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Conference Services

At the request of the OSCE Delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the attached statement in response to the presentation by the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council delivered to the 950th Meeting of the Permanent Council on 2 May 2013 is being distributed to all OSCE delegations.



DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TO THE OSCE

May 2, 2013

Ambassador Zoran Dabik

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Macedonia to the OSCE

Statement in response to the presentation by the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council Mr. Goran Svilanovic

Thank you Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the Macedonian Chairmanship in Office of the South East European Cooperation Process, and all members of the SEECP (Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Bulgaria, Republic of Greece, Republic of Turkey, Romania, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Croatia, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Slovenia and Montenegro) I would like to join others in welcoming the current Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council to the PC and congratulating his proactive and diligent stewardship of the Regional Cooperation Council.

I would like to underline the priorities and to point at the scoreboard of the assumed activities of the Macedonian Chairmanship in Office of the South East European Cooperation Process.

We firmly believe in the principles of all-inclusiveness and regional ownership of the overall process of cooperation in South East Europe. The activities and the endeavors of the SEECP represent a joint venture of the all member states.

As you are aware, the RCC is a regional initiative officially launched at the Ministerial Meeting of the SEECP in Sofia on 27 February 2008 and represents a significant platform for coordination and facilitation of our common endeavors. As regional cooperation is an inevitable prerequisite for our European and Euro-Atlantic future, the RCC with its operational capacities and expertise represents major catalyst for the implementation of the political undertakings of SEECP.

We are chairing the SEECP for the second time in the history of the oldest autochthonous regional initiative in this part of Europe. Regional cooperation represents our important foreign policy priority as it promotes further development, stability, prosperity, and peace of the region. Regional cooperation provides a unique opportunity, through concrete projects, to enhance and deepen the cooperation in various fields. Speaking with one voice is crucial for the future of the region. Moreover, many of the undertaken projects and initiatives at the SEECP coincide with the priorities and policies deriving from the three inter-related dimensions of the OSCE, which inspired us to talk about the priorities of the Macedonian Chairmanship in Office of the SEECP.

Our Chairmanship is primarily focused on development of good-neighborliness and regional cooperation, with an end goal - integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic organizations of the aspiring countries.

I am very glad that during our Chairmanship, we all witnessed two very important developments:

1. As we all pay particular importance to ‘‘all inclusiveness’’ principle, we are glad that during the Macedonian Chairmanship, we all decided for full participation of Kosovo¹ in the Regional Cooperation Council. This is a significant progress for all of us, which is acknowledged by the European Union.
2. Substantial progress achieved between Belgrade and Priština, so far. We welcome the recently initialed agreement, which opens the doors for normalization of the relations between the two parties.

Our motto is ‘‘Solidarity in action’’, which depicts the idea that all countries from the region will be dedicated to reforms and prosperity.

The thematic SEECF summit will be dedicated to disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, which penetrates in issues stemming from the second, but also from other dimensions of our Organization.

Our priorities in the framework of the SEECF also include promotion of:

- the principle of all-inclusiveness in the regional cooperation, with an aim to provide conditions for even socio-economic development in the region;
- the preparedness and protection from natural and man-made disasters, including by increased seismological cooperation;
- environmental cooperation with an aim of reduction of direct causes for environmental and climate change;
- regional approach in the field of protection and management of water resources based on already developed successful models, including by promotion of the UNESCO University Campus on Waters;
- cultural and religious diversities in SEE, including by commemorating 100 years of the Balkan wars and the Holocaust by organizing regional conference in Skopje at the Museum of the Victims of Holocaust;
- regional approach in defense cooperation for the purpose of development of the preparedness and sustainable continuity in the defense capabilities according to the NATO standards, as promoted by the concept applied at RACVIAC, and moreover
- promotion of the principles of good-neighborliness, regional cooperation and reconciliation through intensification of the political, security, trade, people to people cultural, educational and other cooperation in the region, with an aim to provide conditions for further socio-economic development and progress in the European and Euro-Atlantic integration;

As you can easily notice these priorities are closely related to the priorities and policies deriving from the OSCE comprehensive concept of security. In the past 11 months in cooperation with the other member states, we gave our best to put words into practice by organizing and re-convening series of informal and formal meetings, Ministerial and other conferences, as well as inauguration of specific initiatives and policies. I strongly believe that by doing this our Chairmanship continued the practice and added to the records of previous chairmanships by contributing to regional collaboration, but also to the regional input in correlation with OSCE commitments and values.

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

At the end, I would like to inform the Council that the closing meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the SEECP Member States and the closing Summit of the Macedonian SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office will take place in Ohrid from 29 of May to 1 of June this year.

Finally, allow me to once again reiterate our full support to you, dear Goran and your able team in Sarajevo. We are more than convinced in your capabilities in advancing the regional cooperation agenda and ensuring even greater visibility of the RCC.

I thank you Mr. Chair