach and thus giving RCC a more substantive role in the enlargement process. The Commissioner underlined that some additional creative thinking was needed on how to further promote regional cooperation in the context of European integration, as well as a framework format to resolve bilateral issues and praised the possibility to work together on the follow up of the Sarajevo Statement and will consider additional possibilities how to promote some issues through RCC.

The RCC Secretary General also presented the RCC priorities, Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013 to the diplomatic missions of the RCC members from South East Europe accredited to the EU and NATO. The RCC Secretary General presented an overview of recent political developments in the region and the European integration process, and the main characteristics and philosophy of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013, focusing on the role of RCC in the overall regional cooperation architecture, and in particular its relationship with the SEECP. He underlined the principle of all-inclusiveness in regional cooperation and the need of a stronger commitment on the part of the RCC members from South East Europe in the implementation of the Strategy. The Secretary General gave a very positive assessment of the outcome of the High-Level EU-Western Balkans Meeting in Sarajevo on 2 June 2010 as a strong renewed commitment on the part of the EU for the future accession of the Western Balkans countries to the EU and the strong commitment on the part of the Western Balkans to carry out the necessary reforms to meet the EU accession criteria. He further underlined the need to build on the positive political momentum of the Sarajevo conference by working towards a regional recovery and development plan, including also large regional infrastructure projects – an issue he believed to be discussed at the RCC Annual Meeting and the SEECP Summit in June in Istanbul. The participants expressed satisfaction with the RCC work in general and the role of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels in particular, and raised a number of issues of great interest to their countries as RCC members, such as cooperation within justice and home affairs area and cooperation with the international financial institutions (IFIs) as well as the importance of respect for principles of all-inclusiveness and status-neutrality of regional cooperation within the RCC framework.

Following the holding of the RCC Annual Meeting and the adoption of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013 the RCC Secretary General held the meeting with the Director-General for Enlargement in the European Commission. Mr. Michael Leigh. The Secretary General shared his thoughts on how to develop the RCC agenda to support the positive political trends in the region so that they become irreversible and how the RCC could contribute with initiatives in the areas that are not included in the Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013, such as media and additional support to non-governmental organizations (NGOs). He informed on his consultations with the Montenegrin high-level officials aimed at achieving full synergy between the programme of activities of the Montenegrin SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office and the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013. He also briefed on his consultations with high-level officials in the region during which had gathered a number of good ideas, as the first priority for most RCC members from the region remain projects in the transport and energy

fields. He assured that the RCC Secretariat will continue to maintain in its activities a status-neutral approach and the all-inclusiveness principle. The Director-General for Enlargement congratulated the Secretary General for his re-election and for the adoption of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013. He gave a general support to the approach of the RCC and the developments mentioned, in particular for the concrete work done and the efforts to reduce the “temperature” in the region. The Director-General stressed that the Directorate-General for Enlargement of the European Commission was ready to consider technical assistance for the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme as well as to explore the possibilities of assumption of a bridge role of the RCC in strategic development areas, such as energy and transportation.

Within the activities of the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Multi-beneficiary Programme programming cycle for the period 2011 – 2013 and as a follow up to the meetings held in Zagreb in June 2009, in Skopje in November 2009 and in Brussels in March 2010, IPA Multi-beneficiary Programme Regional Coordination meeting was held in Tirana on 29 - 30 June 2010 at which RCC Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool in the RCC Secretariat presented the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013. RCC Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool thanked all the stakeholders for providing input to the RCC strategic document for the next three years. She also informed about planned activities within the RCC framework in each priority area, the key economic challenges in the Western Balkans as well as about the Western Balkans 2020 project inviting inputs from National Coordinators for IPA. The representative of the European Commission stressed the importance of providing input of the RCC to the overall monitoring, in particular having in mind the RCC’s global overview of developments in the region and outlined the need to link monitoring with the programming. He also informed of the continuation of the European Commission’s financial support to the activities RCC Secretariat as well as to Ljubljana II Process and the South East European Investment Committee (SEEIC). The representatives of IPA beneficiaries expressed satisfaction for the work of the RCC, reinforced role of the offices of the National Coordinators for IPA in the process as well as the need for improved communication with RCC in order to do the programming and prioritization in accordance with needs in the IPA beneficiary countries, with additional harmonization of national and regional programmes and priorities.

The Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool also held a meeting with the Head of Regional Programmes Unit in the Directorate-General for Enlargement of the European Commission to discuss the continuation of the European Commission’s financial support to the RCC Secretariat.

A number of meetings were held by the officials of the RCC Secretariat’s Liaison Office with the representatives of the European Commission Directorates-General for Enlargement, Justice Freedom and Security, Transport and Mobility, Regional Policy, Employment and other horizontal Directorates-General as well as with Cabinet of the Member of the European Commission responsible for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy. Meetings were also held with the members of the European Parliament, the General Secretariat of the EU Council and representatives of the EU member states. Due attention was also paid to RCC’s cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

In the reporting period, the RCC Secretariat, in particular through the activities of the Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council, continued to work closely with EU Presidency representatives with particular focus on the preparation of the High-Level EU-Western Balkans Meeting, held in Sarajevo on 2 June 2010. The principal objective of the meeting was to mark the tenth anniversary of the EU-Western Balkans Summit held in Zagreb in 2000 by evaluating the achieved results, to reaffirm the European perspective of the region and to emphasize the importance of the regional cooperation for the process of European integration. The RCC Secretary General, who participated at the Meeting, underlined the importance of using the momentum created by the High-Level Meeting and to assure a concrete and elaborated follow-up. The RCC supports and it is ready to take even more active part in the realization of these objectives. All stakeholders involved in the regional cooperation, in particular those from the region should make best use of the RCC and its regionally-owned and all-inclusive cooperation platform. In the Statement issued by the Chair of the meeting, the European perspective of the Western Balkans was confirmed, the most important achievements and regional developments were summarized and the areas where the progress is still expected and needed were indicated.

The Sarajevo High-level Meeting was also reflected in the EU Foreign Affairs Council conclusions on the Western Balkans of 14 June 2010 in which, among the other, the EU Council welcomed the commitment of the Western Balkans to further strengthen regional cooperation on the basis of the principles of inclusiveness and regional ownership and recalled the importance of regional cooperation and good neighborly relations. On the same occasion the Council endorsed the 2009 Annual Report from the High Representative of the EU to the European Parliament on the main aspects and basic choices of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) in which a positive reference on the RCC was made by pointing out that the RCC Secretariat in Sarajevo and its Liaison Office in Brussels continued to strengthen cooperation in the region on a number of key issues.

The overall assessment regarding the cooperation between the RCC Secretariat and the Spanish Presidency of EU is positive. Successful organization and particularly the outcome of the Sarajevo High-Level Meeting was a clear confirmation of the political will of EU to continue with the enlargement and new opportunity to reaffirm the European perspective of the candidates and potential candidates for EU membership. The importance of the regional cooperation, as an essential element of the SAP has been underlined and took prominent place in all statements of the Spanish EU Presidency representatives and the President of the European Council following their meetings with the high level representatives of the Western Balkans countries, as well as in the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions and Joint Press Releases of the Stabilisation and Association Council meetings between EU and different Western Balkans countries.

Prior to the takeover of the EU Presidency by Belgium (second half of the 2010), working relations with the incoming Presidency representatives have been established in view of exploring the ways for concrete joint RCC Secretariat - EU Presidency cooperation activities during the Belgian Presidency term-in-office.

Following the Presidency confirmation of its intention to continue with the practice of organizing regular briefings on the RCC activities for The EU Council Working Group on Western Balkans (COWEB) in both Capitals and Brussels format, a briefing of the RCC Secretary General for the

EU member states representatives in the COWEB Capitals format was held on 14 July 2010 in Brussels. Secretary General presented an overview on the preparation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2010-2013 done in a very close cooperation with the RCC members, in particular the European Commission, and underlined that the delivery phase would need additional engagement from all stakeholders, especially those from the region. The recent positive political rapprochement in the Western Balkans could serve as backwind for translating the political will into concrete projects in the areas of infrastructure energy, transport etc. The main challenge for the RCC in the process of the implementation of the new documents remains the political environment in the Western Balkans still burdened with open bilateral issues that may have influence on the durability of the positive trends and on the readiness of the national governments for engaging in a genuine regional cooperation. The representative of the European Commission underlined that the presence of the Enlargement Commissioner Füle at the Istanbul SEECF and RCC meetings was a clear confirmation of the importance the European Commission is attaching to the regional cooperation in South East Europe and the RCC's role in that respect. At this stage, the most important aspect for the European Commission remains the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013 and concrete delivery of results in the course of 2011. The members of COWEB Capitals welcomed the adoption of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013 and pointed out the need to have successful implementation and to achieve concrete results that will confirm the region's ability to assume the responsibility for regional cooperation. They have emphasized the importance of the regional cooperation for the processes of reconciliation and good neighborly relations, but also for the EU integration process as well as the importance of the all-inclusiveness principle. The Belgian COWEB Capitals Chair Ambassador Luc Liebaut made the following concluding remarks: 1) appreciated the expressed determination for implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013; 2) the regional cooperation is and remains an essential element of the enlargement and the SAP and in this context the RCC plays a key role; 3) in terms of the economic crisis and its consequences all stakeholders involved in the regional cooperation must strive for maximum efficiency; 4) praised the good cooperation between the European Commission and the RCC; 5) welcomed the positive trends in the political developments in the region that create a momentum for translating the political will into concrete projects; 6) emphasized the importance of the EU-Western Balkans Sarajevo High-Level Meeting where all countries from the EU and the Western Balkans were represented and where the messages for the European perspective of the region were confirmed; 7) congratulated the RCC Secretary General on his reappointment as well as deserved recognition of his efforts in establishing, promoting and transforming the RCC.

In addition to this meeting, a briefing by the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for Relations with the EU Presidency for COWEB Brussels and a public lecture of the RCC Secretary General in the Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations (RIIR) in Brussels have been agreed for October/November 2010. The Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation has expressed interest for co-organizing with the RCC a seminar/workshop in function of the EU candidates and potential candidate's efforts in meeting the EU integration criteria. After receiving concrete proposals from the RCC Secretariat, the Belgian side has confirmed its interest for co-organizing and financially supporting a seminar/workshop on the establishment and empowerment of National Supervisory Authority and the certification, designation and oversight of service providers in the field of aviation safety. The event should take place at the premises of the RCC Secretariat in Sarajevo

and the final decision of the Belgian authorities is expected by mid-September 2010. The Belgian side has also expressed interest for more close cooperation with RCC in the field of employment.

The Hungarian Presidency of the EU (first half of 2011) will coincide with the practical start of the implementation of the new RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013, which should be seen as an excellent opportunity for enhanced cooperation between the RCC Secretariat and the EU Presidency. In the contacts realized so far with the Presidency representatives it has been confirmed their will for establishing substantial dialogue with the RCC Secretary General and RCC Secretariat that could possibly result in implementing joint concrete cooperation activities in the course its term-in-office.

Cooperation with other regional organizations and initiatives

The representatives of the RCC Secretariat participated at the ninth Coordination Meeting of Regional Organizations on 18 June 2010 in Ancona. The Meeting was organized by the Secretariat of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (AII) and was aimed at further contributing to the synergy between regional organizations. The RCC Secretariat's representatives elaborated on the importance of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013 that epitomizes an all-inclusive, targeted and project orientated approach to regional cooperation in South East Europe. The meeting assembled representatives of the AII, the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), the Central European Initiative (CEI), the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and the RCC Secretariat. The representatives agreed on the venue of the next Coordination Meeting that will be organized by the CBSS in Stockholm, at the end of June 2011.

Outreach activities and visibility

In the reporting period, activities to promote the RCC mandate and achievements as well as the importance of regional cooperation were continued with the aim to bring the work of the RCC and its Secretariat closer to the European and South East European opinion makers and stakeholders and increase visibility of its activities. In the reporting period three issues of newsletter were published and circulated to the wide audience. The RCC newsletter as well as redesigned website met very positive assessments and feedback from a number of relevant stakeholders both in and outside the region and a number of articles and interviews from the newsletter have been republished by influential media in the region and beyond.

Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on possible raising of portion of financial contributions of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) members from South East Europe as well as internal repartition of such contributions

In light of its mandate affirmed by the RCC National Coordinators from South East Europe at their meeting held in Sarajevo on 27 April 2010, the Working Group discussed, at its meeting held in Sarajevo on 10 June 2010, possible raising of portion of financial contributions of the regional RCC members to the RCC Secretariat's budget as well as internal repartition of such contributions in the context of the preparation of the budget of the RCC Secretariat for 2011 and beyond. The discussions focused, in particular on the modalities of realization of financial contributions of the RCC members from South East Europe in the period 2011 and beyond. The Working Group concluded to preserve the current level of the annual transfers by the RCC members from South East Europe to the RCC Secretariat's budget amounting to one million EUR cumulatively, based on the cost-sharing scheme endorsed at the Bucharest Regional Table

of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe in November 2006, to nominally increase (“relabeling”) the overall portion of financial contributions of the RCC members from South East Europe to the RCC Secretariat’s budget by 100,000 EUR (till 1,100,000.00 EUR cumulatively). This nominal increase shall be secured through usage of the remaining portion of financial contributions of regional RCC members from the RCC Secretariat’s budget for 2009 as well as from the unspent funds that will be attributed to the RCC members from South East Europe in the context of the implementation of the budgets in the period 2010-2012. The methodological approach and criteria for the internal repartition of the financial contributions among the RCC members from South East Europe shall remain unchanged, grouping the contribution by the level of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). The data on GDP PPP shall be based on the latest available official data of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Agreed modality shall be applied for three consecutive years – 2011-2013.

Evaluation of general and institutional aspects in the reporting period

The reporting period was marked by intensive stock-taking of the RCC accomplishments and lessons learned as well as deliberating on the ways ahead. On that path, efficient and target-oriented, regionally owned and all-inclusive regional cooperation served as the backdrop for measuring results and framework for setting-up of future activities. Building on the already achieved, the RCC membership expressed sturdy interest in highlighting priorities and providing guidance in the drafting process of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011- 2013 that was assisted by the RCC Secretariat and supported by the relevant services of the European Commission. Strong and unequivocal support for the endorsement of the new RCC strategic document and reappointment of the incumbent RCC Secretary General at the RCC Annual Meeting and the SEECP Summit taking place back-to-back in Istanbul were coupled by high expectations considering the implementation of the RCC mandate to the benefit of the socio-economic development of South East Europe and its European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

In order to maintain the momentum of the development of regional cooperation and continue with the affirmation of the principle of regional ownership the strategic character of relations between the SEECP and the RCC is pivotal. Drawing on the successful cooperation with the previous as well as incumbent SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office, importance of regular coordination meetings of the SEECP Troika and the RCC Secretariat with the participation of the EU institutions should be highlighted having in mind that they have already proven to be a very useful tool in providing guidance and enhancing overall coordination in pursuit of aligned activities aimed at achieving target-oriented regional cooperation. In this light, the coordination meeting co-organized by the RCC Secretariat and the Turkish SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office could be singled out as an important milestone in providing direction in the challenging process of streamlining of regional task forces/initiatives that is to come.

Following the request of the RCC Secretary General, some of the RCC Board members informed on their intention to decrease their respective contributions to the RCC Secretariat’s budget for 2011 and beyond and the others announced their withdrawal from the membership in the RCC Board. At the same time, the RCC members from South East Europe reached an agreement on their respective contributions in the period ahead. Having in mind the timetable for adoption of

the RCC Secretariat's budget for 2011 financial resources available to the RCC Secretariat will have to be defined and appropriate measures taken.

III. Priority areas of the RCC Activities

Six 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, building human capital and parliamentary cooperation as an overarching theme. 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

Investment and business enabling environment

To assist in the preparation of new, European Commission-funded and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)-implemented Regional Competitiveness Initiative (RCI) project, the RCC Secretariat representatives took part in the preparatory workshops organized by the OECD during the first week of June 2010. The workshops were dedicated to the topics of innovation and human capital development, as areas of particular importance for economic development in South East Europe. With the involvement of experts from South East Europe, the participants identified several project ideas that could be implemented in the countries in the region. OECD staff will develop these concepts further and include them in the possible project offerings within the RCI framework. Final RCI pilot projects that will start implementation at the beginning of 2011 will be determined through a collaborative process with the governments of RCC members from South East Europe envisioned to take part in the second half of 2010.

The 6th South East European Investment Committee (SEEIC) meeting dedicated to raising competitiveness in South East Europe was held in Paris on 14 June 2010. In addition to taking stock of the progress made so far, the participants also took several decisions to align the operations of the SEEIC with the upcoming transfer to the RCC. In accordance with the principle of increased regional ownership, the SEEIC decided to transfer the chair of the SEEIC to Serbia (currently one of the co-chairs, along with the OECD and Austria), which would maintain that role until the end of 2011, thus facilitating the SEEIC transition. Also, the SEEIC decided on holding a ministerial meeting dedicated to investment which would endorse the regional ownership of the SEEIC and its working programme going forward. The ministerial meeting is planned to take place in the first quarter of 2011.

RCC Secretariat took part in the South East Europe and Mediterranean (SEM) Public Private Partnership Days 2010 held in Athens on 10 – 11 June 2010, organized by the World Bank Institute and the Greek Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness and Shipping. In addition to exchanging information about the regulatory and institutional developments in the two regions, as well as current projects in the public-private partnership (PPP) pipelines, the meeting was dedicated to exploring potential for further cooperation between the regions. Although it was established that South East Europe and the Mediterranean region are driven by different priorities guiding the PPP agenda (mainly the EU accession process in South East Europe), the

meeting identified several areas where closer collaboration could be very useful to PPP practitioners – mainly in the area of exchange of technical know-how in PPP project development. South East Europe was represented by the South East Europe PPP Network operating within the RCC framework.

On a similar note, the RCC Secretariat took part in the event organized by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2 September 2010 in Bucharest dedicated to Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction, with an accent on opportunities for emerging state-donors.

The RCC Secretariat's representatives took part in the second Steering Committee of the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) that was held in Prague, 24 – 25 June 2010, organized by the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission. The meeting summarized some of the key achievements so far, identified major challenges going forward, and approved 13 projects proposed for grant funding. It was agreed that the WBIF has implemented its coordination and strategic role effectively through the Project Financiers' Group (PFG)/Steering Committee as evidenced by the number of ongoing projects (currently 78 projects). Given the current strain on resources, it was also decided that there would be no new calls for project submissions in 2010, but the 10 postponed projects could be developed further in this period. A need for additional financial resources for WBIF has been underlined, as well as the necessity to start monitoring impact of its activities which was endorsed by the Steering Committee. The next Steering Committee meeting dedicated to transport is scheduled for December 2010.

During the 10th Edition of the Forum of the Chambers of Commerce of the Adriatic and Ionian Area in Ancona on 26-28 May 2010, the RCC Secretariat's representative made a presentation of the women entrepreneurship project and discussed possibilities of cooperation with the Ancona Chamber of Commerce specifically on the issue of improving women's access to networking opportunities, with the aim of building and expanding on the existing workgroup on women entrepreneurship of the forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce.

Social development

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), representing the economic and social components of organised civil society in the EU, held its third Western Balkans Civil Society Forum in Brussels on 18-19 May 2010. Participants supported the initiative introduced by the RCC that aims to enhance economic and social dialogue at regional level in the Western Balkans. The EESC was also asked by the participants to assist the setting-up process and to help garner political support at the EU level so that this regional cooperation project can be put into practice for the benefit of the whole region.

During the same period, the RCC Secretariat's representatives also held meetings in Brussels with the representatives of the Directorate General for Employment of the European Commission and the Belgian Federal Public Service for Employment. The focus of the discussions was the needed cooperation among international partners in supporting the Employment and Social Policy Network in South East Europe. Future possible steps include a further meeting of the network and the elaboration of regional project proposals in the area of labor and employment.

Information society and knowledge economy

A two-day e-leadership workshop was co-organized at the RCC Secretariat's premises in Sarajevo on 28-29 June 2010 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the RCC Secretariat. Its aim was to assist e-leaders from the region in implementing reforms and e-government systems. One specific session was dedicated to regional information society collaborative proposal development, where participants worked together to identify tangible regional projects to add value to the current efforts being implemented at the national level. A side meeting of the Electronic-Southeast European Initiative (e-SEE Initiative) government representatives and the e-SEE Secretariat, along with the RCC Secretariat, discussed preparations for the forthcoming e-SEE ministerial conference envisaged for autumn 2010.

During the reporting period, the RCC Secretariat has also interacted with the e-government branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (UN) in exploring opportunities for further cooperation in the area of e-governance and public administration. Possibilities include joint efforts in organizing regional meetings, sharing and promoting good e-government practices, surveys and data, and establishing a strong partnership with the UN network on public administration.

On 15 July 2010, the RCC Secretariat's representatives took part in the Fifth Management Board meeting of the Center for e-Governance Development (CeGD) in Ljubljana. Participants discussed the half-year activities as well as planned activities of the Center. Special emphasis was placed on the Center's financial status, with more support coming from the Slovenian government and the interruption of financial assistance from the United States due to budgetary constraints. The enlargement of CeGD's membership was also discussed, including companies like Cisco and SAP.

Other developments

The 23rd meeting of the South-eastern Europe Health Network (SEEHN) was organized in Ohrid on 24-25 June 2010. Progress in regional cooperation in public health was demonstrated through the establishment of the regional secretariat in Skopje and several regional health development centers (RHDCs) in all member countries. The host agreement for the new secretariat is however still to be ratified by some of the member countries for the secretariat to become fully functional. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Romania and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, work plans for RHDCs are being developed, while in other countries, such centres are in the process of being designed.

2. Infrastructure and Energy

Energy

The RCC Secretariat continued to focus on activities compliant with the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013. In that respect, intensive communication with the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS) was sustained. The RCC Secretariat took part at several events (co)organized by the ECS, and started to explore possibilities for further strengthening mutual cooperation.

The RCC Secretariat, jointly with the Parliament of Albania and in coordination with the ECS, organized, on 25 June 2010 in Tirana, the workshop "Energy Community and Regional

Sustainability` for parliamentary committee responsible for energy issues as part of the strategic approach of the RCC to enhance cooperation with parliaments from the region and build capacities in relation to necessary infrastructure reforms so facilitating the law-making process. At the same time preparations for organizing parliamentary events in other RCC members from South East Europe that are Contracting Parties to the Energy Community Treaty (ECT) have been continued.

Preparatory activities on joint organization with the ECS of a workshop were completed. The workshop to be hosted by the RCC Secretariat on 25-26 October 2010 will be dedicated to the implementation of the environmental *acquis* of the ECT as well as presentation and discussion on the outcomes of the ECS initiated study addressing emissions from the energy sector in the Contracting Parties to the ECT.

Preparatory activities on joint organization with the CEI of the first meeting of Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative (SEDRI) Task Force are also completed. Task Force meeting to be hosted by the CEI-Executive Secretariat on 7-8 October 2010 will have the main goal to further profile the initiative, instigate creation of the projects pipeline and discuss other necessary activities in accordance with the Initiative Background Paper.

Transport

During the reporting period, the RCC Secretariat has finalized, together with the European Commission, preparations regarding the organization of the Conference of Governing Body of the Implementation of Single European Sky in South East Europe (ISIS) Programme, which was held on 8 September 2010 in Budva, Montenegro. Assessment of main developments including an overview of the activities to be conducted in the region with regard to the implementation of the Single European Sky (SES) was presented. Necessary political endorsement of the Programme was provided from the ISIS Agreement parties.

Furthermore, the Belgian authorities have confirmed their interest for organizing and financially supporting two of the three workshops proposed by the RCC Secretariat, namely: 1.Establishment and empowerment of National Supervisory Authorities; and 2.Certification, designation and oversight: challenges ahead. In that respect, the RCC Secretariat has, together with the ISIS Participating States, prepared proposals which are currently under consideration for the final approval.

The RCC Secretariat's representatives met representatives of the Directorate General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission on 1 June 2010 in order to discuss future cooperation, in particular in relation to the Transport Community Treaty implementation. The RCC introduced the planned transport activities in the air and road traffic fields in accordance with the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-13. It was concluded that the RCC could be an active player in the process of transport modes integration with a focus on interconnectivity and interoperability aiming to ensure sustainable and competitive mobility in South East Europe.

In the road safety field, the RCC Secretariat is exploring the possibility with the European Union Road Federation (ERF) and the Association of Consulting Engineers of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ACE) to organize the follow-up conference on Road Infrastructure Safety Management for

national administrations from South East Europe in order to enhance their legislative capacities on road safety issues.

Environment

The RCC Secretariat participated at a few conferences, organized by the European Commission and different stakeholders from the host countries, on the European Strategy for the Danube Region, taking into account the envisaged RCC's role to support preparation and implementation of Danube Strategy.

Multipurpose use of Danube and need to reconcile different interests in water use is the typical area to promote integrated trans-boundary approach as a tool for addressing increasing multidisciplinary challenges, with inclusion of variety of stakeholders at different levels. In that respect, the RCC Secretariat has started cooperation with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River and mobilized other relevant stakeholders concerning preparation of a Joint Statement to tackle energy sector impact on the Danube that would be analogous act to the Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin addressing navigation impact.

The RCC Secretariat started discussions with some of the relevant stakeholders in order to promote integrated approach in planning infrastructure development. To that end, active involvement of the Energy Community, prospective Transport Community and the Regional Environmental Network for Accession (RENA) would be indispensable.

During the reporting period, the RCC Secretariat continued communication with the Network of Association of Local Authorities in South East Europe (NALAS), civil society organizations and media as ``bottom-up`` approach implementers and important drivers of community development inter alia delivering assistance in preparing project proposals expected to become part of Danube Strategy Action Plan or to be supported through IPA Multi-beneficiary Programme. In addition, the RCC Secretariat supported the Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office (ASO), European Centre for Peace and Democracy (ECPD) and International Centre for Promotion of Enterprises (ICPE) in preparations for organizing the conference on integrated environmental management of Adriatic, Mediterranean and Black sea coastal areas and Danube and Sava river basins based on the experience gained during preparations and realization of the conference on integrated trans-boundary water resources management in South East Europe, jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the RCC Secretariat.

3. Justice and Home Affairs

Judicial, police and law enforcement cooperation

The RCC Secretariat focused on developing convergent and integrated activities among different regional structures of police and law enforcement, using the existing normative framework defined by the 2006 Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe (PCC-SEE), and the 2009 Convention of the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC).

Direct links between International Law Enforcement Coordination Units (ILECUs) and PCC-SEE have been confirmed by the Second Meeting of the Committee of Ministers on Interior under the PCC-SEE, which stated that ILECUs represent the implementation of the Article 4, paragraph 3 regarding the establishment of the National Central Units.

The Organized Crime Threat Assessment for South-Eastern Europe (OCTA-SEE), prepared by the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative Regional Center for Combating Trans-border Crime (SECI Center)/SELEC and the European Police Office (EUROPOL), increased the motivation of the Western Balkans countries to face future challenges in the implementation of the EU standards. OCTA-SEE has been also recognized by the PCC-SEE Committee of Ministers as the implementation of Article 7 of the SEE-PCC.

Regional integrated approach is sustained through the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013 and the continuation of the work on the harmonization of the strategies, programs and action plans focusing on the region. The RCC Secretariat is working with relevant stakeholders on the preparation of the Strategic Regional Document which will enhance coordination of the regional organizations with EU agencies such as EUROPOL, EU's Judicial Cooperation Unit (EUROJUST), the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Judicial Network (EJN) as well as with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). The work of the First Meeting of the Steering Group for Regional Strategy (SGRS), held in Sarajevo on 6-7 July 2010, coordinated by the RCC, was focused on the process of developing, drafting and adopting the three years Regional Strategy and Action Plan on Justice and Home Affairs. Particular attention was given to the development of a monitoring system and its implementation.

During the 33rd Session of the SECI Center's Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), held on 25 – 26 May 2010, positive decisions have been adopted: the Letter of Intent with EUROPOL has been signed and the UNODC obtained the observer status. However, for the third time the JCC failed to elect the SECI Center's Deputy Director (who is responsible for the operational coordination) and this situation may create a sort of an institutional impasse.

Organized by the RCC Secretariat, the Sixth Bled Conference on Stolen Vehicle Crime brought together experts from the Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCA) members together with experts from police services of Turkey and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo on behalf of Kosovo in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (UNMIK/Kosovo). The international organizations included: INTERPOL, SECI Center, the RCC Secretariat, the European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM), the Netherlands Foundation for Tackling Vehicle Crime, the Royal Netherlands Embassy of Sarajevo and SEPCA. The meeting was attended also by LoJack Company. A general trend of decrease of the amount of stolen vehicles is observed throughout South East Europe. However, the recovery rate is also decreasing. The amount of insurance, leasing and financial frauds is expected to continue to rise as well as the amount of stolen or trafficked trucks and construction machinery. Cooperation with the private sector (producers and insurance companies) as a very important segment of fighting vehicle crime is still not fully addressed and/or implemented due to fears of corruption accusations among other obstacles.

On 9-10 June 2010 in Belgrade the Interim Steering Committee of the Women Police Officers Network (WPON) in South East Europe developed a draft of the WPON Founding Document and agreed on a work plan for the period until the official launch of the WPON, which is tentatively planned for November 2010. The meeting is an important step in the institutionalization of the network and was organized in close cooperation with SEPCA, the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the OSCE Mission to Serbia.

Another objective addressed by the RCC together with European Commission and Council of Europe was to continue the process of rebalancing judges' and prosecutors' cooperation with police and law enforcement. To properly choose and design the completion of the existing law enforcement regional structures and legal instruments (PCC-SEE, SELEC/SECI, even ILECU's Project) with the prosecutorial and judicial dimension a Workshop on Law Enforcement Cooperation in its Prosecution Context, organized by SECI Centre/SELEC with the participation of Southeast European Prosecutors Advisory Group (SEEPAG) and the RCC Secretariat took place in Bucharest from 22-23 June 2010. The workshop concluded that in the presence of such diverse legal instruments and regulations prosecutors' cooperation is crucial.

Regional cooperation is one crucial area to suppressing organized criminal activity, and some recent cross-border initiatives are producing results. The prospects for increasing cooperation between the Balkan states to fight organized crime in a coordinated fashion are increasing as the efforts of the EU and the RCC to ensure that these matters are addressed prior to these countries' accession. These issues have been discussed under strict Chatham House rules on 14 July 2010 in Brussels European Policy Centre, by panel that included the Heads of Missions of Montenegro and Serbia to the EU, the Director of Justice, Freedom and Security in the European Commission, the Program Coordinator of Regional Project Office for South Eastern Europe of the UNODC and the Head of Justice and Home Affairs Unit in the RCC Secretariat.

Fight against corruption

The "2009 – 2010 Survey on fighting high level corruption, criminal justice system integrity and resistance to corruption" has been finalized. The study has been conducted by Transparency International (TI) Romania and its partners, within the project "Integrity and Resistance to Corruption of the Criminal Judicial System in South East European Countries" financing the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) through the Regional Cooperation Council, recipient of the United States of America Government funds. The survey's results, project follow-up, lessons learned, best practices, values for regional cooperation and EU accession process have been debated during the South Eastern Europe Regional Anticorruption Conference organized in Bucharest, from 20 to 21 May 2010, by the RCC Secretariat, RAI and TI in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of Romania and the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The participants - RAI members, UNMIK/Kosovo, European Commission and OLAF, Council of Europe and UNODC - recognized that corruption is not a problem that can be dealt with in isolation, and the existence of corruption in the justice systems cannot be denied. The accurate balance between judiciary independence and accountability is crucial for justice system integrity and resistance to corruption.

Until the end of 2010, the RCC Secretariat and RAI will organize the dissemination of the Survey Report on Integrity and Resistance to Corruption of the Law Enforcement Bodies through national debate in RAI members. Purpose of the national debates is to raise awareness of the level of integrity and resistance to corruption of the national criminal justice system, identify the best modalities for regionally and international cooperation, find solutions to strengthening existing national integrity mechanisms and bringing them into compliance with EU *acquis*, standards and best practices.

The main regional aspect of the fight against corruption, which is going to be clarified, is to determine which aspects of the corruption phenomenon are better addressed regionally and which nationally. An answer to this question has been done thorough the above mentioned RAI-TI survey and further clarification will be given in the EU- financed project “Assessments of corruption and crime in Western Balkans” implemented by UNODC in association with RAI.

Migration, asylum and refugees

The RCC Secretariat considers that the RCC members from South East Europe have developed systems for migration management which are to a great extent harmonized with the EU and international standards. Good cooperation exists in the framework of SECI/SELEC Center, Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative’s (MARRI) Regional Centre, SEPICA and the SEE-PCC Secretariat consisting in joint actions in prevention and combating illegal migration and the return of persons to the countries of origin. MARRI’s cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), IOM and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) gets stronger. More work should be done on legislation, institutional capacity building as well as on common reception standards for asylum seekers. The support to MARRI in promoting capacity building of its member states in management of asylum and refugee procedures is the core issue.

Developing strategic partnerships

The RCC Secretariat continued its strategic partnership with the UNODC within the Regional Programme on Promoting the Rule of Law and Human Security in South Eastern Europe. RAI, under the RCC Secretariat’s coordination, is UNODC’s associate in two major regional project financed by the European Commission: developing of monitoring instruments for judicial and law enforcement institutions in the Western Balkans, and assessment of corruption and crime in the region.

From 19-21 May 2010 in Vienna, the representatives of the RCC Secretariat participated in the work of the OSCE Annual Police Experts Meeting (APEM), briefing all Heads of Police Departments of OSCE Missions about developments of law enforcement cooperation in South East Europe. On the plenary session of APEM, as panelists, the RCC Secretariat’s representatives discussed and submitted recommendation for further enhancement of the OSCE’s police related activities. Together with the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU), the RCC Secretariat is organizing the Regional Workshop on Democratic Policing - Organizational and Managerial Issues in the Police, which will take place in Sarajevo on 30 September-1 October 2010. This is the last workshop in the series dedicated to the human resource issues, co-organized with the OSCE.

The RCC Secretariat initiated consultations with The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and the Centre for International Legal Cooperation, the implementers of the Balkan Enforcement Reform Project in order to coordinate the activities on a more efficient and effective functioning of the systems of enforcement law at national and at regional level.

Together with the SECI Center and the UN Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) Executive Directorate, with support of the governments of Austria, Turkey and Bosnia and Herzegovina there are ongoing preparation for Southeast Europe Regional Workshop on national coordination and regional cooperation in counter-terrorism, which will be organized in Sarajevo on 27-28 October 2010. Main goal of this event is to find the solution for better internal coordination and effective regional cooperation in counter-terrorism matters.

The 39th INTERPOL European Regional Conference held in Montenegro from 26-28 May 2010 adopted the Strategy of Interpol for the European Region which is focusing its business plan in complete compliance with the main areas suggested in the Regional Strategic Paper: integrated border management, interoperability, crisis management, cross-border crimes, police training and police capacity building. Particular attention at the meeting was given to the issue of INTERPOL's cooperation with regional bodies.

4. Security Cooperation

Coordination and streamlining of regional task-forces and initiatives, consultations with relevant regional and international partners

In preparation of the Second South East Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs Conference (SEEMIC), to be co-organized with the Military Intelligence Agency (MIA) of the Ministry of Defence of Serbia on 30 September 2010 in Belgrade, a Working Group meeting took place in Belgrade on 29 June 2010. The Working Group meeting represented a joint initiative of the Serbian Ministry of Defence and the RCC Secretariat based on the decision of the first SEEMIC Conference held in Bucharest in 2009. It was attended by representatives of all military intelligence institutions from the RCC members from South East Europe, except Moldova due to technical reasons. Nevertheless, the Moldovan Military Intelligence Agency expressed its full support for the topics discussed and for the text of the proposed for SEEMIC Statement.

The Working Group meeting underlined the importance of the SEEMIC Forum for the overall regional security cooperation and its gathering under the auspices of the Director of the EU Military Intelligence Directorate. The Agenda and topics of discussion for the 2nd SEEMIC Conference were discussed and approved. A draft Statement was under consideration and a draft was distributed to the RCC members from South East Europe for final approval. Common understanding was reached that the regional political, economic, social and environmental aspects of the security threats were not to be included in the interventions during the SEEMIC Conference. Bosnia and Herzegovina offered to co-organize with the RCC Secretariat the 3rd SEEMIC conference in 2011. The proposal is expected to be confirmed at the 2nd Conference of SEEMIC.

The invitation letters for the Second SEEMIC were sent out end of August 2010. It is expected that a Statement on Cooperation will be signed at the meeting.

A letter of intent addressed to the RCC Secretary General was received in June 2010 from the Chairperson of the State Commission on Information Security of Bulgaria offering to co-organize the first meeting of the Heads of the National Authorities on Security Information from South East Europe (SEESIAM) in the beginning of 2011. This proposal is in line with the endorsed RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013 and was addressed positively by the RCC Secretary General.

At the meeting with SEESAC Team Leader and his staff the WPOG implementation was discussed and all details agreed upon. The further expansion of the project covering women in armed forces is envisaged and further steps planned in cooperation with the Association of women in the Bulgarian Armed Forces, respective non-governmental organizations (NGO) from Serbia and other RCC members from South East Europe.

The RCC Secretariat's representative participated at the Defence Ministerial meeting co-organized by RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation and the Ministry of Defence of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Issues related to further Euro-Atlantic integration of South East European countries were discussed.

A second meeting took place with representatives of the Bulgarian State Agency of National Security and further details on the possibility to co-organize the first Meeting of the Heads of the Counter Intelligence institutions South East Europe (SEECIM) were discussed.

The RCC Secretariat's representative participated at the South Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) Deputy Chiefs of Defence meeting in Ljubljana. The RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013 were presented. With consensus in their Joint Statement all Deputy Chiefs of Defence / General Staffs extended their support to the RCC's efforts in streamlining the activities of regional taskforces and initiatives in South East Europe.

The RCC Secretariat's representative participated at the 10th South-East Europe Clearinghouse Conference (SEEC) in Skopje. Several participating countries proposed that the role of RCC in SEEC work should be upgraded, stressing importance of the RCC's support to Defence Policy Directors (DPD) meetings and its role in providing greater synergy. It was decided that the RCC will present a concept paper how DPD SEEC can be further developed into an "all inclusive format" with the RCC support.

Meetings of the RCC Secretariat's representative in the NATO took place in June 2010. With representatives of NATO Headquarters International Staff - political administrators, Euro-Atlantic Partners Integration and Partnership Directorate and Security Policy Division - the main aspects of the security cooperation section in the recently adopted RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013 were presented and discussed. NATO officials appreciated the strategic view of RCC and promised support, not only from their directorate, but also of the others that might be interested in being involved in the implementation of the RCC strategic document.

At the meeting with the representative of the NATO Public Diplomacy Division, the project proposal named 'Civil society Network for oversight of Security Sector Governance in South East Europe', based on a joint NATO-RCC idea and put forward by the Belgrade Center for Security Policy (BCSP), with the support of the RCC Secretariat, was presented. NATO's interest in starting the project was declared with expressed readiness to co-finance it.

At an extraordinary meeting of NATO South East Europe Security Cooperation Steering Group (SEEGROUP), the adopted RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013 and the details in the area of security cooperation were presented and discussed.

At the meeting with the new Director of the EU Member States Intelligence (EUMS INT) the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013 and the priorities of security cooperation were presented, among them being the SEEMIC, initiated last year under the auspices of the EUMS INT Director. The latter expressed his personal and his team's support, confirming his participation at the Second SEEMIC Conference. The General Secretariat of the EU Council, both his directorate and the political coordination section, put a lot of interest in the successful development of the SEEMIC Forum and would assist RCC in preventing duplications in the activities of the existing regional structures.

Disaster preparedness and prevention

At the meeting with the Member of Cabinet of the Member of the European Commission responsible for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, the representatives of the RCC Secretariat presented the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013 in the security cooperation area, with a focus on disaster risk reduction. During the discussion it was stressed that: a) in development of the South East European Fire-fighting Centre Network (SEEFREC) duplication with the EU Monitoring Centre should be avoided; b) for Moldova a solution is needed for integration into the overall EU assistance mechanism for South East Europe; c) Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE) is a useful initiative and needs support.

5. Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues

Education

Following a final round of consultations, the ministers of Education Reform Initiative for South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) members signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Role and Organisation of the Education Reform Initiative for South Eastern Europe, at a special event at the 23rd Session of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Education, held in Brdo kod Kranja, on 5 June 2010. As the signatory of the Memorandum of Understanding, the RCC Secretariat will support a new format of the ERI SEE, which will have its Secretariat in Belgrade, hosted by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia. More active and committed approach from the Western Balkans countries would enable ERI SEE to become an effective framework for regional cooperation in the field of education, with support of partners from the EU.

Regarding Higher Education Reform, as one of the priorities of the RCC arising from the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013, the project "Building Capacity for Structural Reform in Higher Education of Western Balkan Countries" (STREW) has been recommended for funding from the Tempus Programme (reference number is 511355-TEMPUS-1-2010-1-RS-TEMPUS-SMHES). The Project will formally start on 15 October 2010 but some preliminary activities will be launched immediately, including design of the project's web platform and preparation for the kick-off meeting (first meeting of contact persons acting on behalf of partner

institutions and representatives of the RCC Secretariat and the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina which are associated institutions/organizations).

Science and Research

In the area of science and research, focus of the RCC Secretariat's activities was on further promotion and development of the project idea of Regional Strategy for Research and Development for Innovation for the Western Balkans (RSRDI). The RCC Secretariat continued to facilitate the work of RSRDI Coordination Body with the aim of further development of specific project areas, by using the existing resources.

The Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkan Countries held a meeting in Belgrade on 24 June 2010. The meeting was co-chaired by the Spanish Presidency of the EU Council, the Republic of Serbia and the European Commission. The presentations of the progress reports showed that Balkan countries and other platform members took many actions over the last six months to strengthen the research capacity. Actions varied between research funding activities and promotion of research cooperation at national level, with other countries in the region and under FP7. All Balkan countries announced further measures and actions aimed at reinforcing their national research strategies. Taking into account results of the study on patterns of cooperation, it was concluded that research entities from the Western Balkans should consider more active research cooperation under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). Steering Platform welcomed progress made in development of the RSRDI and emphasised important role of the RCC in supporting preparatory project activities. Participants expressed expectation that this project, to be funded from the EU Multi-beneficiary IPA Programme, will contribute to effective implementation of the Ministerial Joint Statement, adopted in Sarajevo on 24 April 2009.

Third Meeting of the RCC Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital was organized on 25 June 2010 by the Task Force Secretariat and was hosted by the Serbian Ministry of Science and Technological Development in Belgrade. The Task Force approved the Joint Report of Chair and Co-Chairs for the first mandate 2008-2010, and re-elected the Task Force leadership for the second mandate in the period 2010-2010- Romania as Chair and Croatia and Austria as Co-Chairs. In its future activities, idea of regional ownership needs to be preserved and further developed by the Task Force leadership. The Task Force should put more emphasis to the result oriented activities and projects which would bring added value to the region in respective area, especially to candidate and potential candidate countries for the membership in the EU.

Culture

Activities of the RCC Secretariat in the field of culture have been focused on the transfer of future activities of Ljubljana Process to the region, in line with the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013. In the course of the reporting period, the RCC Secretariat's representatives, in close co-operation with the European Commission and the Council of Europe, prepared the draft Terms of Reference of the future RCC Task Force on Culture and Society with the permanent secretariat situated in the region. The decisions on the establishment of the Task Force, on the seat of the permanent secretariat as well as the adoption of the Task Force's Terms of Reference are expected to be taken by the RCC Board at its meeting in September 2010.

6. Parliamentary Cooperation

During the reporting period, the RCC concentrated its work on two dimensions pertaining to this sector: the SEECP parliamentary cooperation dimension and the Western Balkans, in line with the activities envisaged under the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013.

Within the SEECP framework the 8th Conference of the SEECP Speakers of Parliaments – *Perspectives on establishing a Parliamentary Assembly* – took place in Antalya, on 6-8 June 2010. The Conference has been organized by the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey under the auspices of the Turkish SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office. The event gathered Speakers of SEECP Participating States. Agenda of the conference included strengthening the institutional framework of the Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe with perspectives on establishing a regional Parliamentary Assembly. The Final Declaration of the 8th Conference of the SEECP Speakers of Parliaments accentuated firm engagement in making concerted efforts to promote all-round growth of good-neighbourly relations and development of the common European perspective as well as inter-parliamentary cooperation in South East Europe. The Turkish Parliament initiated the discussion on the idea of a possible creation of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly. Participants responded positively to this idea but remained cautious about the financial and structural connotations that this initiative entails.

In relation to the Western Balkans area, the the 9th and 10th Cetinje Parliamentary Forum were organized in Cetinje. The first conference dealt with the topic of Parliament's Role in Combating Corruption and Organized Crime and was organized under the CEI Presidency of Montenegro. The second topic discussed the issue of "Women, Peace and Security – 10th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325". Cetinje Parliamentary Forum gathered participants from the Western Balkans region and beyond, and is becoming the most active parliamentary forum gathering the Western Balkans parliaments, with special emphases on the issues related to the EU acquis.

Furthermore, during the reporting period, the RCC Secretariat planned and prepared the activities which will take place in the second half of 2010, in particular the Conference "Fight Against Poverty and Social Exclusion in the Context of European Integration Process: The Role of National Parliaments", organized in cooperation with the National Assembly of Republic of Serbia, to be held on 11-13 October 2010 in Belgrade. The RCC Secretariat is also planning to co-organize with the European Parliament the seminar on "Parliamentary powers", to be held at the level of the members of parliament in November 2010.

IV. Operation of the RCC Secretariat

In accordance with the established rotational principle of the post of the Head of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels, the Deputy Head of the Liaison Office assumed the position of the Head of Liaison Office as of 15 July 2010. The previous Head of Liaison Office assumed the position of the Deputy Head of the Liaison Office accordingly.

In light of the departure of one of the Political Advisors in the RCC Secretariat as of 4 May 2010 and the promotion of the Junior Political Advisor to the position of Political Advisor as of 1 May

2010, the RCC Secretary General decided to publicly announce the post of the Junior Political Advisor, which was vacant as of 1 May 2010. Following recruitment procedure and interviews with short-listed candidates in mid-April, the Secretary General made the decision on the appointment of a new Junior Political Advisor, who started with the work in the RCC Secretariat on 17 May 2010.

The RCC Secretariat currently comprises of a total of 37 staff members, out of which 32 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.

A remaining open issue related to the setting-up of the RCC Secretariat Liaison concerns the implementation of the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement between the Kingdom of Belgium and the RCC Secretariat, which regulates the status of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels. The Kingdom of Belgium has conditioned the implementation of relevant provisions of the Headquarters Agreement between the Kingdom of Belgium and the RCC Secretariat providing for the fiscal privileges and immunities of the Head and Deputy Head of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels with the issuing of an official authentic interpretation concerning the implementation of Article 17.1.(d) of the Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Governments of the other SEECP Participating States, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo on behalf of Kosovo in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, on the Host Country Arrangements for the Secretariat of the Regional Cooperation Council (Host Country Agreement) by the Parties to this Agreement in which the principle of taxability of the officials of the RCC Secretariat in their countries/places of origin and/or permanent residence would be explicitly confirmed. After a consultation procedure initiated by the RCC Secretary General in August 2008 it became evident that the adoption of an interpretative declaration amending the Agreement would not be acceptable to some of the Parties to the Host Country Agreement, as they consider that such declaration would run counter to the spirit of the current provisions of the Agreement and would lead to its *de facto* amendment. In light of the principles of general international law, the only recourse in this situation would be to proceed with amending the Host Country Agreement accordingly, in light of the request from the Kingdom of Belgium. This, however, remains subject to the will of the Parties to the Host Country Agreement.

In this view, the RCC 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 requested confirmation of taxability. This proposal of the RCC Secretary General is still under consideration by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

V. Membership of the RCC and the RCC Board

The RCC Annual Meeting, held in Istanbul on 22 June 2010, approved the application of the IOM for the membership in the RCC. Following this decision the number of RCC members raised to 46.

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

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

Until 10 September 2010 the following contributions to the RCC Secretariat's budget were received:

- Czech Republic	50,280.78 EUR	10 December 2009
- Italy	49,973.73 EUR	22 December 2009
- Bulgaria	140,000.00 EUR	26 January 2010
- Croatia	80,000.00 EUR	4 February 2010
- Sweden	150,842.35 EUR	11 February 2010
- UNMIK/Kosovo	39,960.00 EUR	12 February 2010
- Latvia	50,000.00 EUR	2 March 2010
- Greece	140,000.00EUR	2 March 2010
- Poland	50,000.00 EUR	9 March 2010
- Bosnia and Herzegovina	30,000.00 EUR (remaining portion of contribution unpaid – 30,000.00 EUR)	25 March 2010
- Moldova	40,000.00 EUR	29 March 2010
- Montenegro	19,980.00 EUR (remaining portion of contribution unpaid - 20,020.00 EUR)	13 April 2010
- Serbia	60,000.00 EUR	13 April 2010
- Slovenia	50,000.00 EUR	12 May 2010
- Hungary	50,000.00 EUR	14 May 2010

- Ireland	50,000.00 EUR	18 May 2010
- Romania	140,000.00 EUR	4 June 2010
- Turkey	140,000.00 EUR	16 June 2010
- France	50,281.20 EUR	17 August 2010
- Norway	101,829.74 EUR	18 August 2010

The RCC Secretariat received, until 10 September 2010, a total of 1,483,147.80 EUR as financial contributions of the RCC Board members to the RCC Secretariat's budget for 2010. This sum represents 42,75% of the overall RCC Secretariat's budget for 2010 of 3,238,750.97 EUR.

VII. Future activities of the RCC Secretariat

-RCC Board meeting – Sarajevo, 16 September 2010 – organized by the RCC Secretariat;

-Coordination Meeting between the SEECP and the RCC – Sarajevo, 16 September 2010 – co-organized by the Montenegrin Chairmanship-in-Office of the SEECP and the RCC Secretariat;

-First Forum for South East European Women Entrepreneurs – Istanbul, 21-22 September 2010 – co-organized by the Government of Turkey and the RCC Secretariat in cooperation with the UN ECE;

-International Forum on Higher Education Reform Foresight 2020 – Dubrovnik, 27-29 September 2010 – co-organized by the RCC Secretariat, the University of Zagreb and the University of Novi Sad;

-Regional Workshop on Democratic Policing “Organizational and Managerial Issues in the Police” – Sarajevo, 30 September -1 October 2010 – co-organized by the RCC Secretariat and the OSCE;

-First Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative (SEDRI) Task Force Meeting – Trieste, 7-8 October 2010 – co-organized by the RCC Secretariat and the CEI-Executive Secretariat;

-Regional Conference on Role of Regional Parliaments in Fight Against Poverty and Social Exclusion in EU Integration Context – Belgrade, 11-13 October 2010 – co-organized by the RCC Secretariat and the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, with support of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation;

-International Conference on Digitalization and Sustainability of Public Service Media in South East Europe – Sarajevo, 14-15 October 2010 - co-organized by the RCC Secretariat and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU);

-Workshop on Reducing Emissions from the Energy Sectors in the Energy Community – Sarajevo, 25-26 October 2010 – co-organized by the RCC Secretariat and the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS);

-Southeast Europe Regional Workshop on National Coordination and Regional Cooperation in Counter-Terrorism – Sarajevo, 27-28 October 2010 – co-organized by the RCC Secretariat, SECI Center and the UN Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) Executive Directorate, with support of the governments of Austria, Turkey and Bosnia and Herzegovina;

-Meeting of the Financial Sub-Committee to the RCC Board – Sarajevo, October 2010 – organized by the RCC Secretariat;

-RCC Board meeting – Sarajevo, 2 December 2010 – organized by the RCC Secretariat.

ANNEX I

LIST OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE RCC SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE RCC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS IN THE PERIOD

FROM 15 MAY TO 10 SEPTEMBER 2010

- Meeting with the Head of Mission of Croatia to the EU - Brussels, 17 May 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- 2nd CEE/SEE Regional Colloquium - Capacity Building on Global Governance and the UN System “Teaching Climate Change and the UN System” – Belgrade, 17 May 2010 (Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure)
- Conference of National Councils of the European Movement in South East Europe – Sarajevo, 17 May 2010 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Spokesperson, Political Advisor)
- Gender Task Force Regional Conference for Women in Parliament , organized by the GTF – Dubrovnik, 17 – 18 May 2010 (Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- RCC Board meeting - Sarajevo, 18 May 2010 (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 Infrastructure and Energy, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Senior Expert on Security Issues, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital, Spokesperson, Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues, Political Advisors, Legal Advisor, Junior Political Advisor)
- Participation at the Coordination Meeting regarding Streamlining of Regional Taskforces and Initiatives in South East Europe - Sarajevo, 18 May 2010 (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, Spokesperson, Political Advisors, Junior Political Advisor)
- Address during the inaugural session of the 3rd Western Balkans Civil Society Forum Meeting, European Economic and Social Committee - Brussels, 18 May 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Consultation meeting on the financing of measures under the Danube Joint Program of Measures, organized by ICPDR – Belgrade, 18 – 19 May 2010 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- 3rd Western Balkan Civil Society Forum, organized by the European Economic and Social Committee – Brussels, 18 – 19 May 2010 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- OSCE Heads of Law Enforcement Departments meeting, organized by the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit – Vienna, 19 May 2010 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)

- The Western Balkans: Path to European Integrations, organized by EU Institute for Security Studies and Foreign Policy Initiative – Sarajevo, 19 – 21 May 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Participation at the 13th CEI Dubrovnik Diplomatic Forum - oriented towards ‘Strategic Public Diplomacy’ – Dubrovnik 20 May 2010 (Secretary General)
- Speaker at the Balkan Civil Society Development Network - Brussels, 20 May 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with representative of DG Environment of the European Commission - Brussels, 20 May 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Annual Police Experts meeting, organized by the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit – Vienna, 20 – 21 May 2010 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Participation, chair, moderation and co-organization of the 10th Anniversary of the Regional Anticorruption Initiative (RAI) and the Regional Conference on presenting the results of the survey on integrity of justice systems in SEE done by the Transparency International / Romanian Chapter and the RAI Secretariat - Bucharest, 20 - 21 May 2010 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Ministerial Round Table on Science and Higher Education, from bilateral to pan-European Cooperation, organized by the Ministry of Education of Republic of Albania, UNESCO Venice Office and Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe – Tirana, 21 – 22 May 2010 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital)
- 3rd meeting of the Competition Authorities of the SEECP Participating States – Istanbul, 24 – 25 May 2010 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Participation in European Movement Briefing “After the Lisbon Treaty – What can citizens expect? – Moving from design to delivery” with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Movement - Brussels, 25 May 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Participation in a lunch debate with the Permanent Representatives of Austria, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Slovenia, the Heads of Missions of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and the Director General for Enlargement in the European Commission - Brussels, 25 May 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Director General of the Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations – Brussels, 25 May 2010 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU)
- Workshop on the Internationalization of Research and Development, co-organized by JRC – IPTS and Tekpol-Tubitak – Ankara, 25 – 26 May 2010 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital)
- 33rd Session of the Joint Cooperation Committee, organized by the SECI Center – Bucharest, 25 – 26 May 2010 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)

- Participation in a dinner debate with the Member of the European Commission responsible for Regional Policy - Brussels, 26 May 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with Political Counsellor of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea - Brussels, 26 May 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Head of Mission of Albania to the EU - Brussels, 26 May 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with Croatia Airlines representatives – Zagreb, 26 May 2010 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Expert on Infrastructure)
- 39th ICPO – INTERPOL European Regional Conference, organized by the Interpol – Budva, 26 – 28 May 2010 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- 10th Edition of the Forum of the Chambers of Commerce of the Adriatic and Ionian Area, organized by the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce and Camera di Commercio Ancona – Ancona, 26 – 28 May 2010 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with a Director in DG Regional Policy of the European Commission - Brussels, 27 May 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Head of the Europe and Central Asia Unit of the World Bank - Brussels, 27 May 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the representatives of Institut Francaise des Relations Internationales (IFRI) – Sarajevo, 27 May 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- European Leadership Centre’s conference “Can European Leaders See Around the Corner and Find Creative Solutions” ,organized by the IEDC – Bled School of Management – Bled, 27 – 28 May 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- 1st Energy Community Workshop on Emergency Oil Stocks, organized by Energy Community, International Energy Agency, HANDA, European Commission – Zagreb, 27 – 28 May 2010 (Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure)
- Participation at the Conflict Prevention and Statebuilding Workshop and Dialogue Forum in the Spanish Permanent Representation to the EU – Brussels, 27 - 28 May 2010 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU)
- Trans Logistic meeting, organized by the Port of Brcko and the Government of Brcko District – Brcko, 27 – 28 May 2010 (Expert on Infrastructure)
- Participation in the IFI Advisory Group Coordination Meeting and presentation of RCC priorities and activities - Brussels, 28 May 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with representative of DG Employment of the European Commission - Brussels, 29 May 2010 (Expert on Economic and Social Development, Advisor in the Liaison Office)

- Round table on “Croatian EU Membership – view to region, view from region”, organized by Heinrich Boll Stiftung Croatia – Zagreb, 30 – 31 May 2010 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital)
- Participation and presentation of the RCC JHA Strategy within the EU Stockholm Program context at the SEE Summer school for junior magistrates - Tirana, 30 May – 3 June 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Regional Conference on “NATO integration in SEE: Developing a Common Transatlantic Vision and Future Prospective” , organized by RACVIAC – Bitola, 31 May – 1 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- International Conference: “Strategic Development of Traffic Corridor Bucharest – Belgrade – Bar – Bari” , organized by the Ministry of Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia, Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Montenegrin Chamber of Commerce – Bar, 31 May – 1 June 2010 (Expert on Infrastructure)
- Meeting with the Head of Enlargement Strategy Unit in DG Enlargement of the European Commission - Brussels, 1 June 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Head of Liaison Office, Chief of Staff)
- Participation in the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Dialogue on Western Balkans, EU-Kosovo relations - Brussels, 1 June 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting representative of Croatian Panonia Region - Brussels, 1 June 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting Deputy of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina, EU Visitors Programme - Brussels, 1 June 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- EU Western Balkans High-Level Meeting – Sarajevo, 2 June 2010 (Secretary General, Special Envoy of the Secretary General for Relations with the EU Presidency, Spokesperson, Political Advisors)
- Meeting with the representatives of DG Mobility and Transport of the European Commission – Brussels, 2 June 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Expert on Infrastructure, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Head of Regional Programmes Unit in DG Enlargement of the European Commission - Brussels, 2 June 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Head of Liaison Office, Chief of Staff, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- OECD Workshop on Regional Competitiveness Initiative - Paris, 2 - 4 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- 4th SEE Energy Dialogue International Conference – Thessaloniki, 2 – 6 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Meeting with the Deputy Head of the Croatian Embassy in Brussels - Brussels, 3 June 2010 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)

- Participation in EPC briefing : Visions of Europe with President of the ALDE Group in the European Parliament - Brussels, 3 June 2010 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Chairman of the Crans Montana Forum - Brussels, 3 June 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with SANS representative with reference to preparation of SEE Military Intelligence meeting – Sofia, 3 – 4 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- 6th Regional Vienna Declaration Review meeting, organized by HABITAT – Budapest, 3 – 4 June 2010 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with the Political Director for SEE in the Belgian MFA and incoming Belgian EU Presidency Chair of COWEB Capitals – Brussels, 4 June 2010 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU)
- Meeting with the Senior Diplomatic Adviser in the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) Political – Brussels, 4 June 2010 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU)
- International Workshop “Shaping the Future in Moldova: Civil Society and Lessons Learned from the Balkans”, organized by the Southeast Europe Association – Munich, 4 – 6 June 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Participation at the Regional Conference of EPP-oriented Youth Organisations in South East Europe in co-operation with Youth of the European People’s Party YEPP “Building a Common Future in the European Union, Harmonising Political Education in the Balkan Region” – Sarajevo, 5 June 2010 (Secretary General)
- ERI SEE – 23rd Session of the CoE Conference of Ministers of Education – Signing Ceremony of MoU between Ministers of Education, organized by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of Republic of Croatia – Brdo Kranj, 5 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital, Legal Advisor)
- Meeting with the President and Secretary General of GIRP (NGO Distribution of Pharmaceuticals in the EU) - Cannes, 5 June 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- 8th Conference of SEECF Speakers of Parliaments – Perspectives on establishing a Parliamentary Assembly, organized by the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey under the auspices of the SEECF CiO – Antalya, 5 – 8 June 2010 (Secretary General, Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- Participation in CEPS briefing “EU Enlargement: Croatian experience with the State Secretary for European integration of Croatia - Brussels, 7 June 2010 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Participation in EPC Sixty Minute Briefing 'Justice, freedom and security in the EU: a stock-taking' with the Director General for Justice, Freedom and Security, EU Commission - Brussels, 7 June 2010 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)

- European Regional Economic Forum EREF 2010 – Competencies and Values for Sustainable, Knowledge based Competitiveness – A new Agenda for European Regions, organized by EU, Slovenian Business and Research Association – Nova Gorica, 7 – 8 June 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Annual DCHOD meeting – Ljubljana, 7 – 9 June 2010, organized by SEDM (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- Meeting with the Head of Mission of Georgia to the EU - Brussels, 8 June 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the MEP from Bulgaria (EPP) - Brussels, 8 June 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- “Improving new investment finance options in the Western Balkans: Conference on Access to Finance”, organized by the OECD – Skopje, 8 – 9 June 2010 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Presentation on Regional Competitiveness, organized by Northeast Regional Development Association (NERDA) – Tuzla, 8 – 9 June 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Interim Steering Committee meeting of Women Police Officers Network (WPON), organized by the UNDP/SEESAC – Belgrade, 8 – 11 June 2010 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Participation in EPP Public Hearing in the EP “The Republic of Moldova: One Year Since the Pro-European Shift” with the Prime Minister of Moldova and the Member of the European Commission responsible for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy - Brussels, 9 June 2010 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- 5th Conference on EU Strategy for the Danube Region, organized by the European Commission – Constanta/Romania, 9 – 10 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- EFSE Annual meeting 2010, organized by EFSE – Ohrid, 9 – 10 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Participation in Enlargement Conference organised by EUobserver : "Where Europe Ends: Regional Contribution to EU accession" with the Member of the European Commission responsible for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy - Brussels, 10 June 2010 (Head of Liaison Office, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Participation in Gallup/EFB event on Western Balkan governance and corruption - Brussels, 10 June 2010 (Head of Liaison Office, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU, Advisors in the Liaison Office)
- SEE and Mediterranean (SEM) Public Private Partnership Days 2010, organized by the PPP Days 2010, World Bank, World Bank Institute, Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness and Shipping – Athens, 10 – 11 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)

- Meeting with the Member of the European Commission responsible for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy – Brussels, 11 June 2010 (Secretary General, Head of Liaison Office, Deputy Head of Liaison Office, Advisors in the Liaison Office)
- Participation at the EPC Policy meeting “The Priorities of the Belgian Presidency of the EU” – Brussels, 11 June 2010 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU)
- Participation in the briefing of RCC Secretary General for the Ambassadors of SEE countries accredited to EU and NATO - Brussels, 11 June 2010 (Head of Liaison Office, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU, Deputy Head of Liaison Office, Advisors in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the representatives of IFC Consultancy tasked by the European Commission to produce Strategic/interim evaluation of regional cooperation in the Western Balkans and Turkey - Brussels, 11 June 2010 (Advisors in the Liaison Office)
- 6th SEE Investment Committee meeting “Raising Competitiveness in SEE” and Donors meeting, organized by the OECD – Paris, 13 – 15 June 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Participation in the 6th meeting of the South East Europe Investment Committee, OECD - Paris, 14 June 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Workshop on the implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004), organized by the United Nations – Split, 14 – 17 June 2010 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Meeting with the Ambassador of Bulgaria to Serbia, 15 June 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the representatives of the European Broadcasting Union with reference to preparation of the conference – Ljubljana, 15 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital, Spokesperson)
- Meeting with the representatives of the State of Baden-Wurttemberg to the European Union - Brussels, 16 June 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the incoming Belgian EU Presidency Chair of COWEB Brussels – Brussels, 16 June 2010 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU)
- Participation in the IFI Advisory Group Coordination Meeting on Environment - Brussels, 17 June 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- “20 years in the region: key issues for the REC in the post-2010 period”, organized by REC – Szentendre, 17 – 18 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Presentation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-13 to MB IPA 2008 Quality Infrastructure Project - Brussels, 18 June 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)

- Meeting with Second Secretary responsible for Western Balkans in the Permanent Representation of the United Kingdom to the EU - Brussels, 18 June 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Participation at the 4th Meeting of the SEECP Political Directors – Istanbul, 21 June 2010 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Chief of Staff)
- Participation in the Workshop “Improvement and intensification of access to information and exchange data on migration and refugees among MARRI Member States. No visa, no tariffs, free movement zone among MARRI Member States”, co-organized by the Albanian Presidency of MARRI and MARRI Center, with the support of the RCC - Tirana, 21-22 June 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- 10th SEEC Conference, organized by the South East Europe Clearinghouse (SEEC) – Skopje, 21 – 23 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- 10th Cetinje Parliamentary Forum “Women, peace and security” , organized by the Parliament of Montenegro, Gender Equality Committee – Cetinje, 21 – 22 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- Workshop on “Transparent Career System in Democratic Policing” , organized by the OSCE – Ohrid, 21 – 22 June 2010 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- RCC Annual Meeting - Istanbul, 22 June 2010 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Head of Liaison Office, Chief of Staff, Deputy, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the EU Presidency, Deputy Head of Liaison Office, Spokesperson, Political Advisors, Junior Political Advisor)
- Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the SEECP Participating States- Istanbul, 22 June 2010 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Head of Liaison Office)
- Workshop on Law Enforcement Cooperation in its Prosecutorial Context, organized by the SECI Center – Bucharest, 22 – 23 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Meeting of the Heads of States and Government of the SEECP Participating States - Istanbul, 23 June 2010 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool, Head of Liaison Office, Chief of Staff, Spokesperson, Political Advisor, Junior Political Advisor)
- ILECUs meeting – Tirana, 23 – 25 June 2010 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Meeting with a representative of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) - Brussels, 24 June 2010 (Head of Liaison Office, Deputy Head of Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting the MEP from Greece (EPP) - Brussels, 24 June 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with Director General, Prime Minister’s Office of the Government of Bavaria - Brussels, 24 June 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the US Senator from Texas - Brussels, 24 June 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)

- Meeting with the Director of the EU Member States Intelligence Directorate and the Head of the EU MS Military Intelligence Branch - Brussels, 24 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the NATO officials from the Partnership for Peace Directorate - Brussels, 24 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting of the Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkans Countries, organized by the DG Research of the European Commission, Ministry of Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia – Belgrade, 24 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital)
- Participation at the Crans Montana Forum - Brussels, 24 - 25 June 2010 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU)
- Western Balkans Investment Framework Steering Committee meeting, organized by the DG Enlargement of the European Commission – Prague, 24 – 25 June 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- 23rd SEE Health Network meeting, organized by the SEE Health Network – Ohrid, 24 – 25 June 2010 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- RWL Regional Conference “Women and Peace Building in the Western Balkans” , organized by the UNIFEM – Skopje, 24 – 25 June 2010 (Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- The Energy Community and Regional Sustainability Workshop – Tirana, 25 June 2010, organized by the RCC, Albanian National Assembly and Energy Community Secretariat (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Meeting with the Head of Mission of Kazakhstan to the EU - Brussels, 25 June 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the NATO Public Diplomacy Officer responsible for the Western Balkans - Brussels, 25 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Presentation of the RCC Strategy for 2011 – 2013 in the Security Cooperation Priority Area to the NATO SEEGROUP - Brussels, 25 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- 3rd meeting of the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital of the Regional Cooperation Council, organized by the TFBHC and Ministry of Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia – Belgrade, 25 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital)
- Meeting with US Activist - Brussels ,26 June 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- 9th Energy Efficiency Task Force Meeting, PHLG and joint PHLG-ECRB meetings, organized by the Energy Community Secretariat – Vienna, 28 – 30 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)

- Regional e-Leadership Workshop, co-organized by the UNDP and RCC, supported by the Government of Italy – Sarajevo, 28 – 29 June 2010 (Political Advisor, Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with reference to SEEMIC conference – Belgrade, 29 – 30 June 2010 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- IPA Multi-Beneficiary Programme Coordination meeting – Tirana, 29 – 30 June 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Participation in EPC Policy Briefing "Greening the European economy – from vision to action" with the Commissioner for the Environment - Brussels, 29 June 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Participation and co-organizing the Working Group meeting on the preparation of the 2nd conference of the SEE Military Intelligence Chiefs (SEEMIC), Belgrade, 29 June (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Participation at the meeting organized by the Montenegrin Ambassador to EU with the members of COWEB Brussels – Brussels, 29 June 2010 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU)
- Political consultations in Pristina – 29 June 2010 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- Political consultations with representatives of the Republic of Albania – 30 June 2010 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- Participation in Danube Conference "The Role of the Danube in a competitive Europe : Cooperation, Connectivity, Communication" organized by eight EU member states - Brussels, 30 June 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with Spanish MEP, Secretary General of the EPP – Brussels, 30 June 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- The Global Financial and Economic Crisis: its Impact on the Management of Defence Resources, Defence Procurement System and their Transparency” , organized by the NATO and RACVIAC – Pula, 30 June – 2 July 2010 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Participation in CEPS Lunchtime Meeting: "The Monti Report: Prospects and Challenges for the Single Market" - Brussels, 1 July 2010 (Head of Liaison Office, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the EU Presidency)
- VI Bled Conference of the Bled Process on Stolen Vehicle Crime, organized by the RCC Secretariat and SEPCA – Sarajevo, 1 – 2 July 2010 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Participation in the Evaluation Committee for evaluation of Project Proposals for IPA 2009 Multi-beneficiary Programme – Support to Partnership Actions between Cultural Organizations – Brussels, 1 July – 10 September 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)

- Participation in the Evaluation Committee for the evaluation of the Applications for the Call for Proposal, IPA – Socio-Economic Partnership Programme, – Brussels, 1 July – 10 September 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with TRADUKI representative – Sarajevo, 2 July 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation)
- Meeting with Policy Unit Western Balkans Task Force representative in the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU – Brussels, 5 July 2010 (Head of Liaison Office, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the EU Presidency)
- Meeting with the Head of Mission of Turkey to the EU - Brussels, 6 July 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Steering Group on Regional Strategy on Justice and Home Affairs for South East Europe – Sarajevo, 6 – 7 July 2010 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Participation at EPC Policy Briefing "Making the most of the Lisbon Treaty" with the Secretary General of the European Commission - Brussels, 7 July 2010 (Head of Liaison Office, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU, Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Head of Mission of Croatia to the EU - Brussels, 8 July 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Conference on combating the threat of illicit drugs and strengthening the control of precursor chemicals, organized by the OSCE and UNODC – Vienna, 8 – 9 July 2010 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Meeting with Swedish Ambassador to Serbia – Sarajevo, 8 July 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation)
- Meeting with CEFTA representatives – Sarajevo, 9 July 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Participation at the CEPS debriefing on the EP decision on the European External Action Service – Brussels, 9 July 2010 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency EU Presidency)
- Croatia Summit - Facing Global Challenges, organised by the Government of the Republic of Croatia – Dubrovnik, 9 - 10 July 2010 (Secretary General)
- Meeting with Director for External Action of the EU in the Directorate General for European Affairs and the Director for South East Europe in the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Brussels, 12 July 2010 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the EU Presidency, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Workshop on “Unfinished Business in Europe”, organized by the EU Institute for Security Studies (ISS) – Natolin, 12 – 14 July 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)

- Meeting with the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to NATO - Brussels, 13 July 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Director- General for Enlargement in the European Commission - Brussels, 13 July 2010 (Secretary General, Head of Liaison Office, Deputy Head of the Liaison Office, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with MEP (EPP) - Brussels, 13 July 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with a Director in DG Agriculture in the European Commission - Brussels, 14 July 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- COWEB Capitals meeting - Presentation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013 by the Secretary General of the RCC– Brussels, 14 July 2010 (Secretary General, Head of Liaison Office, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the EU Presidency, Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Forum meeting on fighting organized crime in the Western Balkans, organized by the European Policy Centre – Brussels, 14 July 2010 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- 5th regular session of the Management Board of the Regional Foundation Centre for e-Governance Development, organized by the CeGD – Ljubljana, 15 July 2010 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Participation in a Public Hearing in the EP with the participation of the Minister of Public Works of Bulgaria and MEP and European Commission officials : "The Danube - the river that connects us-unlock the potential" - Brussels, 15 July 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with MEP (ALDE) - Brussels, 15 July 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Member of the European Commission responsible for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy - Brussels, 16 July 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Head of Mission of Russia to NATO - Brussels, 16 July 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Head of the Office of the Aecumenical Patriarch - Brussels, 17 July 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Participation in the Evaluation of the Applications for the Call for Proposals within the IPA – Multi-beneficiary Programme “Civil Society Facility – Vulnerable Groups and Minority Rights” – Brussels, 19 July – 31 August 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Member of the Cabinet of the Member of the European Commission responsible for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy - Brussels, 20 July 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Head of Mission of Iran to the EU - Brussels, 20 July 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)

- Participation at the CEPS meeting: “Priorities of the Belgian EU Presidency” – Brussels, 20 July 2010 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the EU Presidency)
- Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Education of Persons Belonging to National Minorities: Integration and Equal Opportunities, organized by the OSCE – Vienna, 22 – 23 July 2010 (Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation)
- Meeting with the Director General for the EU of Bulgaria - Brussels, 23 July 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with a Director in DG Regional Policy of the European Commission - Brussels, 23 July 2010 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Director of the American Chamber - Brussels, 23 July 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Managing Director, Meade Davis Communications - Brussels, 27 July 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Minister-Counselor of Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the EU – Brussels, 28 July 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Participation at the meeting on Preliminary findings related to strategic/interim evaluation of regional cooperation in the Western Balkans and Turkey, organized by the European Commission, DG Enlargement - Brussels, 29 July 2010 (Advisors in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Team leader/Independent Evaluator, IBF International Consortium, contracted by the European Commission to undertake Strategic/interim evaluation of regional cooperation in the Western Balkans and Turkey - Brussels, 30 July 2010 (Advisors in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the professor from Andrassy University, Hungary - Brussels, 30 July 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Consultations with the officials of the German Federal Foreign Ministry - Berlin, 2 August 2010 (Secretary General, Junior Political Advisor)
- Meeting with the Head of Office, Support to IFI Coordination in the Western Balkans and Turkey - Brussels, 5 August 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Kingdom of Belgium and Head of Mission to NATO - Brussels, 6 August 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with RACVIAC representatives – Zagreb, 24 August 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Meeting with Austrian Development Agency representative – Sarajevo, 25 August 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development and Expert on Economic and Social Development)

- Meeting with Director of Department of Security Co-operation (DSC) of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo, 25 August 2010 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- 7th DRC Danube Rector’s Conference, Summer School on Regional Cooperation, organized by the Institute for Danube Region and Central Europe – Pecs, 28 – 30 August 2010 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- The Fifth Bled Strategic Forum “The Global Outlook for the Next Decade” – Bled, 29 – 30 August 2010 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Meeting with Policy Officer, International Transport Relations, DG Mobility and Transport of the European Commission- Brussels, 30 August 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Deputy Head of Cabinet of the Member of the European Commission responsible for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy - Brussels, 30 August 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with MEPs (EPP) - Brussels, 31 August 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Working Group Coordinator, Support to IFI Coordination in the Western Balkans and Turkey and Consultant, Integra - Brussels, 1 September 2010 (Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting with MEPs (EPP) - Brussels, 1 September 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- XVII International Scientific Conference on Technology, Culture and Development “Western Balkans on the Way to the European Union” , organized by the Association Technology and Society, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Podgorica, Institute “Mihajlo Pupin”, Belgrade, Economic Faculty, Subotica, Town of Subotica - Tivat, 1 – 4 September 2010 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Conference on “Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction - Opportunities for emerging state-donors: the case of Romania”, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania – Bucharest, 2 September 2010 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with the Hungarian representative in COWEB – Brussels, 2 September 2010 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the EU Presidency)
- Meeting with the Director in OLAF - Brussels, 2 September 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Meeting with the Member of the European Commission responsible for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response - Brussels, 3 September 2010 (Head of Liaison Office)
- Working meeting with ERI SEE Chairmanship – Belgrade, 7 September 2010 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)

- ISIS Governing Body meeting – Becici/Budva, 8 September 2010, organized by the European Commission and the RCC Secretariat (Secretary General, Expert on Infrastructure, Advisor in the Liaison Office)
- Meeting of the Committee of Political Directors of the SEECP – Podgorica, 10 September 2010 (Secretary General, Political Advisor)

ANNEX II

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

(as on 10 September 2010)

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. Sanjin Arifagić- Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Head of Economic and Social Development Unit
3. Mr. Miroslav Kukobat- Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Head of Infrastructure and Energy Unit
4. Mr. Virgil Constantin Ivan Cucu- Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Head of Justice and Home Affairs Unit
5. Mr. Efrem Radev- Senior Expert on Security Cooperation, Head of Security Cooperation Unit
6. Mr. Mladen Dragašević- Senior Expert on Building Human Capital, Head of Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues Unit
7. Mr. Nand Shani- Expert on Economic and Social Development
8. Ms. Amna Redžepagić – Expert on Infrastructure
9. Mr. Predrag Vujičić- Expert on Justice and Home Affairs
10. Ms. Mimika Loshi- Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues
11. Ms. Maja Taylor- Assistant to the Head of Expert Pool
12. 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. Mr. Ivan Bojanić- Political Advisor
5. Ms. Jasna Arsić-Đapo, Legal Advisor
6. Mr. Dorin Vremis, 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
6. Ms. Dijana Kešelj- Translator

LIAISON OFFICE IN BRUSSELS

1. Mr. Basil Coronakis- Head of Office
2. Mr. Stanislav Daskalov- 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