

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

For the period 30 November 2011 – 5 March 2012

# BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL

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

Sarajevo, 15 March 2012

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 30 November 2011 - 5 March 2012.

#### I. Summary of activities

The reporting period was characterized by a continuation of the process of undertaking concrete steps in the context of implementing the RCC Strategy and Work Programme (SWP) 2011-2013, particularly aimed at the efficient and target-oriented, regionally owned and all-inclusive regional cooperation, as well as by intensive consultations of the RCC Secretary General (SG) with a number of RCC members (Annex I: Report on the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013 for the period 30 November 2011 – 5 March 2012, Annex II: List of events and meetings attended by the RCC SG and the RCC Secretariat officials in the period 30 November 2011 – 5 March 2012, Annex II: List of Planned events of the RCC Secretariat in 2012, Annex V: List of Abbreviations).

The fifteenth RCC Board meeting, among other issues, approved the Report of the RCC SG on the activities of the RCC Secretariat for the period 9 September – 30 November 2011, while the sixth Coordination meeting between the South East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECP) Troika, the RCC Secretariat and European Union (EU) discussed issued related to the cooperation of the Serbian SEECP Chair-in-Office (C-i-O) and the RCC Secretariat.

The RCC SG, within the permanent dialogue with RCC members, held consultations with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Croatia and Serbia, with high-level officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Austria, Norway, Sweden, Germany and France. The RCC Secretariat delegation, led by the RCC SG, held consultations with a high-level delegation of the EU, led by the Deputy Director General for enlargement.

The RCC Secretariat delegation has participated at the meeting of the SEECP Political Directors and at the Informal meeting of the SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs (MFAs), which were organized under the Serbian SEECP C-i-O.

The RCC Secretariat was deeply engaged in the preparation of the draft Self-assessment report, which provides a detailed analysis of the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013 in the course of 2011. It generates conclusions and recommendations pertinent to furthering the implementation of the RCC SWP in the incoming period and should serve as a valuable basis for the discussions on the future of regional cooperation in South East Europe (SEE) and the role of the RCC beyond 2013.

The RCC SG actively took part at a number of high-level regional events and international meetings with a regional dimension such as the Annual Ministerial Conference on the development of the South East Europe Core Regional Transport Network (SEETO), the Ministerial Conference of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), the Austrian–French informal seminar "The Future of the Balkans" etc.

The RCC Secretariat, and in particular the Deputy RCC Secretary General (DSG) and the Expert Pool, continued to be intensively involved in managerial and steering bodies of different regional initiatives, to provide support in incubating new projects and organizing important events, to prepare Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with key partner organizations, and to promote Regional Initiatives and Task Forces (RI&TFs).

Following the official transfer of the South East Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC), the RCC Secretariat has been working on the operational aspects of preparing a work plan for the next two years of functioning, on the rules of procedure for the SEEIC and on furthering the objectives of developing a regional SEE 2020 Strategy.

The RCC Secretariat continued to monitor the Energy Community developments and explored the possibility to join activities with the Implementation of Single European Sky (ISIS) Programme Secretariat regarding the preparation of the Common Air Traffic Study.

The RCC Secretariat has started the preparations of the Terms of Reference and public procurement, development and implementation of the data base for the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism in the field of Justice and Home Affairs.

In the area of security cooperation, the RCC Secretariat continued to intensify cooperation of defense structures and intelligence services.

The role of the RCC Secretariat has grown in the Building Human Capital related programmes and projects in the region and in strengthening of the parliamentary dimension.

In line with the conclusions of the international seminar 'South East Europe 20 Years On: Transformation from State to Public Broadcasting', the RCC Secretariat continued its activities of fostering freedom of the media in the region, particularly in the field of public broadcasting.

The RCC Secretariat continued with the publication of the Newsletter and the promotion of the RCC's activities and of other important regional events in SEE by preparing and distributing a new monthly overview based on its daily press review, as well as by sharing with RCC Board members reports related to different activities with the participation of the RCC Secretariat staff.

The RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels contributed to the further development of cooperation with the EU institutions and other relevant Brussels based institutions and stakeholders, resulting in a number of important meetings held.

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

#### **RCC Board Meeting**

The fifteenth RCC Board meeting was held on 8 December 2011. The RCC SG presented his Report on the activities of the RCC Secretariat for the period 9 September 2011 - 30 November 2011, informed on the results of the Coordination meeting between the SEECP Troika, the RCC Secretariat and the EU and elaborated on the current activities related to the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013. He informed on the intention of the RCC Secretariat to prepare a Self-assessment report of the first year of the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013 and to present it to the RCC Board meeting on 15 March 2012.

The RCC Board members commended the Report of the RCC SG on the activities of the RCC Secretariat and underlined the importance of the upcoming Self-assessment report of the RCC SWP 2011-2013.

The RCC DSG informed about the latest results obtained in the process of implementing the RCC SWP 2011-2013 and the planned activities in each priority area.

The RCC SG, while reflecting on the importance of opening discussions on the future of regional cooperation and RCC's role to this effect, underlined that the Self-assessment report of the first year of the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013 could become a pertinent steppingstone towards these discussions. He briefed on the planned activities of the RCC Secretariat until March 2012 and on his intention to continue holding regular consultations with RCC members in view of raising the awareness and importance of further improving regional cooperation and the role of RCC. The RCC SG reflected on the financial difficulties experienced by the RCC Secretariat, highlighting the need to timely honour the committed yearly financial contributions to the RCC budget. Moreover, the RCC Board members exchanged views on the number of meetings in 2012 proposing to decrease the number of the regular meetings of the RCC Board from four to three in view of increasing the efficiency of the Board's meetings and diminishing of the overall cost related to the organization and participation at four Board's meetings per year. They agreed that the next one will be held on 15 March 2012, when the discussions on this issue will continue.

The RCC Board meeting reached the following decisions and conclusions: approved the Report of the RCC SG on the activities of the RCC Secretariat and on the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013; acknowledged the necessity to open comprehensive debates on the future of regional cooperation and on the role of RCC; welcomed the initiative to produce a Selfassessment report of the first year of the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013; adopted the Budget for the RCC Secretariat for 2012; decided to convene on 15 March 2012 and agreed to discuss the dates of its next meetings during the RCC Board meeting on 15 March 2012; noted the lack of consensus on the issue of establishing the Evaluation Group and acknowledged the commitment of the RCC SG to address the issue in the context of the Self-assessment report of the implementation of the RCC SWP.

#### Coordination between the SEECP and the RCC

The Coordination meeting gathered representatives of the SEECP Troika – Montenegro, Serbia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - the RCC Secretariat and the EU (representative of the European Commission and the representative of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy). The Co-chairs informed on the envisaged activities related to the implementation of the Serbian SEECP C-i-O's priorities and the RCC SWP 2011-2013.

The conclusions of the Coordination meeting underlined the importance of continuing the cooperation and coordination between RCC and the SEECP C-i-O in the context of the upcoming SEECP events. The process of streamlining of regional initiatives and taskforces in SEE in relation to the RCC SWP 2011-2013 will continue and advance, building on the results achieved so far. Moreover, the Coordination meeting praised RCC Secretariat's engagement in the preparation of the Self-assessment report regarding the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013 during 2011, noting that its results could contribute to the development of a general context

conducive to enhancing regional cooperation, strengthening the role of RCC and consolidating and stabilizing regional cooperation in SEE. To this effect, the need to open comprehensive debate on the future of regional cooperation and RCC's role, including its greater involvement in the context of the EU Enlargement Package 2011-2012 was acknowledged. Noting the lack of consensus on the issue of Evaluation Group, the meeting supported the commitment of the RCC SG to address the issue in the context of the Self-assessment of the implementation of the first year of the RCC SWP.

The RCC Secretariat delegation participated at the meeting of SEECP Political Directors and at the Informal meeting of the SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs (MFAs), which was organized under the Serbian SEECP C-i-O. At the aforementioned meetings, the work of the RCC SG and of the RCC Secretariat was commended for the concrete results obtained in the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013 and the strategic character of the relations between the SEECP and RCC, as well as the importance to continue enhancing coordination and synergy were stressed. The SEECP participating states emphasized that the SEECP has been successfully supporting and promoting peace, security, good-neighbourly relations and economic development in SEE. However, in light of the remaining outstanding political and socio-economic issues in the region, the delegations called for an enhancement of the SEECP and regional cooperation. The proposal made by one SEECP participating state to open the process of establishing a Wise Men Group, which would be tasked to work on the future framework of regional cooperation, was accepted and the SEECP C-i-O committed to work in this direction. The RCC SG in his intervention pointed out that the dialogue on the future of regional organization could entail discussion on the future modalities of cooperation related to the SEECP and proposed to pave the way for preparing and adopting of formal decision on the establishment, mandate and operational modalities of the Wise Men Group. In addition, the RCC SG has underlined that the first assessments of the implementation of the RCC SWP indicate a successful start and a need for full attentiveness and continuity within the RCC Secretariat.

On the margins of the Informal meeting of the SEECP MFAs, the RCC Secretariat delegation held consultations with the delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, leaded by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The parties have exchanged views on the most important developments in SEE, EU enlargement prospects, as well as on the future of regional cooperation in SEE, the role of SEECP and RCC.

#### Consultations of the RCC Secretary General with RCC members

The RCC SG held consultations with high-level officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Austria, Norway, Sweden, Croatia, Germany, Serbia, France and high-level delegation of the European Union.

At these meetings and consultation, the RCC SG shared his assessment of the overall situation in the region and underlined the importance of the continuation of the EU enlargement policy as an instrumental tool for the reform processes, the stability in the Western Balkans and for regional cooperation. He noted the urgency to deal with the open issues in the region and emphasized that the regional approach in the area of infrastructure could have substantial impact on the regional recovery and development. Further, he reiterated that the principle of all-inclusiveness remains a fundamental one for regional cooperation and expressed the view that the efforts by Belgrade and Prishtina in the EU facilitated dialogue to find a solution to the latter's representation at regional fora must be strongly encouraged. The RCC SG presented the main achievements of RCC in the

implementation of the SWP, informed that the RCC Secretariat is in the process of finalizing its self-evaluation report on the implementation of the RCC SWP for 2011, stressed the need to upgrade the regional ownership in regional cooperation to regional responsibility and reiterated that RCC should remain a regionally owned organization with strong attachment to the EC, thus benefiting from both pillars (SEECP and EC).

The senior officials from the aforementioned RCC members reiterated their support to the activities of the RCC Secretariat, reflected on the value of the RCC in promoting regional cooperation, expressed an interest in supporting the process of consolidating regional cooperation in SEE and noted the importance of aligning further the work of the RCC with the EC enlargement package.

At the consultations with the EU delegation, the RCC SG elaborated on the Self-assessment report on the first year of the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013, which will serve as valid basis to measure the success of the RCC work and to discuss the future role of RCC. He elaborated on the overall environment in which the activities of the RCC were carried out in 2011, emphasizing that, in spite of the existent fluctuation at the regional level, the RCC Secretariat succeeded to implement smoothly its SWP, to profile RCC as a key regional organization and to raise a greater awareness of regional cooperation. The high-level officials from the EU appreciated the initiative to prepare the Self-assessment report on the implementation in 2011 of the RCC SWP and stressed the importance of further increasing the synergy between RCC and SEECP which would further develop the priorities in the region and subsequently provide the RCC with additional operational leverage. They have assessed as very useful if the RCC Secretariat could in future contribute to the EC Progress Reports and Enlargement Strategy paper.

#### Participation of the RCC Secretary General in other regional meetings and events

The RCC SG participated at a number of high-level regional events and international meetings with a regional dimension such as the Annual Ministerial Conference on the development of the South East Europe Core Regional Transport Network (SEETO) and used the opportunity to present the main activities of the RCC and for holding informal meetings with senior officials of different RCC members.

The RCC SG took part at the Ministerial Conference of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations which marked the official transfer of the SEE Investment Committee from the OECD to the RCC.

The RCC SG also took part at the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) in Moscow and used the opportunity for holding meetings with high officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia.

The RCC SG participated at the high-level Austrian–French informal seminar "The Future of the Balkans", held in Paris, which concentrated on different aspects of the policy *vis-à-vis* the Western Balkans. The participants discussed the remaining challenges in the region and their potential deleterious consequences, the importance of the EU perspective for the region and the need for an integrated approach towards the Western Balkans. The RCC SG, being one of the key

note speakers, noted among many pertinent things, the necessity to enhance regional responsibility and setting closer links to the EU enlargement agenda.

#### Cooperation with the EU and other Brussels based institutions

The RCC Liaison Office (LO) in Brussels continued with its contribution in the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013, in particular by further enhancing and intensifying cooperation with the EU institutions and other relevant Brussels – based institutions and stakeholders, primarily the European Commission (EC), the European Parliament (EP), the European External Action Service (EEAS), the Presidency of the Council of EU, the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) and NATO.

The RCC LO organized and/or took active part in several important meetings and consultations of the RCC SG, namely with high-level officials in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the RCC delegation led by the RCC SG with EU delegation led by the Deputy Director General for enlargement.

The RCC LO had a number of meetings with the representatives of the EC and EP (including the meetings of the Head of the LO with the Commissioner of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and the First Vice President on member of the Delegation of the EP for relations with SEE), EEAS and GSC. The RCC LO had also meetings with several MEPs working on the Western Balkans and participated in the EP WB group discussion on BHC in the WB where the RCC LO Adviser was one of the key note speakers. The main topics discussed at these meetings were the current state of implementation of SWP, the preparation of the RCC Secretariat Self-assessment report, the EU enlargement dynamics and the usefulness of further aligning the RCC role with the EC Enlargement agenda, the initiatives of organizing RCC briefings for, COWEB capitals, COWEB Brussels and EP Western Balkans group etc.

The RCC LO represented the RCC Secretariat at the donor coordination meeting in the context of the regular IPA MB Programming timeline on the project proposals and fiches of the planned MB IPA 2012 programmes, as well as in the 4<sup>th</sup> CEFTA Steering Committee meeting in Brussels. In addition, the Deputy Head of the RCC LO was a key note speaker on the implementation of the RCC SWP at the NATO SEE Group and, together with the representative of the Serbian C-i-O of SEECP, took part at the discussion on regional cooperation at working lunch with 7 ambassadors of SEE countries accredited to NATO.

The RCC LO organized and hosted a presentation on the RCC activities in the area of Building Human Capital and Cross Cutting Issues for the representatives of the Missions and Permanent Representations to the EU of the SEECP participating states in Brussels. The RCC LO has also organized and took active part in a number of meetings of different experts and other staff of the RCC Secretariat (security, building human capital, media, etc.) held with representatives of different EU and NATO services in Brussels.

#### Regional cooperation in the field of media

In line with the conclusions of the international seminar 'South East Europe 20 Years On: Transformation from State to Public Broadcasting', co-organized by the RCC Secretariat and the EC Enlargement Directorate-General, with support of the European Association of Public Service Media in South East Europe and the European Broadcasting Union, the RCC Secretariat continued activities to foster freedom of the media in the region, particularly in the field of public broadcasting. The Secretariat met with a number of EC officials and attended the information session for the Commission's call for Civil Society Facility Partnership Programmes for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), which includes freedom of the media as well. The purpose was to exchange ideas about future role and activities of the RCC Secretariat in the media field, also in view of the priorities of the Enlargement Package. The Secretariat also met with representatives of the Association of Public Service Media to review ongoing joint activities: the component 'How do I see my neighbour' of the 'Strengthening the RCC Secretariat' project with CEI, to be implemented by the Association; start of an academy on media law with Article 19 and the Association, and with support of the OSCE and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung; and initiative to improve media culture across the region. The Secretariat also outlined the modalities of application for the EC's Civil Society Facility call to the Association representatives.

#### Communication activities

The RCC Secretariat has continued to advance the organization's mission of promoting mutual cooperation and European and Euro-Atlantic integration of South East Europe in order to inspire development in the region to the benefit of its people, through various means of communication. The goal of the communication efforts was to deepen the understanding and awareness of what the RCC does, as well as raise and maintain support for its activities. The Secretariat interacted with the media on a regular basis to increase awareness of RCC activities and generate public interest. It continued to work in developing relationships and positioning the RCC as a key regional player through conducting permanent outreach among politicians, opinion-makers, think-tanks, diplomats, public officials, students, academia, businessmen, etc.

The RCC Secretariat, together with the Sarajevo School of Economics and Business and the the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)'s Research Unit on South East Europe, organized a lecture by the Head of the LSE's European Institute, on the topic 'Images, meanings, and legitimation: Is the European story changing?'. The lecture focused on the impact of the euro-zone crisis on perceptions of 'Europe'.

In the reporting period, and to the knowledge of/available to the RCC Secretariat, 116 articles, interviews and statements on the RCC were published in South East European and international media, bringing the total to 3,298 available articles published since the beginning of operations of the RCC Secretariat. The same period witnessed 980,173 hits, 240,404 page views and 27,316 visits of the website, bringing the total to some 10,225,460 hits, 3,830,810 page views and 306,089 visits over the past three and a half years since the website statistics has been gathered. The RCC currently also has 110 tweets and 111 followers at its Twitter account. One issue of the RCC newsletter was published and circulated to an audience of over 2,500 subscribers. It focused on the state of regional cooperation at the end of 2011. As of 2012, the newsletter dynamics changed from a monthly to a bi-monthly publication, due to reduced resources and the need to preserve the high-quality output.

#### Evaluation of general and institutional aspects

The reporting period was characterized by a continuation of the process of undertaking concrete steps in the context of the implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013, particularly aimed at the efficient and target-oriented, regionally owned and all-inclusive regional cooperation. In order to maintain the momentum of the development of regional cooperation and continue with the affirmation of the principle of regional ownership as well as highlighting the importance of

moving towards regional responsibility, the strategic character of relations between the SEECP and the RCC remains pivotal. Drawing on the successful cooperation with the previous as well as incumbent SEECP C-i-O, the regular Coordination meetings of the SEECP Troika and the RCC Secretariat with the participation of the EU proved to be a very useful tool in providing guidance and enhancing overall coordination.

### III. Priority areas of the RCC Activities

#### Activities of the Deputy Secretary General and Head of the Expert Pool

In the reporting period the RCC Secretariat undertook several new responsibilities among which the most important were: the transfer of managerial responsibilities for the SEE Investment Committee from the OECD to the RCC; demanding developments related to Social Agenda 2020 for the Western Balkans (addressing new areas and deepening the initiated debate on social economy and regional labour market); deepening of RCC's activities in the area of air and railway transport; adoption and beginning of the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism (M&EM) as the regional tool to annually assess the level of cooperation in justice and home affairs area, with the RCC Secretariat being entrusted to collect, centralize and periodically report on the progress in regional JHA strategy implementation; intensified cooperation of defence structures in the region including intelligence services; growing role of (increased expectations towards) the RCC in BHC related programmes and projects in the region; strengthening of the parliamentary dimension of the RCC activities; and growing effective support of the RCC to development of the Civil Society in the region.

The RCC Secretariat was intensively involved in different activities organized in the SEECP framework, in particular by preparing a number of sectoral meetings to be organized by the Serbian SEECP C-i-O and related to the RCC SWP 2011-2013.

The dialogue with the DG Enlargement continued to be regular and substantial, as well as with CEFTA and OECD Investment Compact. Consultations have been regularly held with other donors interested in regional projects (UNDP, OSCE, IBRD, SDC, SIDA, FES, GIZ, HBS, USAID etc.) Furthermore, RCC Secretariat intensified contacts with other DGs in the EC (DG REGIO, DG MOVE, DG Research, Innovation and Science, DG Education and Culture, DG International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, etc) as well as with the specialised units within the External Action Service for security cooperation area.

A permanent dialogue continued with different stakeholders from the region: private companies and associations, NGOs and NGO related organizations (TACSO team, Eco-Social Enterprises Network from SEE, BFPE, ICDT etc), operating RI&TFs and newly established regional networks (SEE Public Private Partnership Network, Regional Network of Investment Promotion Agencies etc.) discussing the issues and modes of cooperation and developing common activities. The dialogue further widened to include think tanks from the region and beyond (i.e. LSE Network of SEE researchers) developing and coordinating joint programmes, financial institutions (presidents of the securities regulators and directors of the stock exchanges from Southeast Europe), as well as other EC and IFIs partners. RCC was also represented at the different events relevant for the development of regional cooperation – from think-tank and academic conferences to the EC dialogue with civil society in the region. The RCC Secretariat established and deepened working contacts with regional Civil Society networks in different areas (National Councils of the European Movement from SEE, WB Social Entrepreneurs Network, SEE Public Broadcasting Agencies Network, JHA related NGOs networks etc.) and extended regional coordination with CSO structures.

RCC co-organized with TACSO the regional conference "Regional Civil Society Organisations' Networks in the IPA Countries", which helped to identify opportunities for involvement of the CSOs' networks in the implementation of the RCC Strategy and work programme 2011-2013.

The RCC DSG organized regular brainstorming on issues related to preparing the next cycle of the RCC multi-annual strategy development, strengthening RCC's capacities and upgrading the relations with other RI&TFs on the programme and project basis through coordinated programming and defining legal framework for joint actions. Coordination and streamlining of the RCC Secretariat activities have been further advanced and an open debate on prioritizing its activities regularly held. The RCC Expert Pool took part and contributed in preparing events of general importance for the RCC (with EC, SEECP C-i-O, RCC Board members, individual donors etc). The implementation of the CEI-led project *"Improving Cooperation in South-East Europe by Actions for Strengthening the Regional Cooperation Council"* has started in the reporting period as a valuable tool supporting the implementation of ongoing RCC SWP.

#### 1. Economic and Social Development

The RCC Secretariat worked with its partners on the implementation of important actions in the areas related to the improvement of the investment climate, access to finance, social development and information society development. A number of high level meetings and ministerial conferences that were held during the previous reporting period renewed the existing commitments and established new ones for regional cooperation in economic and social development.

#### Investment and Business Enabling Environment

After the transfer of the management of the South East Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC) from OECD, the RCC Secretariat has been working on the operational aspects of preparing a work plan for the next two years of operation, SEEIC rules of procedure, as well as preparatory activities to further the objectives of developing a regional SEE 2020 Strategy and fostering regional value chains. Two new staff members – Project Leader and Project Assistant - were hired during March 2012 under the SEEIC project.

The RCC Secretariat, together with the OECD, hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee of the Regional Competitiveness Initiative to review the progress made so far on the implementation of the first four pilot projects and to discuss the next steps.

The RCC Secretariat took part at the 5th Steering Committee of the Western Balkans Investment Framework in Luxembourg. The Steering Committee approved  $\in$  59 million in grants for 22 investment projects and conditionally approved the Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (formerly known as the "SME Platform"), a Private Sector Development project proposed by Serbia on behalf of the beneficiaries and by EIF and EBRD on behalf of the financiers.

In the context of the project "Women Entrepreneurship – a job creation engine for SEE", the RCC Secretariat coordinated the inception period reports of the two implementing organizations, SEE Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning and Gender Task Force. The outcome of the inception period was a better understanding of the current situation in each of the target countries, to build synergies between implementing agencies and to better inform on future actions in the framework of the project.

#### Access to finance

In its efforts to widen access to finance for the private sector and promote integration of the capital markets in the region, the RCC Secretariat maintained its dialogue with the presidents of the securities regulators of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Serbia. It resulted with the adoption of the Joint Declaration, presenting a common position on closer linkages among regional markets, which was signed at the meeting of securities regulators in Belgrade. To enable the further formation of capital markets linkages, a separate MoU between the securities exchanges in the region was finalized with the help of USAID and is scheduled for signing at the RCC Secretariat's premises on March 27, 2012.

#### Social Development

With the support of Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the RCC Secretariat is currently preparing a follow-up workshop on the topic of new skills for new jobs in the Western Balkans. A special attention will be dedicated to identifying and setting the ground for regional action in the area of skills gap analysis and capacity building among national administrations.

The RCC Secretariat has also recognized the importance of the contributions of researchers from the region to the social agenda for the Western Balkans. It has engaged in discussions with LSEE in order to strengthen cooperation and explore joint actions in the area of social development and have signed a MoU to guide the cooperation going forward.

After organizing a successful regional workshop entitled "Social Economy for South East Europe 2020", in cooperation with the Eco-Social Economy Network for SEE, the RCC Secretariat has organized several follow-up meetings with social economy actors and social entrepreneurship experts to define concrete actions in 2012. The latter will promote the concept of social entrepreneurship in the region in the areas of capacity building, networking and establishing an enabling environment. In this context, the RCC Secretariat has participated at the International Social Entrepreneurship conference co-organized by TACSO and British Council, and the final conference of the ISEDE-NET project on social entrepreneurship, in Brescia, Italy.

To explore further links, with the work being carried out under the Social Agenda 2020, the RCC Secretariat participated at a regional trade union conference on pension system reform. The RCC Secretariat recognized the sustainability and adequacy related concerns regarding the current situation of the pension systems in the region, and will explore further cooperation with the SEE Trade Union Forum and the Adriatic Region Employers' Centre on the topic of pension system reform.

#### Information Society Development

The RCC Secretariat has initiated consultations with the electronic SEE initiative secretariat and electronic SEE initiative members as a follow up to the high level conference for Information

Society Development. While regional cooperation in the area of ICT received strong political support by members' countries and the eSEE Agenda+ provides an important framework for ICT development, the RCC Secretariat is encouraging members of the initiative to work towards identifying concrete regional projects that can contribute towards the implementation of the eSEE Agenda+.

#### 2. Infrastructure and Energy

#### Energy

The RCC Secretariat continued to monitor the Energy Community developments and took part at several events organized or co-organized by the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS). The RCC Secretariat proposed to the ECS common complementary activities to promote ``bottom-up`` approach and inter-sectoral cooperation as well as the resumption of the jointly organized tailor-made workshops for the parliamentary committees responsible for energy issues in the region of SEE. In that respect, the meeting between the RCC SG and ECS Director to concretize future cooperation is scheduled for 24 April 2012. Taking into account the RCC Secretariat's role in preparing and launching the initiative on creating the Regional Energy Strategy adopted by the Energy Community Ministerial Council, the RCC Secretariat was invited to participate in the Regional Energy Strategy Task Force. Additionally, the RCC Secretariat started activities on mobilizing the Network of Associations of Local Authorities in SEE (NALAS) and relevant regional CSOs and networks as the main ``bottom-up`` approach implementers, to contribute to preparation of this strategy.

The second meeting of the Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative (SEDRI) Task Force, organized by the CEI, the RCC Secretariat and the Serbian Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (SMIE), ensured the support of IPF Country Office from Bosnia and Herzegovina and particularly from EBRD for improving project proposals from regional inventory of small scale sustainable energy projects. CEI led project on Strengthening the RCC Secretariat's capacity is expected to provide additional room for the SEDRI implementation.

The RCC Secretariat continued to back the network of schools for political studies from the region, led by the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence (BFPE), in implementing the Project on Strengthening Public Dialogue on Sustainable Energy Use in the SEE currently financially backed by the GIZ and Visegrad Fund. In addition, the RCC Secretariat committed to support the network of CSOs led by the SEE Change Net in developing and promoting the Western Balkan Sustainable Energy Strategy.

#### Transport

The RCC Secretariat explored the possibility to join the activities with the Implementation of Single European Sky (ISIS) Programme Secretariat, the RCC Secretariat's partner in air traffic field, on the preparation of the common Air Traffic Study with the aim to join the capacities in this area and avoid overlaps. In this respect, DG MOVE will include a proposal to finance the continuation of the Project undertaken by IPS Secretariat in their 2013 financial framework and will recommend to DG Enlargement to allocate funds for the Study. This integrated Study should give a more comprehensive picture of the development of the air transport sector supporting the economic development of the region.

The RCC Secretariat started with the preparatory activities for the seminar on road safety audits and inspection, to be organized together with the Association of Consulting Engineers of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ACE BiH) and BIH Ministry of Communications and Transport as a follow-up of the Second Conference on Road Infrastructure Safety Management. Furthermore, the RCC Secretariat started joint activities on the preparation of the Third Congress on Roads to be held in September in Sarajevo. Besides the road safety issue, the congress will tackle infrastructural planning and will asses the current development in respect to the Adriatic-Ionian motorway as a part of the V Corridor. The event will gather representatives of the relevant ministries of transport, operators, agencies, potential investors, academics and civil society.

The RCC Secretariat attended the 7<sup>th</sup> South East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO) Annual Meeting of Ministers, held in the framework of Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) Days 2011. The event was attended by the Vice-President of the EC and Commissioner for Transport, the Ministers of Transport of the SEE region, the Director of Policy Coordination in DG MOVE, the SEETO Secretariat and others. The Conference reconfirmed the participants' willingness for a full integration of the SEETO Comprehensive Network in the TEN-T, as well as focused on the progress in the development of the SEETO Comprehensive Network, including the perspectives for future development of environmentally friendly transport modes.

#### Environment

Taking into account its recognized role in the preparation and implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), the RCC Secretariat increased cooperation with local authorities associations and civil society organizations, which are important drivers of community development. It also actively participated at the conference Danube Strategy – An Impetus for Strengthening Regional Cooperation between Croatia, Hungary and Serbia and Roundtable on Trans-boundary Water Management, which brought the perspective of the wider region and recommended priority areas of cooperation.

Meeting the recognized need for strengthening cooperation between the RCC Expert Pool Units as the key prerequisite for promoting inter-sectoral approach and increased cooperation between sectoral regional structures, initiatives and task forces, the RCC Secretariat jointly with the European Parliament organized the Parliamentary Seminar – Challenges in the Field of Environment and the Way Forward in order to contribute to a better cooperation between parliamentarians, to raise the awareness concerning the need to adopt the necessary environmental requirements and standards, to facilitate the law making process and to raise the parliamentarians` abilities to oversee their governments` activities. During the event, the RCC Secretariat presented its activities in aligning climate change and sustainable development objectives towards low carbon economy.

#### 3. Justice and Home Affairs

#### Strategic coordination and complementarity

The RCC Secretariat was directly engaged with regional organizations, existing networks for regional cooperation and national judicial and police administrations in the implementation of the Regional Strategic Document and the Action Plan 2011-2013 in the JHA Priority Area, as well as in providing support in harmonizing regional activities and increasing regional ownership. The focus of the work was on the preparation of the Terms of Reference and public procurement on

the design, development and implementation of the database for the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Ministerial Conference "Challenges and achievements of the regional and transnational cooperation in the fight against organised crime in South Eastern Europe", Serbia presented the initiative to establish the "Regional Arrest Warrant" for the Western Balkans, whose implementation would be modelled to the European Arrest Warrant. The Regional Arrest Warrant would be able to counter regional networks of organized crime, to establish direct cooperation and greater confidence among the Western Balkan and SEE countries, creating a single judicial space in which there is no place for organized crime and corruption and thus extending the security system of the European Union to the Western Balkans' regional arrest warrant. A Regional Network of Judges and a Regional Judicial Atlas is thought to be established in the Western Balkans.

The RCC Secretariat will organize, in the first half of 2012, the meeting of a regional expert team with the participation of the representatives from SEE administrations, with support of experts from EU Member States and other interested countries. The purpose will be to develop an inventory of most relevant shortcomings in the implementation of the existing legal and institutional framework for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, including the review of the EU best practices in executing arrest warrants and police cooperation. Another regional expert team from ministries of justice from interested SEE countries was tasked to propose the best solutions related to the Convention on jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters (new Lugano Convention). European Union, Council of Europe, RCC and other interested organizations and countries are invited to support the expert team work.

The *Steering Group on Regional Strategy - SGRS* adopted two decisions, which approved the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism (M&EM) as the regional tool to annually assess the level of cooperation within justice and home affairs area and entrusted RCC Secretariat to collect, centralize and periodically report on the progresses and regional strategy implementation. July 2012 has been proposed as the deadline for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Report RCC Secretariat will draft on the level of regional cooperation in the area of justice and home affairs based on the M&EM.

Triggering the implementation of the recently adopted Conclusions by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Ministerial Conference, SGRS decided to enhance the level of regional cooperation in the area of assets recovery, through an exchange of lessons learned and best practices, as well as to advance on the path of studying the prerequisites for closer judicial cooperation on police operations, police and prosecution activities in criminal investigations, sharing of information on issues affecting the police, prosecution and court services. SGRS decisions are attached to the present report.

The *IV* Annual Conference of the Regional Organisations and International partners in the area of Justice and Home Affairs and Security Cooperation recognised the regional dimension of justice and security cooperation and noted the significant progress made over the last year in strengthening national institutions and regional cooperation mechanisms in justice, home affairs and security areas. The role of the RCC Secretariat in providing a positive platform to facilitate cooperation, serving as a neutral intermediary and an effective tool in promoting development of various channels of communication and coordination, opening the process for greater information exchange has been stressed by the participants. RACVIAC's readiness to support the process of

exchanging information and share best practices at the regional level regarding the protection of fundamental rights within justice and security cooperation was welcomed. A regional event addressing the topic will be co-organized by RACVIAC, RCC and PCC-SEE, in the first half of 2012.

### Migration Asylum and Refugees

The Serbian Presidency-in-Office of the MARRI Regional Center organized the Regional Committee Meeting and Regional Forum, where ministers of interior from MARRI member states discussed current and future activities of MARRI in the framework of regional cooperation and regional ownership.

### Fighting organized crime

Monitoring developments in the implementation of technical assistance, The RCC Secretariat participated at *the*  $4^{th}$  *Regional Conference of the EC financed project DET ILECU II – Fight against Organized Crime*, in particular Illicit Drug Trafficking and the Prevention of Terrorism. The meeting discussed the implementation of the Strategy for Terror Component, joint investigation teams (JIT light) and ILECU quality cycle. During the meeting draft of the Standard Operational Procedures – Regional, the manual for law enforcement cooperation in SEE countries was presented by the representatives of national ILECU units. At the same time, certain ideas for new generation of ILECU Guidelines were presented by the project implementer.

The .meeting of the *Witness Protection in the Fight against Serious Crime and Terrorism* (WINPRO) reviewed the implementation of the project in the beneficiary countries, its progress to date and plans for 2012. The participants were particularly informed about the current and future activities in the development of various training courses and cross-border exercises. The outcomes of the external Result Oriented Monitoring, carried out on behalf of the European Commission were presented. The representatives of ICTY presented Residual Mechanism in relation to Witness Protection and future cooperation with the Western Balkan states.

The *Cyber-Security Roundtable* organized by RACVIAC addressed two objectives: it brought together cyber security and cyber crime experts from the countries of the SEE and international organizations, in order to provide them with an opportunity to exchange relevant information and experience in the field; the second goal was to enable all the participants to develop a clear guidance for further RACVIAC cyber security related activities. Establishing RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation to serve as a regional platform for cyber security related, in the initial phase, educational and academic, and, in the second phase, training and research activities, is considered to be a step in the right direction.

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> PCC SEE Implementation Programme Way Ahead Meeting* was organized by the PCC Secretariat in order to present the progress and achievements in the implementation process of PCC SEE in 2011, priorities and Work Programme for 2012 as well as new documents adopted by the Committee of Ministers, which have become part of the PCCSEE Acquis. The meeting in particular discussed the positive results of the cross-border surveillance activities, which took place in 2011, i.e. the exercises on cross-border surveillance and controlled delivery, intended to address problems in practice, legal gaps and build mutual trust. Romania and Serbia presented the priorities for their chairmanships of PCC SEE in first and second half of 2012 respectively.

#### Anti-corruption

The RCC Secretariat held several meetings with the representatives of the Secretariat of Regional Anticorruption Initiative (RAI) in view of exploring new possibilities emerging from overtaking of the SEE Investment Compact by the RCC and the preparation for the implementation of the project "Establishment of Framework for Integrated Anti-corruption Legal Education in South-Eastern Europe". These activities are important opportunities for RAI and other institutions and initiatives active in the field of anticorruption to efficiently interact and achieve concrete results.

Within the framework of the project "Strengthening the integrity system in South Eastern Europe", financed by the US State Department through the RCC Secretariat, the RAI Secretariat published the "Rules and experiences on integrity issues". This comparative study focused on conflict of interest prevention and assets declaration and is dedicated to the use of the Integrity Experts Network (IEN). IEN was established in May 2010 under RAI Secretariat umbrella and developed with RCC Secretariat support. The Rules and experiences on integrity issues could be found on RAI (http://www.rai-see.org/publications.html) and IEN http://www.integrity-experts.net/ien-news) web sites.

#### Strengthen judicial and prosecutorial cooperation in criminal matters

The RCC Secretariat attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the Project "*Fight against organised crime and corruption: Strengthening the Prosecutors*` *Network*" financed with 5 million EUR through IPA-MB 2010. The project aims to foster cooperation among prosecutors in the Western Balkans, to improved cross-border, international judicial cooperation and mutual legal assistance. GIZ is the lead partner in the project consortium, together with the Dutch-based Centre for International Legal Cooperation (CILC). In the implementation of the project, they closely cooperate with Eurojust and the European Judicial Network at EU level. RCC, regional organizations, as SEEPAG, SELEC and international non-governmental organisations such as the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) are also involved. The project is cofinanced by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), which is contributing around EUR 700,000.

#### 4. Security Cooperation

The RCC Secretariat participated in several meetings organized or co-organized with international and regional partners and continued the consultations with the RCC members from SEE related to the implementation of the decisions of the 2011 3<sup>rd</sup> SEEMIC meeting in Sarajevo, the conclusions of the 2011 1<sup>st</sup> SEENSA meeting in Sofia and the 2011 1<sup>st</sup> SEENSA Working Group in Tirana, as well as related to the overall implementation of the RCC SWP 2011-2013 with the aim of obtaining support for the security cooperation activities.

#### Facilitate and support development of regional mechanisms for security cooperation

The RCC Secretariat participated in the *Adriatic Charter (A5) Defence Ministerial Meeting*. New approaches to regional cooperation in the context of financial constraints were the focus of the discussions. Views and experiences were exchanged between NATO Member States and NATO aspirant countries regarding the fulfilment of Alliance obligations and requirements for future membership.

The RCC Secretariat initiated consultations with NATO and the EU structures involved in the security area, as well as having responsibilities in managing the financial assistance for the

accession countries. The discussions were conducted in two sessions, with the NATO Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, NATO Office for Security, NATO Intelligence Division, NATO Private Office of the Secretary General, with the European Commission – DG Enlargement and DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, the European External Action Service - EU Military Staff Intelligence (EU MS INT) Directorate, Western Balkans Division and Crisis Management and Planning Directorate, as well as with the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU – the General Directorate Security, Safety and Communication and Information Systems - within the context of the RCC self-assessment exercise and the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013 in the security area.

The RCC Secretariat representative met the Bulgarian MoD DIS (MI) Director and experts in Sofia in order to continue the dialogue on future implementation of SEEMIC and the organization of the first Assessment WG meeting and the 4<sup>th</sup> SEEMIC in 2012 in Sofia. Consultations were held with the Bulgarian NSA on the second WG of SEENSA, with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence on the Civilian experts regional meeting planned within the RCC SWP, with the Ministry of Defence/Military Intelligence on the first WG of SEEMIC in 2012 and the Defence Policy Director of the MoD on the SEEDPD meeting.

The RCC Secretariat had extensive consultations with the German Counter-Intelligence Service (BfV) and the Romanian Counter-Intelligence Service (SRI), benefitting from the kind assistance of the EUMS INT Directorate, for analysing the opportunity to launch the SEECIC and organise the first meeting in 2012 in Bucharest. For the same purpose consultations have been launched with other SEE Members of RCC, the first one being Serbia (Head of the Military Counter-Intelligence), as C-i-O of the SEECP.

Consultations with the State Secretary of the Serbian MoD and the Head of the Military Intelligence were conducted for the SEEMIC, SEEDPD and other security cooperation activities included in the RCC SWP.

The RCC Secretariat participated in the *SEESAC Regional Steering Group Meeting*, an annual event organized by SEESAC according to its statute. The purpose was to discuss current and future development of SEESAC. The necessity of deeper and more effective coordination of regional activities in the security cooperation was underlined. A new strategy and Work Plan on the SALW in the SEE is expected to be developed, reflecting the expansion of SEESAC activities in other security cooperation niches identified in SEE.

The RCC Secretariat representative participated in the Meeting of the Steering Group on Regional Strategy (SGRS) and the IV Annual Conference of the Regional Organisations and International partners in the area of Justice and Home Affairs and Security Cooperation and contributed horizontally with the security dimension to the overall strategic planning in SEE.

The RCC Secretariat an intensive preparatory session with the NSA representatives from Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia for drafting the documents to be discussed in the  $2^{nd}$  SEENSA WG meeting in March, in Sofia.

The RCC Secretariat took part in the training *International forum; Security and defence learning* with the participation of 24 countries – from different security, academic and private business institutions. The Forum covered the following issues: new threats and challenges, new

development in security training, shifts in security learning culture, new security learning environments and Security learning – the next ten years.

#### Disaster preparedness and prevention

The RCC Representative participated in the Annual Steering Committee Meeting of the IPA Programme "Civil protection for candidate countries and potential candidates", by the EC - DG ECHO and the two implementing Consortia.

#### 5. Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues

#### Education

The RCC Secretariat has continued the exchange of information with different stakeholders and partners to explore the possibilities for future cooperation.

The RCC Secretariat held consultations with the Director of Regional Office for SEE in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association (DVV) focused on the recent activities of the DVV in the WB countries for the establishment and development of adult education structures and advisory services used for the purpose of cooperation development. The proposal of DVV for co-organizing together with the RCC Secretariat a Regional Conference for Western Balkan countries was considered. The main objective of the conference will be promoting adult learning, developing a common methodology for collecting data, identifying common quality standards and benchmarks for adult learning and continuation with the regional cooperation in the area. It was agreed that the DVV will prepare a draft action-plan in this regard and to continue mutual sharing of information on future activities, with the view to improve cooperation.

#### Science and Research

The RCC Secretariat focused its activities on the implementation of the Project - Regional Strategy for Research and Development for Innovation for the Western Balkans. The RCC Secretariat has facilitated and supported its execution in close cooperation with national authorities from the Western Balkans and international partners.

The RCC Secretariat continued to facilitate the work of RSRDI Coordination Body with the aim of further development of specific project areas, in cooperation with the World Bank, as the project Implementation Agency.

#### Culture

The main activities of the RCC Secretariat were focused on supporting the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society (TFCS) by establishing regular working consultations, contributing in creating necessary reporting and other documents, as well as by promoting TFCS among national institutions, other regional initiatives and international partners.

The Secretariat of the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society (RCCTFCS) visited the RCC Secretariat and held meetings with the BHC Unit, the Deputy Secretary General and Head of Expert Pool, the RCC Secretariat Administration and RCC Secretariat Assistant. Exchange of information on the major ongoing and planned activities, discussions about the modalities for future cooperation, active participation of the nine members of the RCC from SEE in the Project and rising of visibility of the TF CS and its Secretariat, were among the main issues raised.

During the consultations it was decided to convene an Extraordinary Meeting of the TF CS to be organized on 13 March 2012, before the Council of Ministers of Culture of SEE Meeting (19-20 of April 2012), in order to share information on the process of establishment of National Task Forces.

The two structures discussed about the role of RCC TF CS on developing a specific project for supporting the cooperation between national historic museums in the Western Balkans. The interlocutors supported the idea on strengthening the cooperation among museums in the region and proposed to organize an event on museums in Sarajevo that can embrace several other related topics, such as cultural heritage, tourism, reconciliation, with an emphasis on introduction of innovation and entrepreneurship in daily operations of national museums. This issue was also in the focus of consultations between RCC Secretariat and Deputy Minister of Civil Affairs of BiH.

The RCC Secretariat prepared and participated at the TFCS meetings with, Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports of Albania and other officials of MTCYS and MFA, with the scope to explore opportunities for a more efficient participation of Albanian cultural institutions in the regional activities in the area of culture, developed by RCC Task Force on Culture and Society, in the framework of Ljubiana Process II.

### Parliamentary Cooperation

The RCC Secretariat continued its active involvement in Parliamentary Cooperation both in South East Europe and Western Balkans. The Parliamentarians Seminar: "Environmental challenges and opportunities – the way forward", was organized jointly by the RCC Secretariat and the European Parliament, as part of a series of seminars that aim at strengthening the capacities of parliaments in the enlargement process of the Western Balkans. The event, attended by members of parliaments and parliamentary staff from WB countries and, as well as, four members of the European Parliament, contributed to strengthen the awareness and institutional capacity of parliamentarians of WB in increasing their role on the way to EU accession in the environmental sector. The experience from this event will be used during the upcoming discussions with the Europian Parliament regarding the Support Programme for WB parliaments in 2012-2013.

The RCC Secretariat is following with special attention the final phase of development of the project on Parliamentary Cooperation in the Western Balkans and Turkey - Support to the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, which is to strengthen the role and effectiveness of Parliaments in the WB region in the EU integration process and access to public documents. On this purpose, an intense exchange of opinions regarding a draft project proposal, including a detailed description of the project activities, service contract for the project and a draft budget that needs to be designed, took place during the meetings of the Senior Expert on BHCU with DG Enlargement representatives.

# IV. Operation of the RCC Secretariat

During the reporting period, the RCC Secretary General, in accordance with his competences under the RCC Statute, filled the vacant posts of Project Leader and Project Assistant under the South East Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC) Project, effective as of 15 March 2012.

The RCC Secretariat currently comprises a total of 33 staff members, out of which five members are technical and service staff (public affairs assistant, driver/security officer, two drivers/couriers, and receptionist). A complete list of the RCC Secretariat's staff is appended in Annex IV to the report.

A remaining open issue related to the setting-up of the RCC Secretariat Liaison Office 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

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

# VI. State of financial contributions to the RCC Secretariat Budget

## Table of contributions for 2011:

Payments received by 30 November 2011 (last report)

Payments received by 30 Novembe           RCC Board Member		Data Dagaiyad		
RCC Board Member	Amount	Date Received		
Italy	49,961.06 EUR	26 November 2010		
Switzerland	130,120.80 EUR	21 December 2010		
Czech Republic	51,295.33 EUR	27 December 2010		
		19 September 2011		
European Commission	719,280.00 EUR	28 December 2010		
Latvia	50,000.00 EUR	01 March 2011		
Montenegro	1st installment 20,000.00 EUR	10 March 2011		
	2nd installment 20,000.00 EUR	29 December 2011		
	Total: 40,000.00 EUR			
Croatia	80,000.00 EUR	30 March 2011		
Bulgaria	140,000.00 EUR	06 April 2011		
Moldova	40,000.00 EUR	25 May 2011		
Serbia	80,000.00 EUR	03 June 2011		
France	50,000.00 EUR	14 June 2011		
Poland	50,000.00 EUR	17 June 2011		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	60,000.00 EUR	22 June 2011		
Federal Republic of Germany	1 <sup>st</sup> installment 30,000.00 EUR	23 June 2011		
	2 <sup>nd</sup> installment 20,000.00 EUR	19 September 2011		
	Total: 50,000.00 EUR			
Ireland	49,999.87 EUR	22 July 2011		
Greece	140,000.00 EUR	01 August 2011		
Finland	50,000.00 EUR	03 October 2011		

UNMIK on behalf of Kosovo in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244	39,965.00 EUR	11 October 2011
Albania	59,930.00 EUR	13 October 2011
Turkey	140,000.00 EUR	14 November 2011
USA (covering the period September 2011-Septemebr 2012)	144,324.56 EUR	15 November 2011

# Table of contributions for 2011: Payments received by 31 December 2011

RCC Board Member	Amount	Date Received
Sweden	75,465.30 EUR	03 December 2011
Norway	30,575.47 EUR	Roll over funds from 2009
	51,428.75 EUR	06 December 2011
Romania	140,000.00 EUR	22 December 2011

## Table of contributions for 2011:

#### Payments received in 2012 **RCC Board Member** Amount **Date Received** 29,381.48 EUR Roll over funds from 2010 Austria 09 January 2012 45,618.52 EUR Total: 75,000.00 EUR Slovenia Roll over funds from 2009 11,891.87 EUR 68,108.13 EUR 02 February 2012 Total: 80,000.00 EUR 06 February 2012 50,000.00 EUR Hungary

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has paid its contribution and commitment for 2010 of 60,000.00 EUR on 8 February 2012.

# Table of contributions for 2012:Payments received by 5 March 2012

<b>RCC Board Member</b>	Amount	Date Received
Italy	9,788.68 EUR	Roll over funds from 2010
	40,000.00 EUR	15 December 2011
	Total: 49,788.68 EUR	
European Commission	645,847.48 EUR	04 January 2012
	*redistribution of 2011/2012 funds will be completed during the expense verification process	
Turkey	140,000.00 EUR	5 March 2012
France	9,848.91 EUR	Roll over funds from 2010
Ireland	9,793.83 EUR	Roll over funds from 2010
Hungary *	11,891.86 EUR	Roll over funds from 2009
	9,793.83 EUR	Roll over funds from 2010
	Total: 21,685.69 EUR	
Czech Republic *	9,848.83 EUR	Roll over funds from 2010

\*Roll over is in the process of the confirmation / approval by contributors.

Total funds received for 2011 before the end of the year amount to 2,734,339.49 EUR, out of which 266,894.05 EUR was received in December 2011.

Total contributions for 2011 received in 2012 are 163,726.65 EUR.

Total funds available at this moment (23 February 2012) for 2012 are 566,093.45 EUR; this total considers redistribution of European Commission funds received for 2011-2012.

### ANNEX I

# **Horizontal Functions and Work Programme**

# Report on the implementation of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013 in the period 30 November 2011 – 5 March 2012 *Horizontal activities*

Horizontal Functions:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC Secretariat	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
1. Representing the region	Working meeting with the Ambassadors of South East Europe and Ambassadors of Austria, Hungary and Italy, residents in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo, 5 March 2012	<ul> <li>Meeting with high officials of the MFA of Russia, Moscow, 15 December 2011</li> <li>25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC member states, Moscow, 16 December 2011</li> <li>Meeting of the Southeast Europe Association, Munich, 25 January 2012</li> <li>Austrian-French Informal Seminar "The Future of the Balkans", Paris, 7 February 2012</li> </ul>
2. Coordination and cooperation with the SEECP Chairmanship in Office	<ul> <li>Contributing to a number of sectoral meetings organized by the SEECP C-i-O and related to the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013.</li> <li>Coordination meeting between the SEECP Troika, EU and the RCC Secretariat, Sarajevo, 7 December 2011</li> <li>Meeting with RCC National Coordinator of Serbia in its capacity of SEECP Chair-in-Office, Belgrade, 2 March 2012</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Meeting of the SEECP Political Directors, Belgrade, 30 January 2012</li> <li>Consultations with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia in its capacity of SEECP CiO, Belgrade, 31 January 2012</li> <li>Informal meeting of the SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Belgrade, 31 January 2012</li> <li>Consultations with high officials of the MFA of Serbia in its capacity of SEECO CiO, Belgrade, 2 March 2011</li> </ul>
3. Exerting strategic 2 leadership in regional cooperation	<ul> <li>Permanent dialogue with different stakeholders from the region: private companies and associations (Summit of 100 Business Leaders of SEE), operating RI&amp;TFs and newly established regional networks (SEE Public Private Partnership Network, Regional Network of Investment Promotion Agencies etc.) discussing the issues and modes of cooperation and developing common activities.</li> <li>RCC Board meeting, Sarajevo, 8 December 2011</li> </ul>	

4. Consultations with RCC Members		<ul> <li>Consultations with high officials of the MFA of Austria, Vienna, 13 January 2012</li> <li>Consultations with high officials of the MFA of Norway, Oslo, 16 January 2012</li> <li>Consultations with high officials of the MFA of Sweden and SIDA, Stockholm, 17 January 2012</li> <li>Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Croatia, Zagreb, 20 January 2012</li> <li>Consultations with high officials of the MFA of Germany, Berlin, 26 January 2012</li> <li>Consultations with high officials of the MFA of France, Paris, 6 February 2012</li> <li>Consultations with high level delegation of the EU, Brussels, 17 February 2012</li> </ul>
<ol> <li>Providing regional perspective 4 in donor assistance, notably in EU assistance under the Instrument for pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>Consultations with representatives of financial institutions (presidents of the securities regulators and directors of the stock exchanges from Southeast Europe), as well as EC and IFIs partners.</li> <li>Consultations have been regularly held with other donors interested for regional projects (UNDP, ADA, SIDA, FES, GIZ, USAID, OSCE etc.)</li> </ul>	

	Regional Conference "Regional Civil Society Organisations
	(CSOs) Networks in the IPA Countries", Sarajevo, 13-14
civil	December 2011, co-organised by the EU funded project,
ci	Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organisations (TACSO)
of	and the RCC Secretariat
ent	The RCC Secretariat established and deepened working contacts
SIL CONTRACTOR SIL CONTRA	with regional Civil Society networks in different areas (National
involvement ivities	Councils of the European Movement from SEE, Eco-Social
sed involv activities	Entrepreneurs Network from SEE, SEE Public Broadcasting
	Agencies Network, JHA related NGOs networks etc., regional
increased gional act	network of political schools supported by the Council of Europe)
nal	and extended regional coordination with other CSO structures
rio tio	(TACSO team, ICDT, BFPE etc),
g increas regional	• The dialogue further widened with the think tanks from the
in ti	region and beyond (i.e. LSE Network of SEE researchers)
oty	developing and coordinating joint programmes.
Supporting society in re	• Strengthening local level of the SEE regional cooperation.
St St	• Promoting social dialogue.

#### Priority area 1: Economic and Social Development

Objectives:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
1. Transfer and management of the SEEIC	• 2 <sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee of the Regional Competitiveness Initiative, 13 December 2011, Sarajevo, co-organized with OECD and EC	• 5 <sup>th</sup> WBIF Steering Committee, 7 December 2011, Luxembourg. <u>RCC role:</u> observer

Identifying ways and means for improving access to finance for private sector	<ul> <li>Meetings with the securities market regulators in the region on possible join activities on capital markets integration in the region.</li> <li>Meeting with the representatives of regional USAID projects Partners for Financial Stability and USAID Regional Competitiveness Initiative, as well a representative of USAID Washington.</li> </ul>	February 2012, Skopje. <u>RCC role</u> : discussant on the regional consolidation of the capital markets
3. Mainstreaming 2. employment and social agenda into economic reform deliberations	<ul> <li>Held discussions with different regional partners on the topic of social entrepreneurship.</li> <li>Coordinated activities and held several meetings with SEECEL, GTF and SIDA on Women Entrepreneurship Project.</li> <li>Held consultations and signed an MoU with the LSEE on the social cohesion research network.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>SEE Conference on Pension System Reforms, 13-14 December 2011, Zagreb. <u>RCC role:</u> discussant</li> <li>International Conference on Social Entrepreneurship, 29 February – 1 March 2012, Istanbul. <u>RCC role:</u> discussant</li> <li>Social Entrepreneurship: Current Situation and Future Perspectives in the Present Global Crisis, 2 March 2012, Brescia, <u>RCC role</u>: roundtable discussant</li> </ul>
4. Promoting Information Society	• Meeting with the eSEE Secretariat to review progress made following the High-level conference and outline possible next steps in terms of e-SEE-related project development.	

#### Priority area 2: Energy and Infrastructure

Objectives:	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC Secretariat	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
1. Continue implementation of Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative (SEDRI)	<ul> <li>Assisted to the SEDRI Task Force Chairmanship.</li> <li>Cooperated with CEI ES to prepare Minutes of the second SEDRI TF meeting.</li> <li>Assisted in providing relevant inputs from the SEDRI beneficiaries.</li> <li>Analyzed project proposals submitted by the SEDRI beneficiaries.</li> <li>Facilitated IPF CO from Bosnia and Herzegovina and EBRD involvement in improving project proposals from the SEDRI inventory of small scale sustainable energy projects.</li> <li>Committed to support CSOs led by SEE Change Net in Western Balkan Sustainable Energy Strategy preparation and promotion as an activity relevant for both SEDRI and Energy Community Regional Energy Strategy preparation and implementation.</li> </ul>	
2. Explore potential for cooperation with the Energy Community Secretariat	<ul> <li>Proposed transfer of Croatian experience in negotiating Chapter 15 based on the readiness of the Croatian Ministry responsible for energy to support this activity.</li> <li>Proposed complementary activities including ``bottom-up`` approach implementers and strengthened inter-sectoral cooperation.</li> <li>Proposed resumption of the tailor-made workshops for parliamentary committees responsible for energy in the region.</li> <li>Scheduled meeting between the RCC SG and ECS Director on 24 April 2012 in order to concretize next steps in future cooperation and common activities.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>14<sup>th</sup> Energy Community Energy Efficiency Task Force meeting and Workshop on Energy Efficiency in Buildings – Vienna, 21-22 February 2012, organized by the ECS. <u>RCC role:</u> monitoring Energy Community developments and promoting the regional approach.</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> Energy Community Regional Energy Strategy Task Force meeting – Vienna, 28 February 2012, organized by the EC and ECS. <u>RCC role:</u> monitoring Energy Community developments, promoting the regional integrated approach and mobilizing ``bottom-up`` approach implementers.</li> </ul>
3. Contribute to the preparation and implementation of the Danube Region Strategy	<ul> <li>Enhancing consultative process with the National Administrations and other stakeholders of the RCC members from SEE.</li> <li>Backing civil society actors and local authorities and strengthening their role.</li> <li>Cooperation with and supporting the IFI CO.</li> <li>Support to the MB IPA Strategy WGs, IFI AGs and WBIF SC as the permanent task.</li> <li>Contribution to organization and realization of the Parliamentary Seminar on Challenges in the Field of Environment and the Way Forward, Sarajevo, 23-24 February 2012, jointly organized by the EP and the RCC Secretariat.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>``Danube Strategy - An Impetus for Strengthening Regional Cooperation between Croatia, Hungary and Serbia``, Zagreb, 15 December 2011, organized by the Institute for International Relations and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. <u>RCC Role</u>: presentation on the RCC activities in relation to its role in the EU SDR implementation.</li> <li>Roundtable on Trans-boundary Water Management, Zagreb, 16 December 2011, organized by Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean and German Environmental Ministry. <u>RCC role</u>: monitoring the related developments and delivering presentation on integrated trans-boundary water resources management.</li> </ul>

4. Explore the potential for further development of air services within the region	•	Participated in preparation of the joint project proposal concerning the Air Traffic Study. Held consultation with the DG MOVE, DG Enlargement and ISIS Secretariat regarding the joint activities on preparing as well as on financing the Air Traffic Study.	•	Meeting with the Minister of Transport and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo, 20 February 2012, organized by the Ministry of Transport and Communications. <u>RCC role:</u> exchanged information regarding the transport sector development; strengthened cooperation with the national administration.
5. Contribute to the promotion of road safety	•	Initiated preparatory activities with the Association of Consulting Engineers of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ACE) and BIH Ministry of Communications and Transport concerning the organization and realization of the training seminar for road safety. Contacted the CEI and other potential donors to discuss the possibilities for financing the aforementioned seminar. Started preparatory activities with ACE and BIH Ministry of Communications and Transport related to organization of the Third Congress on Roads.	•	<ul> <li>7<sup>th</sup> South East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO) Annual Meeting of Ministers and TEN-T Days Conference, Antwerp, 29-30 November 2011, organized by the European Commission (DG MOVE) and SEETO Secretariat. <u>RCC role:</u> presented the RCC priority activities in the transport sector; monitoring the developments of the SEETO Comprehensive Network.</li> <li>Meeting with the ACE and BIH Directorate for Transport – Sarajevo, 31 January 2012, organized by ACE. <u>RCC role:</u> contributed to the preparation of papers related to the training seminar for educators in road safety inspection and audits.</li> <li>Meeting of the organization and programme committee of the Third International Congress on Roads – Sarajevo, 1 February 2012, organized by ACE. <u>RCC role:</u> contributed to the preparatory activities related to the Third Congress on Roads.</li> </ul>

#### Priority area 3: Justice and Home Affairs

<b>Objectives:</b>	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
<ol> <li>Coordinate the drafting and adoption of a Regional Strategic Document and Action Plan on Justice and Home Affairs 2011-2014, and monitoring its implementation</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>Meeting of the Steering Group on Regional Strategy (SGRS), 1 – 2 December 2011 in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia. <u>RCC role</u>: strategic guidance, facilitating the development of an integrated, coherent and transparent regional cooperation, RCC Secretariat finalized the M&amp;EM, moderated the debates and drafted the decisions addopted by the SGRS</li> <li>The IV Annual Conference of the Regional Organisations and International partners in the area of Justice and Home Affairs and Security Cooperation, 2 December 2011, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia. <u>RCC role</u>: strategic guidance, facilitating the development of an integrated, coherent and transparent regional cooperation RCC Secretariat moderated the debates and drafted the conclusions addopted by the Conference.</li> </ul>	

	•	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Ministerial Conference "Regional and Transnational Cooperation in the Fight against Organized Crime in South East Europe: Challenges and Achievements" – organized by the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia, the Serbian Chairmanship of the Southeast European Cooperation Process (SEECP), Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI) and the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, 29 – 30 November 2011, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia. <u>RCC role</u> : prepared and supported the proposal of the "Regional Arrest Warrant" <b>The Regional Meeting of the EU Grant Project "Cooperation in Criminal Justice: Witness Protection in the Fight against Serious Crime and Terrorism (WINPRO)"</b> – organized by NI- CO, 7 December 2011, Skopje, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. <u>RCC role</u> : representing the region and monitoring regional developments. <b>Cyber Security Roundtable</b> – organized by RACVIAC, 12-14 December 2011, Zagreb, Republic of Croatia. <u>RCC role</u> : guidance, presentation and moderator
2. Strengthening judicial and prosecutorial cooperation in criminal matters	•	<ul> <li>EC Project DET ILECUs Conference – organized by BKA Project Office, 12-15 December 2011, Pristina, UNMIK/Kosovo.</li> <li><u>RCC role</u>: representing the region and monitoring regional developments.</li> <li>3<sup>rd</sup> Police Cooperation Convention for SEE Implementation Programme Way Ahead Meeting, organized by PCC Secretariat, 16-17 January 2012, Ljubljana, Slovenia. <u>RCC role</u>: The round table:"The challenges of achieving EU candidate status", organized by informal group of young people-part of the Southeast Europe and the EU: Leadership Development, 30 January 2012, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Programme". <u>RCC role</u>: representing the region 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee of the IPA-MB 2010/271-284 Project: Fight against organised crime and corruption: Strengthening the Prosecutors' Network organized by partners' consortium GIZ and CILC, 2 March 2012, Zagreb, Croatia. <u>RCC role</u>: representing and monitoring regional developments</li> </ul>

3. Support existing initiatives in the area of the fight against corruption	
4. Support MARRI in strengthening its capacity	<ul> <li>MARRI Regional Forum – organized by the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI) under the Serbian Presidency-in-Office, Belgrade, 29 November 2011 <u>RCC role</u>: presented activities of the RCC focused on strengthening of MARRI and its promotion, including submission of the projects for implementation of the EUSDR.</li> <li>Diplomatic briefing/Friends of MARRI meeting, Belgrade, 2 March 2012</li> </ul>
5. Initiate regional cooperation in private and civil law matters and in protection of fundamental rights	• <b>RAI</b> published the <i>"Rules and experiences on integrity issues</i> within the project " <i>Strengthening the integrity system in South Eastern Europe</i> " financed by the US State Department through the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat, February 2012, (http://www.rai-see.org/publications.html;http://www.integrity-experts.net/ien-news). <u>RCC role</u> : guiding and coordinating regional cooperation

#### Priority area 4: Security Cooperation

<ul> <li>Consultations with NATO and the EU structures involved in the security area as well as having responsibilities in managing the financial assistance for for Security. NATO Mited Afains and Security Policy Division, NATO Office of the Secretary General, with the Intelligence Division, NATO Privae Office of the Secretary General, with the protection, the European External Action Service - EU Military Stat Intelligence (EU MS INT) Directorate, Western Balkans Division and Crisis of the Council of the FU – the General Directorate Security, Safety and Communication and Information Systems within the context of the RCCs BEESAC acceltrate to JBESAC acceltrate to JBESAC acceltrate south of the Council of the FU – the General Directorate Security, Safety and Fobruary 2012.</li> <li>Consultations with the Bulgarian MoD DIS (MI) Director and experts on the current and future development of SEESMC acceltrate updates on their strume inglementation of SEEMIC and the organization of the first MSG of SEENSA, with the Sutar Secretary of the Ministry of Defence on the Civilian Secretary of the Secretary of the Ministry of Defence on the Civilian Secretary of the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence on the Civilian Counter-Intelligence - on the first MG of SEEMIC SEEDPD meeting. Sofia, December 2011 and February 2012.</li> <li>Consultations with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence on the Civilian of the Secretary Condense. Bursula, Burchard State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence on the Civilian Secretary of the Strutter MO and the Head of the Military Intelligence for malysing the opportunity to launch the SEEDCPD meeting. Sofia, December 2011 and February 2012.</li> <li>Consultations with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence on the Civilian Counter-Intelligence For malysing the opportanity is presented and strutter and Burley and Counter and Secretary Counter-Intelligence for the SEEDIC Dirac Berlina, Buckarest and Belgrade, December 2011 and February 2012.</li> <li>Cons</li></ul>

2. Continue its work	• Annual Steering Committee Meeting of the IPA Programme
towards establishment	"Civil protection for candidate countries and potential
of regional structures for	candidates, Brussels, 2 – 3 February 2012. RCC role: regional
disaster risk reduction, in	strategic member and contribution to the overall strategic
cooperation with	planning of the activities in the implementation process and
international partners	monitoring the results.

#### Priority area 5: Building Human Capital and Cross-cutting Issues

<b>Objectives:</b>	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
1. Taking over coordination of Ljubljana Process	• In its efforts to support the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society, RCC Secretariat continued promotion of TFCS among national institutions, other regional initiatives and international partners.	
2. Support to education reform, with emphasis on higher education	• Following the priorities set by the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013, the RCC Secretariat had continued the exchange of information with different stakeholders and partners to explore the possibilities for future cooperation activities.	

<ul> <li>Focus of the RCC Secretariat's activities was on further development and coordination of implementation of the Project - Regional Strategy for Research and Development for Innovation for the Western Balkans. The RCC Secretaria has facilitated and supported its execution in close cooperation with nationa authorities from the Western Balkans and international partners.</li> </ul>	
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#### Priority area 6: Parliamentary Cooperation

end opportunities       Cooperation both in South East Europe and Western Balkans set-up.       and opportunities – the way forward", (Sarajevo 23-24 Febru 2012). <u>RCC Role</u> The event (more than 50 participants) jointly organized by the RCC Secretariat and the Europ Parliament.         end opportunities       event (more than 50 participants)         end opportunities       participants         end opportunities       event (more than 50 participants)         interval       event (more than 50 participants)         interval <t< th=""><th><b>Objectives:</b></th><th>Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC</th><th>Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions</th></t<>	<b>Objectives:</b>	Activities organized/co-organized by the RCC	Participation at events organized by other partners/institutions
development/approval procedures of the project on Parliamentary Cooperation in the Western Balkans and Turkey - Support to the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, which is to strengthen the role and effectiveness of Parliaments in the WB region in the EU integration process and access to public documents.	Assisting the development Parliamental dimension of SEECP		• The Parliamentarians Seminar: "Environmental challenges and opportunities – the way forward", (Sarajevo 23-24 February 2012). <u>RCC Role</u> The event (more than 50 participants) was jointly organized by the RCC Secretariat and the European Parliament.
Ŕ	Assisting the institutionalization the Cetinje Parliamentary For	<ul> <li>development/approval procedures of the project on Parliamentary Cooperation in the Western Balkans and Turkey - Support to the Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, which is to strengthen the role and effectiveness of Parliaments in the WB region in the EU integration process and access to public documents.</li> <li>Exchange of opinions with DG Enlargement representatives, in the light of</li> </ul>	

#### ANNEX II

## LIST OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE RCC SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE RCC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS IN THE PERIOD 30 NOVEMBER 2011 - 5 MARCH 2012

#### GENERAL

- 1. Meeting with the Head of Western Balkans Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary Sarajevo, 7 December 2011 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Political Advisor)
- Coordination Meeting between the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) Troika, the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat and the European Union (EU) – Sarajevo, 7 December 2011
- 3. RCC Board meeting Sarajevo, 8 December 2011
- 4. Regional Conference "Regional Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Networks in the IPA Countries Sarajevo, 13-14 December 2011 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- 5. Meeting with high officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Russia Moscow, 15 December 2011 (Secretary General, Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- 6. 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC Member States Moscow, 16 December 2011(Secretary General, Deputy Head of Liaison Office)
- 7. Consultations with high officials of the MFA of Austria Vienna, 13 January 2012 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- 8. Consultations with high officials of the MFA of Norway Oslo, 16 January 2012 (Secretary General, Political Advisor)
- 9. Consultations with high officials of the MFA of Sweden and SIDA Stockholm, 17 January 2012 (Secretary General, Political Advisor)
- 10. Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Croatia Zagreb, 20 January 2012 (Secretary General)
- 11. Meeting with TACSO representatives Sarajevo, 24 January 2012 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Political Advisor)
- 12. Meeting with Southeast Europe Association Munich, 25 January 2012 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- 13. Consultations with high officials of the MFA of Germany Berlin, 26 January 2012 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- First Meeting of SEECP Political Directors Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia – Belgrade, 30 January 2012 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Chief of Staff, Junior Political Advisor)

- 15. Informal Meeting of SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia Belgrade, 31 January 2012 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Chief of Staff, Junior Political Advisor)
- 16. Meeting with Director General for International Development Cooperation at the Swedish Foreign Ministry – Sarajevo, 1 February 2012 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Chief of Staff, Political Advisor)
- 17. Meeting with Turkish Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina Sarajevo, 3 February 2012 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- 18. Consultations with high officials of the MFA of France Paris, 6 February 2012 (Secretary General, Deputy Head of LO)
- 19. Austrian-French Informal Seminar "The Future of the Balkans" Paris, 7 February 2012 (Secretary General, LO Advisor)
- Consultations with high level delegation of the EU Brussels, 17 February 2012 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Chief of Staff, Head of LO, Deputy Head of LO, LO Advisor)
- 21. Meeting with representatives of CEI Sarajevo, 20 23 February 2012 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Expert on Infrastructure, Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation, Expert on Security Issues, Spokesperson)
- 22. Meeting with Romanian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina- Sarajevo, 23 February 2012 (Secretary General, Junior Political Advisor)
- 23. Meeting with Director of News and Programme, Al Jazeera Balkan Sarajevo, 28 February 2012 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff, Spokesperson)
- 24. Consultations with high officials of MFA Serbia Belgrade, 2 March 2012 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- 25. MARRI Diplomatic briefing/friends of MARRI meeting Belgrade, 2 March 2012 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- 26. Working meeting with the Ambassadors of South East Europe and Ambassadors of Austria, Hungary and Italy, residents to Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo, 5 March 2012 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Chief of Staff, Junior Political Advisor)

#### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. High Level Economic Policy Conference – Improving the economic potential, identifying the future sources of growth – Skopje, 30 November 2011 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)

- Innovative Social Entrepreneurship Development (ISEDENET) "Where and how to develop social enterprise" –Lessons learned from Serbia and Europe – Belgrade, 5 December 2011 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- 3. Meeting with GIZ representative Sarajevo, 6 December 2011 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Expert on Economic and Social Development and Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure)
- Western Balkans Investment Framework Steering Committee PPP Projects and SME Platform adoption – Luxembourg, 7 December 2011 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Signing of the MoU with London School of Economics Sarajevo, 9 December 2011 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- 6. SEE Conference on Pension System Reforms Zagreb, 13-14 December 2011 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- 7. 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Regional Competitiveness Initiative (RCI) Steering Committee meeting Sarajevo, 13 December 2011 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- 8. Meeting with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung representatives Sarajevo, 16 December 2011 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Expert on Economic and Social Development and Spokesperson)
- 9. Meeting with Director General for International Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden – Sarajevo, 1 February 2012 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with Expert on Social Entrepreneurship and ESENSEE Project Leader Sarajevo, 22 February 2012 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- 11. SEEIC Kick-Off meeting Sarajevo, 23 February 2012 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development and Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- 12. Meeting with Sector Manager of the Open Regional Fund for SEE Sarajevo, 27 February 2012 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- 13. Meeting with Head of Secretariat of eSEE Initiative Sarajevo, 27 February 2012 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- 14. TACSO meeting Istanbul, 28 February 2 March 2012 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- 15. ISEDE-NET Final Conference on Social Entrepreneurship Brescia, 2-3 March 2012 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)

#### ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Ministers on the Development of the SEETO Comprehensive Network – Antwerp, 29 November 2011(Secretary General, Expert on Infrastructure, LO Advisor)
- 2. Participation at the U.S. Government Economic Professionals' Strategizing Seminar -Address on Regional Cooperation on Improving the Region's Infrastructure and Transportation Routes - Zagreb, 13 December 2011 (Secretary General)
- International Conference "Danube Strategy An Impetus for Strengthening Regional Cooperation between Croatia, Hungary and Serbia" and "Roundtable on Trans-boundary Water Management" – Zagreb, 15-16 December 2011 (Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure)
- 4. Meeting with representative of the SEE CHANGE NET Sarajevo, 10 January 2012 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- 5. Meeting with representatives of the Association of consulting engineers of Bosnia and Herzegovina Sarajevo, 31 January 2012 (Expert on Infrastructure)
- 6. Meeting of organization committee of the Third International Congress on Roads Sarajevo, 1 February 2012 (Expert on Infrastructure)
- Meeting with Minister of Communication and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina Sarajevo, 20 February 2012 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Expert on Infrastructure)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Energy Efficiency Task Force Meeting and Training Workshop "Energy Efficiency in Buildings in the Contracting Parties of the Energy Community" – Vienna, 21-22 February 2012 (Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure)
- Regional Energy Strategy 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Task Force Vienna, 28 February 2012 (Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure)

## JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

- Meeting of Interior Ministers and Ministers of Justice of the SEECP countries and 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ministerial Conference 'Regional and Transnational Cooperation in the Fight Against Organized Crime in SEE: Challenges and Achievements'- Belgrade, 29 – 30 November 2011 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Third Annual Ministerial Conference "Regional and Transnational Cooperation in the Fight against Organized Crime in South East Europe: Challenges and Achievements" – Belgrade, 29 – 30 November 2011 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- 3. MARRI Regional Forum Belgrade, 29 November 2011 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- 4. Meeting of the Steering Group on Regional Strategy (SGRS) and the IV Annual Conference of the Regional Organisations and International partners in the area of Justice and Home Affairs and Security Cooperation Belgrade, 1 2 December 2011 (Deputy Secretary

General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Senior Expert on Security Cooperation and Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)

- 5. Regional meeting of the EU Grant Project "Cooperation in Criminal Justice: Witness Protection in the Fight against Serious Crime and Terrorism (WINPRO)" Skopje, 7 December 2011 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- 6. Cyber Security Roundtable Zagreb, 12-14 December 2011 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- 7. EC Project DET ILECUs Conference Pristina, 12-15 December 2011 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- 8. 3<sup>rd</sup> PCC SEE Implementation Programme Way Ahead Meeting Ljubljana, 16-17 January 2012 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- 9. The Round Table "The challenges of achieving EU Candidate Status" Sarajevo, 30 January 2012 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- 10. Meeting with Transfuse representatives Sarajevo, 30 January 2012 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)

#### **SECURITY COOPERATION**

- 1. International Forum "Security and defence learning 2011" Berlin, 30 November 2011 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- 2. Meeting with German Counter-Intelligence Service (BfV) Liaison Officer to EU and NATO Brussels, 1 December 2011 (Expert on Security Issues)
- 3. Meeting with Romanian Counter-Intelligence Service (SRI) Liaison Officer to EU and NATO Brussels, 1 December 2011 (Expert on Security Issues)
- 4. The US-Adriatic Charter Defence Ministerial Meeting Durres, 8 9 December 2011 (Expert on Security Issues)
- 5. Meeting with management of the German BfV- Berlin, 13 December 2011 (Expert on Security Issues)
- 6. Meeting with management of the Romanian SRI– Bucharest, 20 December 2011 (Expert on Security Issues)
- SEESAC Regional Steering Group Meeting Belgrade, 20 December 2011 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- 8. Meetings with representatives of the Bulgarian MoD DIS (MI) Sofia, 29 December 2011 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- 9. Meetings with NATO, EEAS, General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, EC Brussels, 17 19 January 2012 (Expert on Security Issues)
- 10. Meeting with representatives of the Hewlett-Packard Sarajevo, 17 January 2012 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)

- Meeting with Heads of National Security Authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Slovenia – Sarajevo, 31 January 2012 (Senior Expert on Security Issues, Expert on Security Issues)
- Annual Steering Committee Meeting, IPA Programme "Civil protection for candidate countries and potential candidates" - Brussels, 2 – 3 February 2012 (Expert on Security Issues)
- 13. Meetings with NATO, EEAS, EC representatives Brussels, 13 17 February 2012 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- 14. Consultations with Bulgarian National Security Authorities on the second Working Group of SEENSA and side consultations with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence on the Civilian experts regional meeting RCC SWP, the Ministry of Defence Military Intelligence on the first Working Group of SEEMIC 4 and the Defence Policy Directors of the MoD on the SEEDPD meeting Sofia, 20 24 February 2012 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- Consultations with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of Serbia and Head of Military Intelligence and Head of Military Counter Intelligence – Belgrade, 27 – 29 February 2012 (Senior Expert on Security Issues)

#### BUILDING HUMAN CAPITAL AND PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

- 1. Meeting of the EP and the RSPC SEE national coordinators Brussels, 9 December 2011 (Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation)
- 2. 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SEECP Parliamentary Dimension Working Group Belgrade, 21 December 2011 (Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation)
- 3. Meeting with representatives of the Task Force on Culture and Society Sarajevo, 1 February 2012 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues, Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation)
- 4. Meeting with President of European Culture Forum– Sarajevo, 2 February 2012 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- 5. Meeting with Director of Regional Office for SEE in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association (DVV) Sarajevo, 14 February 2012 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)
- 6. Meetings with Programme Manager EU policies Task Manager, Regional Cooperation and Programmes, Advisor - Inter-cultural Dialogue and Cultural Heritage, Programme Manager - EU policies - Task Manager, Regional Cooperation and Programmes, Policy Officer - European Integration - Human and Minority Rights Desk, Kosovo Issues, Programme Manager - EU policies - Task Manager, Regional Cooperation and Programmes, DG Enlargement and Policy Officer, DG Education and Culture, Unit for International Cooperation and Programmes – Brussels, 21 February 2012 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues and LO Advisor)
- 7. Western Balkan Parliamentarians Seminar: "Environmental challenges and opportunities the way forward" Sarajevo, 23-24 February 2012 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of the

Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues and Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation)

 Meeting with Deputy Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo, 24 February 2012 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Senior Expert on Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues)

#### COMMINICATION AND MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Meeting with Brussels-based journalists Brussels, 12-14 December 2011 (Spokesperson, Public Affairs Assistant, LO Advisor)
- 2. Meeting with the European Association of Public Service Media in South East Europe -Zagreb, 9 February 2012 (SG, Spokesperson, LO Advisor)
- 3. Participation in the information session for the European Commission's Civil Society Facility Partnership Programmes for Civil Society Organizations and meeting with the Commission's official dealing with media issues - Brussels, 23-24 February 2012 (Spokesperson, LO Advisor)

#### LIAISON OFFICE

- Meeting with Deputy Chief of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy – Brussels, 28 November 2011 (Secretary General, Deputy Head of LO)
- 2. Meeting with representatives of the Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs Brussels, 28 November 2011(Secretary General, Head of LO, Deputy Head of LO, LO Advisor)
- High-level European Policy Summit "Balkans Scorecard: Assessing The Region's Key Pointers" – Brussels, 30 November 2011(Secretary General, Head of LO, Deputy Head of LO)
- 4. Donor Coordination meeting on the IPA MB Program 2012 Brussels, 5 December 2011 (Deputy Head of LO, LO Advisor)
- 5. Meeting with the Head of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Digital Agenda Brussels, 8 December 2011 (Head of LO)
- 6. Participation at the conference "Is the International Strategy for the Western Balkans in Trouble? Addressing the socio-political obstacles to the Western Balkan NATO and EU Accession" Thessaloniki, 16-17 December 2011 (LO Advisor)
- 7. Meeting with the Head of the Programmes Unit in DG Enlargement of the EC Brussels, 19 December 2011 (Deputy Head of LO, LO Advisor)
- 8. Meeting with the Foreign Minister of Greece Athens, 20 December 2011 (Head of LO)
- 9. Meeting with the Director for Enlargement in the General Secretariat of the Council Brussels, 12 January 2012 (Deputy Head of LO)

- 10. Meeting with the Deputy Head of the Cabinet of the Enlargement Commissioner Brussels, 13 January 2012 (Deputy Head of LO, LO Adviser)
- 11. Meeting with the Programme Officer of UNISDR Brussels, 18 January 2012 (Deputy Head of LO, Expert on Security Issues)
- 12. Meeting with representatives of DG ECHO and DG Enlargement on disaster risk reduction and preparedness Brussels, 18 January 2012 (Deputy Head of LO, Expert on Security Issues)
- 13. Meeting with the representatives of NATO Secretariat dealing with Western Balkans Countries - Brussels, 20 January 2012 (Deputy Head of LO, Expert on Security Issues)
- 14. Meeting with the representatives of EEAS Crisis Management and Planning Directorate -Brussels, 20 January 2012 (Deputy Head of LO, Expert on Security Issues)
- 15. Participation in the European Parliament Western Balkans group discussion on Building Human Capital in the WB Brussels, 25 January 2012 (Deputy Head of LO, LO Advisor)
- 16. Meeting with the Desk Officer for RCC in the EEAS Brussels, 27 January 2012 (Deputy Head of LO)
- 17. Meeting with the Deputy Head of the 'Regional Programmes' Unit in DG Enlargement -Brussels, 2 February 2012 (Deputy Head of LO, LO Advisor)
- 18. Participation at EPC Event: The Connecting Europe Facility, A new way of investing in pan-European infrastructure - Brussels 2 February 2012 (LO Advisor)
- 19. Meeting with the Policy Officer of the DG Move of the European Commission and the ISIS Program Secretariat (IPS) Director Brussels, 3 February 2012 (LO Advisor)
- 20. Meeting with a First Vice President of the European Parliament and Member of the Delegation of the EP for SEE Brussels, 8 February 2012 (Head of LO)
- 21. Meeting with the Head of Office Support to IFI Coordination in the Western Balkans and Turkey Brussels, 13 February 2012 (LO Advisor)
- 22. Meeting with the Head of the Western Balkans Division of the EEAS Brussels, 14 February 2012 (Deputy Head of LO, Expert on Security Issues)
- Meeting with the Deputy Director General of the General Secretariat of the Council on Security, Safety and Communication and Information Systems - Brussels, 14 February 2012 (Deputy Head of LO, Expert on Security Issues)
- 24. Meeting of the Inter-regional group "Danube Area" Brussels, 16 February 2012 (LO Advisor)
- 25. Meeting with the Permanent Chairperson of COWEB Brussels, 20 February 2012 (Chief of Staff, Deputy Head of LO)
- 26. Meetings with the DG Enlargement and DG Education and Culture Representatives -Brussels, 21 February 2012 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital, LO Advisor)

- 27. Presentation on the RCC activities in the area of Building Human Capital to the representatives of Missions and Permanent Representations to the EU of the SEECP participating states Brussels, 21 February 2012 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital, Head of LO, LO Advisor and LO Interim Assistant)
- 28. Meeting with Commissioner of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Brussels, 21 February 2012 (Head of LO)
- 29. Participation at the Expert Round Table: Making the System Work Ensuring Decent Work and Quality Jobs in the Western Balkans, EP Brussels, 22 February 2012 (LO Advisor)
- 30. Meeting with the Local Administration Facility representatives, DG Enlargement Brussels, 22 February 2012 (LO Advisor)
- 31. Participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> CEFTA Steering Committee meeting Brussels, 23 February 2012 (Deputy Head of LO)
- 32. Participation at the briefing in NATO SEE Group Brussels, 24 February 2012 (Deputy Head of LO)
- 33. Informal meeting with the ambassadors of the SEE countries to NATO Brussels, 24 February 2012 (Deputy Head of LO)
- 34. Participation at the briefing: Croatia on its Way to EU Membership: Challenges and Problems Brussels, 29 February 2012 (LO Advisor)

# ANNEX III

# LIST OF PLANNED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE RCC SECRETARIAT IN 2012

# Secretary General

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE WORK PROGRAM
1.	Consultations with President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		6 March 2012	Skopje		
2.	Meeting with Deputy Director General for Enlargement		20 March 2012	Brussels		
3.	Briefing for the WB group of the Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET) in the EP		21 March 2012	Brussels		
4.	Signing ceremony of the MoU between Stock Exchanges in SEE	RCC	21 March 2012	Sarajevo		
5.	NALAS General Assembly		29-30 March 2012	Pristina		

6.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Regional Conference for South East Europe	Alliance of Civilizations	10 April 2012	Belgrade	
7.	Defence Ministers Meeting SEECP "Enhancing the Mutual Cooperation in the Region for Resolving the Surplus Arms Issue"		11-12 April 2012	Belgrade	
8.	Meeting with Director of Energy Community Secretariat		24 April 2012	Sarajevo	
9.	Coordination meeting between the SEECP Troika, EU and the RCC Secretariat	RCC	May 2012	Sarajevo	
10.	RCC Board Meeting	RCC	May 2012	Sarajevo	

# Economic and Social Development

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE WORK PROGRAM
1.	Signing of the Securities Exchanges MoU	RCC	27 March 2012	RCC		Action 2: Identifying ways and means for improving access to finance
2.	SEEIC Investment Promotion Working Group	RCC	April 2012	RCC	Development of a joint sectoral investment promotion brochure	Actions 1&2
3.	Follow-up conference in the framework of the Social Agenda for the SEE	RCC /Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)	April 2012	RCC	Matching skills and jobs	Action 3: Mainstream employment and social agenda into economic reform deliberations
4.	10 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the SEE Investment Committee	RCC	April 2012	RCC	Competitiveness	Action 1: Transfer of the SEEIC
5.	Pension reform in SEE	RCC /Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)	September 2012	RCC	Identify scope for regional cooperation in pension policy reform	Action 3: Mainstream employment and social agenda into economic reform deliberations

6.	SEEIC Access to Finance Working Group	RCC	September 2012	RCC	Regional actions for A2F promotion	Actions 1&2
7.	11 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the SEE Investment Committee	RCC	September 2012	RCC	Europe 2020	Action 1: Transfer of the SEEIC
8.	Ministerial meeting on investment	RCC	November 2012	RCC	Europe 2020	Action 1: Transfer of the SEEIC
9.	Health system reform in SEE	RCC /Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)	November 2012	RCC	Identify scope for regional cooperation in health policy reform	Action 3: Mainstream employment and social agenda into economic reform deliberations

# Energy and Infrastructure

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE WORK PROGRAM
1.	Event launching the initiative on raising the awareness on global challenges	IAAI/RCC Secretariat/Network of NGOs	May 2012	Sarajevo	Capacity building of youth and civil sector and raising the awareness of general public on sustainable development and major global challenges as well as establishing the global challenges centres in the region	3.Contribute to the preparation and implementation of the Danube Region Strategy
2.	Workshop on Best Available Techniques for Large Combustion Plants in Western Balkans	RCC Secretariat/Regional Education and Information Center for Sustainable Development in SEE (REIC)/Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MOFTER) of B&H	7-9 June 2012	Tuzla	Increasing the degree of efficiency and decreasing the sulphur dioxide emissions in the power plants taking into account quality of coal (lignite) in Western Balkans; Implementation of relevant EU Directives	<ol> <li>Continue implementation of Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative (SEDRI)</li> <li>Explore potential for cooperation with the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS)</li> </ol>
3.	Energy event including civil society organizations and local authorities	RCC Secretariat /Analytica/NALAS	TBD	TBD	Strengthening the role of civil society organizations, local authorities and media and their increased involvement in addressing the energy issues	3.Contribute to the preparation and implementation of the Danube Region Strategy
4.	3 <sup>rd</sup> SEDRI Task Force meeting	RCC Secretariat /CEI/SEDRI TF CiO	TBD	TBD	Regular meeting of the SEDRI TF to review progress and determine next steps	1.Continue implementation of Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative (SEDRI)

5.	Event to support ISRBC Parties in implementing the FASRB activities relevant for the EU SDR implementation	ISRBC/Bosnian ISRBC CiO/RCC Secretarat	TBD	TBD	Adoption of the Sava River Basin Management Plan and related Programme of Measures and/or other priority topics for the FASRB parties	3.Contribute to the preparation and implementation of the Danube Region Strategy
6.	Regional Conference as a part of the project – Strengthening the Public Dialogue on Sustainable Energy Use in SEE	Network of the Schools of Political Studies led by BFPE/ RCC Secretariat	Last quarter 2012	Zagreb	Strengthening the public dialogue in the area of sustainable energy development with the particular focus on the local governments and citizen awareness	<ol> <li>Continue implementation of Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative (SEDRI)</li> <li>Contribute to the preparation and implementation of the Danube Region Strategy</li> </ol>
7.	Possible workshop(s) for Parliamentary Committee responsible for Energy representatives from one of the RCC members from SEE depending on the ECS availability	ECS/RCC Secretariat	TBD	TBD	Tailor-made workshop(s) to build capacities of Parliamentarians and their technical support services on Energy Community and related global challenges and facilitate law-making process	2. Explore potential for cooperation with the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS)
8.	Seminar for Training of Educators in Road Safety Inspection (RSI) and Road Safety Audits (RSA)	RCC Secretariat/Associat ion of Consulting Engineers of BiH (ACE)/BIH Ministry of Transport	TBD	Sarajevo	Implementation of the road safety acquis (Directive EC/2008/96)	5.Contribute to the promotion of road safety
9.	Third ISIS Governing Body Meeting	RCC/ISIS PS	12 September 2012	Skopje	Support to the national administration in Single European Sky (SES II) implementation	4. Explore the potential for further development of air services within the region
10.	Third Congress on Roads	RCC Secretariat/Associat ion of Consulting Engineers of BiH (ACE)/BIH Ministry of Transport	20- 21 September 2012	Sarajevo	Increase awareness on the road safety importance; create platform for new strategies in sustainable development of road infrastructure; asses the progress in the construction of Adriatic- Ionian motorway (V Corridor)	5.Contribute to the promotion of road safety

# Justice and Home Affairs

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE RCC SWP
1.	Meeting of the SEE region experts on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters	RCC/SEECP countries	2012 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	TBD Sarajevo preferred	Studying the prerequisites for closer judicial cooperation, police operations, police and prosecution activities in criminal investigations, sharing of information on issues affecting the police, prosecution and court services	2. Strengthen judicial and prosecutorial cooperation in criminal matters
2.	Meeting of SEE region experts on cooperation on civil and commercial matters	RCC/SEECP countries	2012 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	TBD Sarajevo preferred	Analyze the situation of the implementation of existing legal framework; make proposals for better implementation by all countries of the region, as well as to propose the best solutions	5.Develop regional cooperation in private and civil law matters – administrative law, labor law, consumer law -
3.	Meeting on the protection of fundamental rights and vulnerable groups in the area of justice, home affairs and security cooperation	RCC/RACVIAC	2012 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	TBD Zagreb	Support the process of exchanging information and share best practices at the regional level regarding the protection of fundamental rights within justice and security cooperation	5. Exchange information and share best practices regarding the protection of fundamental rights within the agreed RCC priorities areas
4.	Meeting of the Steering Group on JHA Regional Strategic Document - SGRS	RCC	June /July 2012	TBD Croatia	Presentation of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Progress Report on the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism of the Regional Cooperation in JHA	1. Coordinate drafting and adoption, monitoring and implementation of the Regional Strategic Document

5	SEE Meeting of the General	RCC	2012	TBD	Prosecution role in Regional	2 Strengthen judicial and
5.	SEE Meeting of the General Prosecutors	RCC	2012 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	TBD Sarajevo preferred	Prosecution role in Regional Cooperation Mechanism Relevance for the prosecution of the SEE Police Cooperation Convention and SELEC Convention Prosecutors' implication in ILECUs Relevance of the prosecutors' networks SEEPAG and WB Prosecutors' Network Establishment of a working group to study prerequisites for closer cooperation on police operations, police and prosecution services in criminal matters, sharing of information on issues affecting the police, prosecution and courts	2. Strengthen judicial and prosecutorial cooperation in criminal matters
6.	Regional meetings of the SEE Supreme Courts and Judicial Councils	RCC	2012 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	TBD	Courts and Judicial Councils role in the Regional Cooperation Mechanism Integrated perspective of the regional judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters Establishment of a working group to study prerequisites for closer cooperation on sharing information on issues affecting the police, prosecution and courts	<ol> <li>Strengthen judicial and prosecutorial cooperation in criminal matters</li> <li>Initiate regional cooperation in private and civil law matters</li> </ol>

7.	Meeting of the Steering Group on	RCC	2012	TBD	1. Coordinate drafting and
	JHA Regional Strategic		$2^{nd}$	Possible back to	adoption, monitoring and
	Document - SGRS and V Annual		Semester	back with	implementation of the Regional
	Coordination Conference of the			SEECP	Strategic Document
	<b>Regional Organizations and</b>			Ministerial	
	International Partners in the area			Conference on	
	of Justice Home Affairs and			JHA	
	Security Cooperation				

# Security Cooperation

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE RCC SWP
1.	SEEMIC WG Meetings (total of 3 meetings)	RCC/Bulgarian MI	1 <sup>st</sup> WG – 21 March 2012	Sofia		
2.	SEEMIC Conference	RCC/Bulgarian MI	TBD	TBD		
3.	SEENSA WG Meetings (total of 2 meetings co-organized with Bulgarian NSA -1 meeting and with Slovenian NSA – 1 meeting)	RCC/Bulgarian NSA/Slovenian NSA	1 <sup>st</sup> WG 28 March 2012	Sofia		
4.	SEENSA Conference	RCC/Slovenian NSA	7-9 May 2012	Ljubljana		
5.	SEECIC Conference	RCC/Romanian Counterintelligence	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2012	TBD		
6.	Defence Policy Director Meetings	RCC/TBD	TBD	TBD		

# Building Human Capital and Parliamentary Cooperation

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE WORK PROGRAM
1.	RSRDI Steering Committee and Advisory Body meeting	World Bank, RCC	26-28 March	RCC Secretariat		
2.	Training of Education Inspectors II		Second part of the year (TBD)	TBD		
3.	Regional conference an adult education	RCC, DVV	TBD	Sarajevo		
4.	Regional conference of national historical museums	RCC, RCC TF CS	TBD	Sarajevo		

## Media Unit

No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE WORK PROGRAM
1.	Conference on investigative journalism and data protection	RACVIAC, RCC, European Association of Public Service Media in South East Europe, HRT	29-31 May 2012	Pula	Deepening of dialogue and exchange of information, knowledge transfer, with the aim of disseminating international standards related to investigative journalism and data protection and building a more open, transparent and stable environment in SEE.	
2.	Academy on media law	ARTICLE 19, European Association of Public Service Media in South East Europe, RCC, OSCE, Friedrich Ebert Foundation	June 2012	Zagreb	Enhancing cooperation in the development and the implementation of progressive media legislation in the countries in South East Europe in line with international and European media standards; safeguarding media freedoms and the right to freedom of expression by sharing and learning from the best legal national frameworks and practices in the enforcement of media standards in the region.	

#### Administrative Unit

r	No.	TITLE	ORGANIZER	PERIOD	LOCATION	MAIN TOPICS	ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED FROM THE WORK PROGRAM
	1.	Meeting of the Financial Sub- Committee to the RCC Board	RCC	19 April 2012	RCC Secretariat		

### ANNEX IV

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

#### SECRETARY GENERAL

1. Mr. Hido Biščević- 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. Sorin Sterie- Expert on Security Issues
- 8. Ms. Amna Redžepagić- Expert on Infrastructure and Energy
- 9. Mr. Predrag Vujičić- Expert on Justice and Home Affairs
- 10. Mr. Nand Shani- Expert on Economic and Social Development
- 11. Mr. Gjergj Murra Expert in Parliamentary Cooperation
- 12. Ms. Maja Taylor- Assistant to the Head of Expert Pool
- 13. Ms. Elvira Ademović- Assistant to the Expert Pool
- South East Europe Investment Committee (SEEIC) Project, attached to the Economic and Social Development Unit within Expert Pool
- 14. Ms. Dragana Đurica, Project Leader (effective as of 15 March 2012)
- 15. Ms. Nedima Hadžiibrišević, Project Assistant (effective as of 15 March 2012)

#### FRONT OFFICE

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

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT**

- 1. Mr. Alexandru Murzac- Head of Administrative Unit
- 2. Mr. Sead Filipović- Finance Officer

- 3. Ms. Mirela Mahić- Administrative Officer
- 4. Mr. Maid Medunjanin- IT Officer
- 5. Ms. 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. Ms. Lidija Topić- Advisor

# RCC SECRETARIAT'S TECHNICAL AND SERVICE STAFF

- Mr. Siniša Cvetković- Driver/Security
   Mr. Fikret Kadrić- Driver/ Courier
- 3. Mr. Denis Sulić- Driver/ Courier
- 4. Ms. Vanja Vekić- Receptionist

# ANNEX V

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABC	Association of Balkan Chambers
ACE	Association of Consulting Engineers of Bosnia and Herzegovina
ACI	Airport Council International Europe
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AEA	Association of the European Airlines
AII	Adriatic-Ionian Initiative
ALAs	Association of Local Authorities
AREC	Adriatic Region Employers' Centre
ATM	Air Traffic Management
BAC	Business Advisory Council
BCSDN	Balkan Civil Society Development Network
BRESCE	· 1
	UNESCO Venice Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe
bSEE	Task Force Broadband South Eastern Europe Task Force
BfV	Bundesamtes für Verfassungsschutz
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CARICC	Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre
CEB	Council of Europe Development Bank
CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement
CeGD	Centre for e-Governance Development
CEI	Central European Initiative
CGRS	Commission for Global Road Safety
C-i-O	Chairmanship-in-Office
CoE	Council of Europe
CoMoCoSEE	Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe
COSAP	Conference of the European Integration Parliamentary Committees of States
	participating in the Stabilization and Association Process
COWEB	Working Group on Western Balkans of the Council of the EU
СР	Contracting Parties
CPESSEC	Centre of Public Employment Services of Southeast European Countries
CPF	Cetinje Parliamentary Forum
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CTED	Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate
DABLAS	Danube and Black Sea Task Force
DCAF	Democratic Control of Armed Forces
DCHOD	Deputy Chief of Defence
DCP	Danube Cooperation Process
DPPI	Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative
	1
EAS	External Action Service
EASA	European Aviation Safety Agency
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
ECAA	European Common Aviation Area
ECRB	Energy Community Regulatory Board
ECS	Energy Community Secretariat
ECT	Energy Community Treaty
EEAS	European External Action Service
EHEA	European Higher Education Area
EIB	European Investment Bank
ELFA	European Law Faculty Association
ENIC	
	European Network of Information Centres
EnC	European Network of Information Centres Energy Community

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

NOS	NATO Office of Security
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OLAF	European Antifraud Office
OCTA	Organized Crime Threat Assessment for South East Europe
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSINT	Open Source Intelligence
PCC Secretariat	Police Cooperation Convention Secretariat
PE	Private Equity
PFS	Partners for Financial Stability
PHLG	Permanent High Level Group
PIDIN	Partnership for Improvement of Danube Infrastructure and Navigation
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PSO	Peace Support Operations
RACVIAC	Centre for Security Cooperation
RAI	Regional Anticorruption Initiative
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
RCC TF FBHC	RCC Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital
RCI	Regional Competitiveness Initiative
REC	Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe
RENA	Regional Environmental Network for Accession
ReSPA	Regional School of Public Administration
RI&O	Regional Initiatives and Organizations
<b>RI&amp;TFs</b>	Regional Initiatives and Task Forces
RNIPA	Regional Network of Investment Promotion Agencies
RSA	Road Safety Audits
RSD	Regional Strategic Document
RSRDI	Regional Strategy for Research and Development for Innovation in Western Balkans
RSI	Road Safety Inspection
RSPC SEE	Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in South East Europe
RTD	Research and Technical Development
SAP+	Stabilization and Association Process Plus (cumulation zone with EU, EFTA, Western
	Balkans and Turkey)
SECE CRIF	South East and Central European Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility
SECI	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative
SECI Centre	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative, Regional Centre for Combating Organized
Sher conte	Crime
SEDM	South East Europe Defence Ministerial
SEDRI	Sustainable Energy Development Regional Initiative
SEE	South East Europe
SEEC	South East Europe Clearing House
SEECIC	South East European Counter-Intelligence Chiefs Forum
SEECEL	South East Europe Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning
SEECP	South-East European Cooperation Process
SEE-ERA.NET	South-Last European – European Research Area Network
SEE-ERA.NET PLUS	South East European – European Research Area Network
SEEFREC	SEE Fire fighting Regional Centre network
SEEHN	SEE Health Network
SEEIC	South East Europe Investment Committee
SEELS	South East European Law School Network
SELEC	Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre
SEEMIC	South East Europe Military Intelligence Chiefs
SEE MoD-GS	South East Europe Ministries of Defence and General Staffs
SEENSA	National Security Authorities of South East Europe Countries
SEE PPP Network	•
SEEPAG	South East Europe Public Private Partnership Network
	Southeast European Prosecutors Advisory Group
SEPCA	Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association

SEESAC	South East Europe Small Arms and Light Weapons Clearing House
SES	Single European Sky
SEETO	South-East Europe Transport Observatory
SIDA	Swedish Development Agency
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
SMEM	Serbian Ministry of Energy and Mining
SPMU	Strategic Police Matters Unit
SSR	Security Sector Reforms
STREW	Structural Reform in Higher Education in Western Balkans Countries
SWG RRD	Standing Working Group on Regional Rural Development
SWP	Strategic Work Programme
SWEROAD	Swedish National Road Consulting
TACSO	Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organizations
TCT	Transport Community Treaty
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport network
TF	Task Force
TFCS	Task Force on Culture and Society
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNCTED	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VC	Venture Capital
WB	World Bank
WBIF	Western Balkans Investment Framework
WBPN	Western Balkans Prosecutor Network
WG	Working Group
WHO	World Health Organization
WINPRO	Witness Protection in the Fight against Serious Crime and Terrorism
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WPON	Women Police Officers Network