



**Statement on SEE Energy Summit in Zagreb,
made by Ambassador Vladimir Matek,
at the Permanent Council, June 28, 2007. ,
Agenda item 1 (Current Issues)**

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the group of the countries whose Heads of States took part in the regional Energy Summit held in Zagreb Sunday 24 of June, and having in mind that in this last period our organization is also dealing with the issue, my Delegation wish to inform shortly the Permanent Council on this important meeting.

At the invitation of Croatian President Stjepan Mesić, the Summit gathered Presidents of Albania, of the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina, of Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia. The President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin took part as a special guest. The representatives of Greece and Slovenia, as well as of the European Commission followed the meeting either.

All the participants in this Energy Summit agreed that the security of energy supply and the integration of the regional energy market are necessary to ensure high economic growth rates and reduce unemployment in Southeast Europe.

Southeast Europe being an important intersection of energy routes from manufacturing countries to end buyers, connecting energy systems and further investing in the energy infrastructure is important not only for reducing energy deficits in the majority of the region's countries, but is an important political issue as well. There is no more doubt about the relationship between the need to make energy and energy sources always available to everyone and the necessity to prevent climate changes and our environment.

The participants also stressed the importance of the close cooperation with the EU and the Russian Federation in this field.

The Heads of States from the region said energy cooperation was only one of the areas of cooperation in the region sharing the common strategic goal of Euro-Atlantic integration.

Thank You Mr. Chairman.