



**SEECP BUDVA DECLARATION**  
**OF THE 14th MEETING OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE**  
**SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROCESS**

**Budva, June 30, 2011**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) Participating States, Mr. Bamir Topi, Mr. Ivo Josipović, Mr. Gjorge Ivanov, Mr. Boris Tadić and Mr. Filip Vujanović; Chairman of the Presidency Mr. Nebojša Radmanović; Acting President Mr. Marian Lupu; Prime Minister Mr. Boyko Borisov; Ministers of Foreign Affairs Mr. Stavros Lambrinidis and Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu; State Secretary Mr. Bogdan Aurescu and Ambassador Jernej Videtič have met in Budva on 30 June 2011 at the 14th Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the SEECP.

In the presence of the Special Guests of the Montenegrin SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office: Secretary General of the RCC Mr. Hido Bišćević as well as representatives of the UN, the EU, the OSCE and the CoE.

In the attendance of the Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers of Foreign Affairs Mr. Edmond Haxhinasto and Gordan Jandroković; Ministers of Foreign Affairs Mr. Sven Alkalaj, Mr. Antonio Milošoski, Mr. Milan Roćen and Mr. Vuk Jeremić; Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs Andrei Popov and Mr. Dimiter Tzanchev and Director General Stefan Tinca.

## 1. BASIC PRINCIPLES

1.1. Reaffirming our commitment to democratic values, regional cooperation and good neighborly relations based on the principles of, the UN Charter, Helsinki Final Act, the SEECP Charter, OSCE and Council of Europe relevant documents as prerequisites for the progress of the region's integration process with the European and Euro-Atlantic institutions as well as for ensuring and consolidating its stability and security,

1.2. Underlining the crucial importance of SEECP as the unique political forum for regional cooperation in South East Europe and joint commitment to the principles of „regional ownership“ and all-inclusiveness, as indispensable concepts for the successful and substantial implementation of regional cooperation in accordance with the statutory documents of respective regional initiatives or organizations in South East Europe,

1.3. Praising the process of successful implementation of the Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013 of the Regional Cooperation Council and the objectives of the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office, together with the Annual Report of the RCC Secretary General,

1.4. Highlighting the importance of sharing a common vision for the future of South East Europe as part of a united and free Europe with open and tolerant societies based upon democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms,

1.5. Underlining our attachment to the European and Euro-Atlantic perspective of South East Europe, depending on individual aspirations of respective countries, which, we believe, is the best way to achieve lasting peace, stability, security and prosperity for our countries and for our citizens,

1.6. Welcoming the continuation of the NATO open door policy,

1.7. Highlighting the notable improvement of the overall situation in our region since our last Summit, in particular the renewed spirit of rapprochement and reconciliation among the Participating States on the basis of improved bilateral relations and other cooperative steps,

1.8. Putting regional recovery and development approach high on our agenda in order to assure the best use of human potential and natural resources in our region for the benefit of our national economies, whilst providing for the conducive legal environment and continuing with the reforms,

1.9. Noting the rapid changes of international agenda, especially events in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), with emerging new challenges and threats to the global and European stability, security and social and economic well-being and against this background attaching particular importance to the consolidation of peace and sustainable development in our part of Europe and to the firm advancement of the

South East Europe towards integration with the European and Euro-Atlantic institutions,

1.10. Calling upon the European Union to continue to firmly uphold and in a determined manner its confirmed enlargement policy in particular in the light of individual advancements achieved by the negotiating, candidate, potential candidate countries and aspiring countries from the region since the last Summit,

1.11. Welcoming the Europe 2020 Strategy and its value as a regulatory convergence platform for the countries of the region and expressing our readiness to associate our national policies and regional approach with its targets,

1.12. Reaffirming our determination to work jointly at regional level in responding to the consequences of the current economic crisis that affects our economies with the aim of minimizing pressing social impacts and its political side-effects,

We agreed on the following:

## **2. KEEPING THE MOMENTUM, COMMON VISION, JOINT EFFORTS: SHAPING A NEW PROFILE OF THE REGION**

2.1. We convened and assessed the current situation in South East Europe and beyond at this important point in time.

2.2. Whilst the tragic events of the recent past remain in our memories, we expressed our firm conviction that time has come for the region to move away from the legacies of the past on the basis of reconciliation, rapprochement and dialogue. We stand ready to reinforce our responsibility to move the region forward, building persistently a political and social climate of peace, stability and tolerance, making also the best use of cultural richness and potentials in our region.

2.3. We reviewed with satisfaction the overall situation in our region in terms of political relations, regional cooperation, social and cultural exchange, and advancement towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

2.4. We underlined that this progress is made possible by adhering to the implementation of reforms, policies of reconciliation, good neighborly relations, confidence building measures, dialogue, mutual openness and cooperative attitude to the common needs of our countries, in particular at the times of new challenges in the international arena and of the ongoing crisis and its economic and social impact on South East Europe.

2.5. We confirmed our readiness to continue to enhance this positive process of rapprochement and cooperation in the region by using different platforms, from high level meetings, bilateral and multilateral formats of cooperation, to broadening the

stakeholders by engaging business communities, academia, media, civil societies and other participants interested to work on the irreversibility of progress achieved.

2.6. We emphasized our readiness to address the open issues urgently and to find mutually acceptable and sustainable solutions through political dialogue and negotiations, on the basis of mutual respect and international law, readiness for compromises and having in mind the long-term strategic interests of our citizens and broader vision of our region anchored firmly with European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

2.7. We are determined to continue to build upon the positive momentum created by numerous high level meetings in the region since the last Summit, with a view to addressing the open issues and ensuring long-lasting stability, dialogue and European perspective of our region.

2.8. We welcomed the continuation of the high level trilateral consultation meetings aiming at achieving reconciliation among the Participating States and overall progress across the region as regards fostering good neighborly relations and regional cooperation.

2.9. We welcomed also the initiatives from the region aimed at further elaboration of measures and steps to assist the EU enlargement process, including those aiming to create interaction and mutual assistance among the EU aspirant and EU Member States from the region in order to give new dynamism to the process.

2.10. We underlined the importance of the dialogue process currently ongoing under the EU facilitation and expressed our expectation that it provides mutually beneficiary results for the concrete needs and interests of communities and citizens.

2.11. We emphasized in this context our interest for and support to the lasting and durable settlement of the political, constitutional and administrative arrangements in one SEECP Participating State, so that it is able to pursue its common European and Euro-Atlantic Agenda and contribute to the regional stability and cooperation. We underlined also the important role that the international community, the EU, and the region need to play in this process. We emphasized also our firm support and strong commitment for the territorial integrity and political equality of two entities and three constituent peoples and citizens of that Participating State within internationally recognized borders.

2.12. We noted with satisfaction that local, parliamentary and presidential elections were held in several Participating States in the period since the Istanbul Summit and generally they took place in orderly and democratic manner, and the results thereof confirmed the increasing political maturity in the region.

2.13. We recognized that long-lasting stability and security in South East Europe, is dependable also on the sustained and balanced economic development and in this light we expressed our commitment to continue dealing with the consequences of the current global economic and financial crisis on a national and regional level and to address

pressing social impacts as they affect the reforms process, social stability and other areas.

2.14. We reaffirmed our determination to forge strategic partnership for development and prosperity in South East Europe through an elaborated regional recovery and development master projects, being fully aware of the need to add regional component to our national development strategies, in particular in the priority areas of infrastructure, transport, energy, communication and others.

2.15. We appraised the achievements in multilateral development cooperation in the region since the last Summit and we highlighted the need to work through the SEECP and with the RCC to elaborate further on concrete projects and initiatives with trans-regional potentials.

2.16. We recognized that regional approach to mobilization of investment has opened the road for individual preparation for membership of the candidate, negotiating countries and aspiring countries and for real structural convergence with the EU strategies in these priority sectors. We expressed the need for realizing the necessary economic structural adjustments and introducing the measures to create an investment friendly environment for attracting foreign direct investments to the region.

2.17. We expressed our readiness to forge a strategic partnership for strengthening of the rule of law in the region as a paramount factor for securing democratic, economic and social development and ensuring good governance, transparency and accountability.

2.18. We reaffirmed our determination to continue to cooperate vigorously in the fight against organized crime and corruption and we praised the results achieved since the last Summit, including the endorsement of a Regional Strategic Document 2011-2013 and the Action Plan for its implementation to deal with this critically important area.

2.19. We appraised the enhancement of our cooperation in the security area and we will continue to elaborate initiatives aimed at further confidence-building in the region and enhanced contribution of South East Europe to the global peace and security.

2.20. We underlined the importance of further enhancing our cooperation in the field of building human capital as one of the main prerequisites for achieving sustainable progress of our societies.

2.21. We recognized the importance of public perception of the enlargement process, in particular against the current pressing economic and social challenges, and we will continue to work together and with the EU institutions to strengthen the support for the enlargement process.

### **3. ANCHORING SOUTH EAST EUROPE: EU AND EURO-ATLANTIC ADVANCEMENT**

3.1. We reaffirmed our strong conviction that the European and Euro-Atlantic advancement remains the vital impetus for the region in general and for the realization of individual national goals and in this respect, we noted with satisfaction the institutional advancement of a number of Participating States in their relations with the EU and NATO since the last Summit.

3.2. We call upon the EU to continue firmly its enlargement policy provided that conditions are met and requirements are fulfilled on individual merit by each of the negotiating, candidate countries, potential candidates as well as aspiring countries from the region and we are determined to continue working together and assisting each other on the implementation of our common EU accession agenda.

3.3. We highlighted the progress of the countries from the region in the EU enlargement process and reaffirmed our conviction that the EU enlargement policy and the accession of all countries from South East Europe is a powerful incentive serving for the strategic interest of both the European Union as well as the entire region.

3.4. We underlined the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and the commencement of the new institutional set up of the European Union, firmly convinced that the EU will continue to strengthen its potentials and assert its global role and will ensure that it can pursue its enlargement agenda towards Southeast Europe. We welcomed the Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council „Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges“, as of November 9, 2010, the respective Council Conclusions as of December 2010 and its assessment that the enlargement process has gained new momentum.

3.5. We highlighted the efforts of the EU and the international financial institutions to alleviate the impact of the economic crisis on the region and we call upon the EU to continue its engagement through MB IPA Programmes, Western Balkans Investment Framework and other instruments for mobilization of funds for regional economic recovery and development, in particular through the large scale infrastructural projects.

3.6. We commend one Participating State for completing the accession negotiations with the EU. This will pave the way for signing the Accession Treaty before the end of 2011 and joining the EU as the 28<sup>th</sup> Member State as of 1 July 2013. This represents a strong incentive for the region and upholds the enlargement momentum.

3.7. We commended one Participating State for continued progress in the accession negotiations with the EU and taking good note of the achievements in its reform agenda, we expressed our strong support for carrying forward its accession process.

3.8. We warmly welcomed the initiation and strongly support the continuation of EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina appraising the results achieved so

far and sharing our firm belief that sustainable and mutually accepted outcomes to the issues of the agenda, previously agreed upon by the two sides, are possible to be found. In that sense, we jointly offer our assistance.

3.9. We commended one Participating State for being granted the EU candidate status and we expressed our expectations that the specific priorities will be addressed by this and one another Participating State with a view to enabling the opening of accession negotiations.

3.10. We appraised the efforts of the two SEECP Participating States aimed at finding a mutually acceptable solution to the name issue under the UN auspices. We took note of the 2009 and 2010 Council conclusions regarding one of the concerned SEECP Participating States. We expressed hope that the conditions set by the EU for this EU candidate be met for accession negotiations to start.

3.11. We welcomed the ratification of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement in the European Parliament, as well as the application for EU membership of one Participating State and commend its reforms record. We warmly welcomed recent significant progress concerning cooperation with the ICTY of that Participating State proving its willingness and readiness to abide by its international obligations thus encouraging the process for EU integration of that Participating State and constituting contribution to the process of reconciliation and confidence building in our region.

3.12. We took note of the progress by one Participating State in improving capacities to implement its European agenda based on 12 priorities specified by the EC in its November 9, 2010, Opinion on that Participating State's application for membership. We support the intention of the EU to open relevant programmes and prepare negotiation directives for various sectors provided that relevant requirements are met.

3.13. We took note of the efforts of one Participating State to move forward its European agenda by reaching durable settlement of political issues so that its institutional stability, on the basis of broad consensus, equality and mutually forthcoming dialogue, would ensure ability to adopt, implement and enforce the EU rules and we called upon the EU and international partners to continue to assist in achieving this goal.

3.14. We welcomed positive dynamics in the relation of one Participating State with the EU within the association agreement framework and we expressed conviction that marked progress will continue so as to enable further widening of cooperation areas.

3.15. We commended EU expanding its visa liberalization regime to two Participating States as of 8 November 2010, and recognized the overall progress and positive records on the movement of their citizens. We will continue to monitor its implementation with a view of raising awareness of our citizens of the scope and responsibilities of the visa-free regime. We will also work towards the visa free regime among the South East European countries and for free travel for citizens of MARRI Member States by using only biometric ID cards.

3.16. We supported the „open door“ policy of NATO to aspirant countries and underlined the importance of MAP as an instrument of bringing the aspiring countries closer to the Alliance. We commend the NATO determination to pursue its enlargement by extending further invitations to countries in the region provided that the required conditions are met and reforms successfully pursued.

3.17. We expressed our readiness to enhance and broaden our cooperation in defense and security sectors, including among others our joint contribution to international peace keeping missions so as to increase our input into the global security and through joint initiatives in education, exercises and other sectors.

3.18. We strongly condemned terrorism and all forms of violence and extremism, irrespective of their origin and motives.

3.19. Recognizing that the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) has reached a historic turning point where change is irreversible, it is essential for the governments to meet the peacefully expressed, legitimate aspirations of their peoples for reforms, greater democracy and fundamental rights and freedoms. We underlined that the territorial integrity, sovereignty, political unity and stability of the MENA countries, as well as their ethnic, religious and confessional diversities should be preserved. Stressing on the importance of local ownership, we concurred on the need for concerted and coordinated action of the international community to help steer orderly transition processes.

3.20. We also acknowledged that the enhancement of good governance and functional institutional alignments remain essential for the stability and economic and social progress and we will continue to work on deep and durable reforms and legislative and institutional adaptations in order to upgrade capacities necessary also for the EU accession.

3.21. We recognized the importance of political dialogue based on mutual respect and understanding, guided by the European standards, international principles and long-term strategic vision of the region, for addressing and resolving the remaining issues, including the one currently taking place under the EU facilitation, in the interest of peace, stability and development and to the benefit of our citizens.

#### **4. SEECP – RCC SYNERGY: COOPERATION AT WORK**

4.1. We praised the steps taken to enhance regional cooperation and strengthen regionally owned structures.

4.2. We reiterated that crucial role will continue to have the SEECP as the overarching political forum for directing the regional cooperation and setting the priority agendas with the RCC as its operational tool for guiding and monitoring regional cooperation.

4.3. We paid particular attention to the results achieved by the RCC in the implementation of the Strategy and Work Programme 2011 – 2013 from the last Summit, particularly in preparing the Regional Strategic Document 2011-2013 and the Action Plan in the area of Justice and Home Affairs adopted recently, preparing for the transfer of the Investment Committee for SEE from the OECD to the RCC, completing the transfer of the „Ljubljana Process“ from the Council of Europe to the RCC and the establishment of its Task Force for Culture and Society, the establishment of the Regional School for Public Administration (RESPA) and other successful results by the RCC as appraised also by the RCC Annual Meeting.

4.4. We called upon the donors community to continue with the assistance and support to the region in the light of the priority areas related to the implementation of RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013.

4.5. We appreciated the joint efforts of the Montenegrin Chairmanship-in-Office and the RCC undertaken within the framework of streamlining and coordination of task forces and initiatives in South East Europe. We called upon the RCC to continue the streamlining process initiated at our last summit through the set up of a coherent grid of task forces and initiatives affiliated to the RCC.

4.6. We took note of the fact that regional cooperation needs improvement in many sectors and areas, whereby solutions must be found to promote cooperation in trade, transportation, energy and other sectors and we expressed our readiness to work towards functional and pragmatic solutions.

4.7. We reconfirmed the inclusive character of regional cooperation processes in South East Europe and stressed the importance of active participation and contribution of all RCC members to relevant regional activities.

## **5. SEECP CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE OF MONTENEGRO**

5.1. We expressed our appreciation for the comprehensive and dynamic efforts of the Montenegrin Chairmanship-in-Office of SEECP for providing a targeted agenda of regional cooperation and we highly evaluated its implementation through a rich programme of events (listed in Annex) in the priority areas of our cooperation since the last Summit.

5.2. We praised the synergy established between the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office and the Regional Cooperation Council through regular coordination meetings with participation also of the European Union representatives, as a valuable platform to keep the regional cooperation and undergoing projects and initiatives within the broader European agenda.

## **6. THE INCOMING SEECP CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE**

6.1. We expressed our highest appreciation for the effectiveness and dynamism of the present Chairmanship-in-Office and we extended our warmest gratitude for the excellent organization of 14th Meeting of the SEECP Heads of State and Government in Budva on 30 June 2011 and complementary cultural event in Cetinje – Art Exhibition of eminent painters from SEECP Participating States: Individual poetics of Modernism: Art in South East Europe between Two World Wars.

6.2. We welcomed the incoming Chairmanship-in-Office by the Republic of Serbia and decided that next SEECP Summit will be held in Belgrade in June 2012.

6.3. We confirmed that after the conclusion of the 2011 – 2012 SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office, the following SEECP Summit will take place in Ohrid in June 2013 under the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office for the period of 2012-2013.

**Adopted in Budva on June 30, 2011**

## **ANNEX: SEECP CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE OF MONTENEGRO**

1. We highly appreciated four Meetings of Political Directors held on 10 September 2010 and 30 May 2011 in Podgorica, 27 January and 27 June 2011 in Budva, which demonstrated a strong commitment of the Participating States to cooperate in order to achieve common objectives on the European and Euro-Atlantic path.
2. We underlined the importance of four Coordination Meetings of the SEECP Troika with the Regional Cooperation Council and the European Commission held in Sarajevo on 16 September and 2 December 2010, 7 March and 11 May 2011.
3. We commended the Meeting of National Councils of the European Movements, held on 12 December 2010 in Podgorica organized in close cooperation with RCC.
4. We expressed our appreciation for the results and conclusions of the Meeting of Heads of Consular Services held on 19 January 2011 in Podgorica, which provided the significant value to the process of better coordination on visa issues.
5. We highly appreciated the importance of the Informal Meeting of SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs held on 28 January 2011 in Budva which gave a strong impetus for further cooperation and constructive dialogue among Participating States in concrete areas of common interest.
6. We praised the results of the Meeting of SEECP Ministers of Defense which was held on 14-15 March 2011 in Budva, in the light of joint efforts in fostering relations with the aim of ensuring peace, security and stability of entire region and welcomed the Joint Statement that was adopted at the Meeting.
7. We appreciated the relevance of the Meeting of SEECP Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs on 16-18 March 2011 in Budva and welcomed the adopted „Budva Declaration on strengthening regional cooperation and coordination in fight against organized crime in South-East Europe”. We also put particular emphasis on the Regional Strategic Document on Justice and Home Affairs 2011-2013 and the Action Plan for its implementation which was endorsed thereby.
8. We commended the results of the Meeting of Ministers for Sustainable Development and Energy on topic »Green Economy in the Energy Sector in the context of Sustainable Development« that was held on 8 April 2011 in Budva, which are reflected in the adopted Declaration.
9. We also commended the Meeting of SEECP General Directors for Emergency Management of South East Europe held on 20-22 April 2011 in Budva.
10. We welcomed the Constitutional Meeting of the Working Group of SEECP Parliamentary Dimension held on 6 May 2011 in Podgorica.

11. We underlined the importance of the Meeting of Directors of National Institutions and Agencies for Combating Corruption and Organized Crime, held on 9-10 May 2011 in Budva, in cooperation with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI).

12. We commended the Regional Conference on the topic: "Nuclear Energy-global trends and perspectives in South East Europe", held on 10-12 May 2011 in Podgorica.

13. We welcomed the second Meeting of SEECP Parliamentary Dimension Working Group held on 13 June 2011 in Budva.

14. We highly appreciated the Conference of Speakers of Parliaments of the SEECP Participating States, which was held on 13-15 June 2011 in Budva, and commended the adopted Declaration, as well as the Report of the activities of the Parliamentary Dimension Working Group.