



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

**BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
OF THE REGIONAL  
COOPERATION COUNCIL**

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

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## **I. Introduction**

This report on the activities of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Secretariat is submitted by the Secretary General of the RCC to the RCC Board in line with Article 10 of the Statute of the RCC. It covers the period between 20 May 2008, when the last meeting of the RCC Board took place in Pomorie, and 1 October 2008.

Having achieved full operational capacity and having recruited majority of staff, in the period following the meeting of the RCC Board held on 20 May 2008 in Pomorie, the RCC Secretariat focused on the consolidation of its operations and activities with special emphasis on the implementation of the Strategic Work Programme of the RCC 2008 – 2009.

In the reporting period, the RCC Secretariat embarked on a process of dialogue and concrete cooperation with all the main stakeholders in the region, starting from the European Commission, international organisations and relevant International Financial Institutions and EU and non-EU donor countries. The Secretary General of the RCC and other officials of the RCC Secretariat also participated in a number of meetings, conferences and other events of relevance for regional cooperation in South East Europe. A complete list of events is attached to this Report as Annex I.

## **II. Completion of the transition process from the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe to the RCC**

In the period between the beginning of the year and the end of May 2008, a number of joint activities and initiatives were undertaken jointly by the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and the Secretary General of the RCC. They held high-level and working-level consultations as part of the transition process, including consultations with the officials of the European Commission, international financial institutions and other relevant international partners such as main financial contributors to the RCC Secretariat's budget.

Together with the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, Secretary General of the RCC paid a visit to the United States of America on 29 and 30 May 2008 where he held talks with the officials of the State Department focusing on the support of the United States to the development projects and initiatives to be promoted by the RCC. They also held talks with the Vice President of the World Bank and representatives of USAID, with whom concrete areas of cooperation to be developed jointly were discussed.

As part of the final transition, a number of staff-to-staff meetings between the experts of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and the RCC Secretariat took place, including a training session for RCC experts organized by the European Commission from 26 to 28 May 2008 in Brussels. This training session provided an excellent opportunity to the

RCC Secretariat's experts and other officials of the RCC Secretariat to liaise with their interlocutors in the EU institutions, NATO, the World Bank and other relevant Brussels-based institutions and to discuss issues of relevance for mutual cooperation.

The period of joint activity of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and the RCC Secretariat ensured smooth transition and continued engagement of all the partners necessary for enhancing regional cooperation in South East Europe. The support and guidance of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe have been of particular value through the overall transition process. In this period the RCC and its Secretariat have affirmed their role as the key interlocutor of the European Union and other international partners concerning issues of relevance for the development and strengthening of regional cooperation in South East Europe. As of the beginning of June 2008, with the cessation of substantial activities of the Office of the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the RCC Secretariat has commenced with its substantial activities independently, with emphasis on the implementation of the RCC Strategic Work Programme 2008-2009 and other specific tasks and activities arising out of the Statute of the RCC.

### **III. Political consultations with the RCC members from South East Europe and development of cooperation in the RCC framework**

In the aftermath of the Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the SEECP Participating States and the RCC Board meeting held in Pomorie in May 2008, the Secretary General of the RCC initiated a series of political consultations with the senior representatives of the RCC members from South East Europe in order to discuss relevant issues concerning the modalities of development and strengthening of regional cooperation in South East Europe in the coming period.

The first round of consultations started with the Republic of Moldova as the Chairmanship-in-Office of the SEECP on 16 June 2008. The Secretary General of the RCC held meetings with the President of the Republic of Moldova as well as with Ministers responsible for defence, justice, interior, education and youth, economy and trade. The discussion on the RCC priorities concentrated on the implementation of the RCC Strategic Work Programme 2008-2009, the implementation of conclusions of the Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the SEECP Participating States held in Pomorie in May 2008 as well as on the agenda of the SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office by the Republic of Moldova.

In the framework of political consultations with the RCC members from South East Europe, the Secretary General of the RCC also held talks with Ministers and senior officials from Bulgaria (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs), Serbia (State Secretary), Greece (Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs) and Montenegro (Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign

Affairs). Political consultations with UNMIK on behalf of Kosovo in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 took place on 1 October 2008 in Pristina.

***Regional presentations of the RCC and its activities in the capitals of the RCC members from South East Europe.*** Pursuant to the discussions held at the meeting of the Committee of Political Directors of the SEECP Participating States held in Pomorie on 19 and 20 May 2008 as well as at the Meeting of the RCC National Coordinators from South East Europe held in Sarajevo on 30 June 2008, the RCC Secretariat initiated a series of regional presentations of the RCC and its activities in the capitals of the RCC members from South East Europe.

Regional presentations are taking place in the period from 1 October until mid-December 2008 in the capitals in order to acquaint senior and mid-ranking representatives as well as experts from the Governments, ministries and agencies, chambers of commerce, unions of employers, trade unions and other relevant interlocutors with the RCC's mission, priorities and activities. Besides presentation of the envisaged RCC activities, the events will provide an opportunity to establish direct contacts between the RCC experts in five priority areas (Economic and Social Development, Infrastructure and Energy, Justice and Home Affairs, Security Cooperation, Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues) with relevant interlocutors in RCC members from South East Europe and facilitate the overall discussion on the concrete and targeted proposals for enhancing regional cooperation.

The first in the series of presentations was held in the Republic of Moldova, as the Chairmanship-in-Office of the SEECP on 1 October 2008.

#### **IV. Cooperation with other regional organizations and initiatives and partners**

The Secretary General of the RCC participated in the Coordination Meeting of regional organizations organized by the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Permanent Secretariat in Istanbul on 31 March 2008.

The Regional Coordination Meeting held on 31 March 2008 brought together representatives of secretariats of the BSEC, Central European Initiative (CEI) and RCC as well as the representatives of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the SEECP and the Presidency of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative who discussed areas and means of interaction and agreed that holding of annual coordination meetings would be beneficial for streamlining their respective activities and synergising efforts.

Building on the conclusions and results of the above-mentioned Coordination Meeting as well as on the Conference on Regional Cooperation, Opportunities, Challenges and Synergies organised by the Republic of Moldova, as a holder of both Chairmanship-in-Office of the SEECP and the Presidency of the CEI, on 17 June 2008 in Chisinau, it was decided that the next Regional Coordination Meeting was going to be organised by the RCC Secretariat in Sarajevo on 13 October 2008. This will be an additional forum by

means of which the RCC Secretariat will address the issue of coordinating activities, avoiding duplication and overlaps and achieving synergy.

A delegation of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) officials headed by the UNECE Secretary General paid a working visit to the RCC Secretariat on 2 June 2008 as a follow up to the meeting between the Secretary General of the RCC and the UNECE Secretary General held on 27 February 2008 in Sofia, on the margins of the Inaugural Meeting of the RCC. The main topic of the meeting was identifying areas of cooperation in the fields of energy, water resources, transport, trade, environment, gender and social issues as priority areas shared by both UNECE and the RCC.

The Secretary General of the RCC also paid a visit to the CEI Executive Secretariat in Trieste on 12 June 2008 in order to discuss cooperation between the CEI and RCC as well as between the two secretariats. Follow-up of the consultations with the CEI Executive Secretariat is planned to take place in the premises of the RCC Secretariat in Sarajevo in the beginning of November. This will be an opportunity to continue discussions on cooperation in the fields of energy, economic and social issues and building human capital.

The cooperation with the World Bank initiated during the visit of the Secretary General of the RCC to Washington at the end of May 2008 (jointly with the former Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe) received follow-up on 16 July 2008 when the Vice-President of the World Bank visited the RCC Secretariat to discuss possibilities for joint activities in the field of disaster protection and prevention, water resources, economic and social development and human capital.

## **V. Cooperation with the EU**

The RCC Secretariat has established active cooperation with the European Commission, in particular with the relevant services of the Directorate General for Enlargement, in the framework of the programming of the Multi-beneficiary IPA Programme and the elaboration of possible regional projects to be submitted for financing under this important pre-accession instrument. The autumn Multi-beneficiary IPA Coordination Meeting, organized by the European Commission, will be hosted by the RCC Secretariat in Sarajevo on 9 and 10 October 2008 and will represent an opportunity to commence the process of discussion among IPA beneficiaries and the RCC Secretariat on the development of possible models for elaboration of relevant project to be potentially financed under the Multi-beneficiary IPA Programme.

The officials of the RCC Secretariat established close working contacts with relevant services and officials of the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission and participated on a regular basis in IPA Multi-beneficiary Coordination related meetings (18 January 2008, 6-7 March 2008, 22-23 May 2008).

With a view to fulfill the objective from the RCC Strategic Work Programme 2008-2009 and to inform the EU member States on the development of the activities within the RCC framework, the RCC Secretariat representative briefed the EU Council Working Group on Western Balkans (COWEB) on 24 April 2008 and 12 June 2008, while the RCC Secretary General briefed the representatives of the EU member States participating in the COWEB Capital meeting on 14 May 2008. In addition to this, the Secretary General participated in the Donors' Conference on Kosovo, organized by the European Commission, which took place in Brussels on 11 July 2008.

Both practices of briefing the COWEB and participating in Western Balkans and South East Europe related events, organized under the auspices of the EU and the Presidency of the EU Council are deemed to be of particular importance and benefit for the region and their continuation will be pursued and advocated by the RCC Secretariat with the relevant EU institutions.

In the framework of contacts with the Presidencies of the EU Council, the Secretary General of the RCC met with the officials of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the French Republic on 26 June 2008, with the aim to ensure the focus of the current French Presidency of the EU Council on South East Europe and regional cooperation processes, including the RCC activities, as well as to promote the European perspective of the Western Balkans. He also wrote to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the current French and incoming Czech and Swedish Presidencies of the EU Council on this subject.

In order to discuss issues related to the development and strengthening of regional cooperation in South East Europe and the concrete aspects of cooperation between the RCC and the incoming Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, the RCC Secretary General met on 18 September 2008 in Prague with the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for EU Affairs as well as with the First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

Both current French and incoming Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU expressed full support to the development of regional cooperation processes and the activities of the RCC and its Secretariat. Incoming Czech Presidency has also confirmed that the activities related to regional cooperation in South East Europe, in particular those in the RCC framework will have a prominent place on the Presidency agenda.

The Secretary General of the RCC held on 19 September 2008 in Brussels a meeting with the Deputy Director General in the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission. The meeting focused on issues of coordination of activities in respect of regional cooperation in South East Europe as well as on the development of possible concrete and targeted projects within the RCC framework.

## **VI. Process of networking among RCC National Coordinators from South East Europe, RCC Secretariat, European Commission and relevant international financial institutions**

The objective of this initiative is to establish a framework for the coordination and follow-up of the most important projects as well as for the future permanent networking between the RCC National Coordinators, the RCC Secretariat and the representatives of relevant services of the European Commission and international financial institutions with regard to the identified regional priorities.

This approach necessitates a system of direct and constant circulation of information among national coordinators, project and initiative managements and international financial and economic institutions in order to avoid overlapping and misspending of resources and establish complementarity with other regions' activities in which the RCC members from South East Europe are also involved.

The first meeting in the format of the RCC National Coordinators from South East Europe was held on 30 June 2008 in the premises of the RCC Secretariat in Sarajevo. More detailed information about the meeting and its preliminary results as well as on the overall process of networking is available in the Information paper circulated to the members of the RCC Board.

The importance of this process for regional cooperation and further advancement of the region warrants an additionally empowered position of RCC National Coordinators within national governmental structures.

In this respect, the Secretary General of the RCC proposed in a letter addressed to the Prime Ministers of SEECP Participating States and to the UN Special Representative in Kosovo/Head of UNMIK, that the RCC National Coordinators should have authority to monitor different regional cooperation activities of the respective ministries and departments in connection to the implementation of projects and initiatives.

## **VII. Coordination and streamlining of regional initiatives and structures**

In accordance with the RCC Strategic Work Programme 2008 – 2009 and the Statute of the RCC, one of the tasks of the RCC Secretariat is to work on the establishment of structured and transparent relationships with task forces and initiatives in South East Europe, with particular emphasis on the five priority areas of the RCC activities. The establishment of such structured relationships is aimed at the avoidance of unnecessary duplication and overlapping of activities and has received support both from the RCC members from the region as well as from European and other international partners.

In this respect, the RCC Secretariat has initiated a process of coordination and streamlining of relevant regional initiatives in South East Europe active in five priority areas of the RCC activities. The commencement of this process has been marked by the organisation of the Coordination Conference of South East Europe Initiatives on Justice and Home Affairs, held in Sarajevo on 15 and 16 September 2008. The aim of the conference was to assess the status, scope, objectives, goals and domain of activities of the regional initiatives active in the field of justice and home affairs and attempt to define priority areas of cooperation from the perspective of the EU integration process. Enhancing coordination and coherence, avoiding overlapping, fragmentation and duplication as well as clarifying the relations and strengthening the contacts between regional initiatives and task forces and the international institutions, bodies, and donors will also be pursued in other priority areas.

## **VIII. Priority Areas of the RCC Activities**

The five priority areas (economic and social development; energy and infrastructure; justice and home affairs; security cooperation; and building human capital) represent the basic work of the RCC Secretariat. In the reporting period, since the RCC became fully operational, under each of these objectives the RCC focused on the following activities, with emphasis on the implementation of the Strategic Work Programme of the RCC 2008 - 2009.

### **I. Economic and Social Development**

During the reporting period, the Economic and Social Development Unit (ESD) of the RCC focused on developing working relationships with regional socioeconomic initiatives inherited from the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, as well as making contacts with existing and potential international partners in the socio-economic development realm. Due in part to the excellent hand-over organized by Working Table II of the Stability Pact, but also as a result of extensive travel and attendance at international events, the RCC Secretariat has now developed effective links with all relevant partners, and has begun shaping follow-up action on numerous initiatives, including investment facilitation in cooperation with the OECD, trade in cooperation with the SECIPRO network, promotion of eGovernance together with the Centre for eGovernance Development, and employment policy in cooperation with the ILO and Council of Europe.

In the area of **investment facilitation and SME development**, a strong working relationship was developed with the OECD Investment Compact for Southeast Europe. Following the attendance of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Investment Compact's SEE Investment Committee in Paris on 23 May 2008, the RCC Secretariat and the OECD agreed to collaborate on two key OECD initiatives: the Investment Reform Index 2009, and the Regional Competitiveness Initiative. As a result, on 17-18 September 2008 the RCC Secretariat hosted the IRI 2009 kick-off meeting in Sarajevo, where experts of the OECD briefed economic teams of the RCC members from South East Europe on the intent and



methodology of the new IRI – an event which received extensive media coverage throughout the region. The RCC Secretariat and the OECD have also since finalized preparations on the launching of the OECD’s new study on “Sector Specific Sources of Competitiveness in the Western Balkans,” which will take place at the RCC Secretariat in early October. The study comprises the first phase of the European Commission-funded/OECD implemented Regional Competitiveness project. The RCC Secretariat contributed to the development of the second (implementation) phase of the project by preparing a comprehensive overview of South East European ministries engaged in economic and human capital development, and their current initiatives aimed at improving competitiveness, upgrading skills, and developing an information society. This research will serve as a basis for further exploratory work on how such national structures could best be engaged in a regional competitiveness initiative. The RCC Secretariat further provided its inputs to the European Commission’s proposed way forward on this project.

In the area of **trade**, the work of the RCC Secretariat initially focused on the establishment of the CEFTA Secretariat in Brussels.

Bearing in mind that the implementation of CEFTA requires strong practical support as well as a strong monitoring mechanism - especially in the Agreement’s early stages – the RCC Secretariat has collaborated with the Coordinator of the SECIPRO network to develop a project proposal for the network’s support to the implementation of CEFTA. The proposal was presented to the European Commission’s DG Enlargement by the RCC Secretary General on 19 September 2008 for preliminary consideration and comments. The RCC Secretariat has also presented the proposal to the OECD Investment Compact some of whose contributing members have expressed an interest in providing aid for trade.

Having made contact with the UNDP-funded Secretariat of the **Electronic South East Europe Initiative (eSEE)** and attended meetings of the eSEE Working Group and Broadband South East Europe (bSEE) Task Force in Cavtat, Croatia on 23-24 June 2008, the RCC Secretariat has made preparations for the Initiative’s next sessions to be held at the RCC Secretariat's premises in October 2008. These are to be held in conjunction with the meeting of the Programme Advisory Committee of the newly established Centre for eGovernance Development (CeGD) to which the RCC Secretariat has invited the region’s countries to nominate their representatives. The RCC Secretariat also provided extensive assistance to CeGD in developing its project proposal aimed at securing funding for the Centre.

On 20 June 2008, the representatives of the RCC Secretariat attended the meeting of high level officials on Cooperation on **Employment and Social Policy** in South East Europe, organized under the auspices of the Council of Europe and the International Labour Organization in Sarajevo. As a follow-up to the Bucharest Employment Process, the aim of the gathering was to determine the next steps that would lead to the implementation of recommendations arising from the Country Reviews of Employment Policy performed in the context of the Bucharest Process, as well as to discuss the possibility of establishing a

secretariat for the initiative in Sarajevo. In the meantime, the RCC Secretariat has begun the preparation of a detailed questionnaire to be sent to participating countries in order to ascertain the best and most realistic way forward on implementation. The RCC Secretariat has also invited the European Commission, ILO, and Council of Europe to hold consultations on this matter.

In the realm of **social dialogue**, the RCC Secretariat has made contact with nearly all relevant stakeholders, including the South East Europe Trade Union Forum, the International Organization of Employers, and the International Trade Union Confederation. The representatives of the RCC Secretariat attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> South East Europe Trade Union Forum in Zagreb on 29 September 2008, and presented the RCC Strategic Work Program 2008-2009.

In the domain of **health**, having attended the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SEE Health Network in Chisinau, Moldova on 30-31 May 2008, the RCC Secretariat has familiarized itself with the work of the network. It is currently in dialogue with key members of the network with a view to determining the optimal means of RCC Secretariat's support to its work.

## **II. Energy and Infrastructure**

During the reporting period, the Energy and Infrastructure Unit of the RCC Secretariat (EIU) focused on stock taking, preparation of the Strategic Work Programme 2008-2009 and process of taking over of responsibilities from the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (two handover meetings took place in Brussels and Sarajevo). The EIU also contributed to various regional meetings and events presenting its part of the Strategic Work Programme 2008-2009 and position concerning the future regional priorities (2<sup>nd</sup> South East Europe Energy Dialogue, WEC Regional Energy Forum, Croatia Summit 2008 etc.). These events were used for comprehensive consultations with the relevant stakeholders in relation to the RCC Secretariat's intention to launch an initiative on sustainable energy development in the region in compliance with the Strategic Work Programme 2008-2009.

The RCC Secretariat's representatives participated in the IFIAG Working Group on Energy and gave its contribution to profiling the Conclusions of the Group. The EIU participated in the official meetings and workshops organized by the Energy Community Secretariat. These events included workshops on Electricity Investments in the Energy Community and on the Implementation of the Energy Community Treaty (ECT), meetings of Maribor Forum, Athens Forum, Energy Community Energy Efficiency Task Force, Joint Working Group on Gas Infrastructure and Regulation, Permanent High level Group and the Ministerial Council. Respecting the importance of the Social dimension of the Energy Community a meeting with the EPSU high official took place as well.

Staff-to-Staff meeting with the UN ECE experts put particular emphasis on the cooperation in energy, transport and environmental areas and follow up activities were agreed upon in that respect.

Communication with the CEI representatives has been established and meetings with the representatives of the USAID, IEA and the World Bank were also held with the aim of exploring the areas of future cooperation.

The representatives of the RCC Secretariat participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Western Balkans Civil Society Forum, presented the RCC and its Secretariat, the role of the civil society in Energy Community Treaty implementation and contributed in drafting the event conclusions. In addition, participation in the Energy Security in Europe Roundtable organized by Freedom House Europe enabled contacts with several civil society actors that will approach the RCC with concrete proposals for cooperation.

Recognizing the role of sustainable use and integrated management of water resources, the RCC Secretariat established communication with the ISRBC and agreed on the future cooperation and joint preparation of the Water Conference.

Regarding bilateral communication with the RCC members from South East Europe the RCC Secretariat delivered technical assistance to the Ministry for Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning the development of Energy Strategy and the accession to relevant regional energy organizations as well as to the Ministry for Development of Montenegro in relation to establishment of the Energy Efficiency Agency and accession to relevant energy organizations. Additionally, the RCC Secretariat assisted in elaborating the needed contacts.

During the reporting period, the RCC Secretariat concentrated on strengthening relations with the key infrastructure partners i.e. Energy Community Secretariat (ECS), South East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO) and Regional Environmental Center (REC) in order to ensure complementarity. Preparations for the organization of a transport event with UNECE and SEETO have started; preliminary concept for the Parliamentarians workshop that would gather representatives of the regional parliamentary committees in charge of energy, alongside the ECS active participation, has been already prepared and the approach to organize a series of environmental conferences in cooperation with REC, starting with the one dedicated to Combating Climate Change in South East Europe is being considered.

### **III. Justice and Home Affairs**

During the reporting period, Justice and Home Affairs Unit of the RCC Secretariat focused to support the regional initiatives in raising their visibility and contribution to the performance of the regional judicial cooperation. The RCC Secretariat started to analyze the state of affairs in each of the present six regional initiatives, and to identify measures able to enhance their coordination and coherence, avoiding overlapping, fragmentation and duplication. To this end, the RCC Secretariat organized the **1<sup>st</sup> Coordination Conference SEE Regional initiatives and international organizations active in JHA area**, in Sarajevo, from 15 to 16 September 2008.

The Coordination Conference matched the resources and capabilities of the South East European environment in which the six regional initiatives in the field of justice and home affairs operate, identified and prioritized some of the problems, clarified the relations and strengthened the contacts between regional initiatives and key international organizations.

On the basis of the Conference findings, the RCC Secretariat has acquired realistic and updated information on the current status of the regional cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs. Main fields of regional cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs have been identified and prioritized: immigration, asylum, visas, police, justice and criminal law reforms, anticorruption and fighting organized crime, are among the topics of greatest public concern.

Recognizing the direct link between regional ownership and regional responsibility, and the role of the RCC Secretariat, the participants at the Conference presented their opinion on future development of cooperation and exchange of information. To that extent the participants concluded that a follow up process is needed and:

- a) JHA Regional Initiatives and the RCC should continue to work on harmonizing and improving closer cooperation, identifying specific coordination mechanisms.
- b) The RCC should take over the facilitation and coordination role in supporting JHA Regional Initiatives.
- c) The RCC will assist the implementation of joint JHA regional projects where at least 2 initiatives are involved.
- d) The RCC should organize an annual JHA Coordination meeting as platform for the Regional Initiatives to report the progress of cooperation and project achievements.
- e) JHA Regional Initiatives should inform the RCC Secretariat regularly about development steps and initiate information exchange.
- f) The RCC should maintain and update a directory of the Regional Initiatives active in JHA area of South East Europe.

On the margins of the 1<sup>st</sup> JHA Coordination Conference, the development of mutual assistance and technical cooperation in the area of Justice and Home Affairs, between the RCC Secretariat and UNODC has been addressed.

The RCC Secretariat actively participated in the establishment of a new regional cooperation structure - the **Secretariat of the Police Cooperation Convention for South East Europe** located in Ljubljana, which began its activity at the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008. The project started on 1 September 2008 and has duration of 24 months. The total amount of the project is €2,000,000 and the European Commission undertakes to finance 100% of the total eligible costs. The project supports the planning and implementation of International Law Enforcement Co-ordination Units in each of the CARDS countries with a view to i) support the exchange of information in international investigations and ii) facilitate contacts on an operational level.

The RAI and the RCC Secretariat developed a project on the **integrity and resistance to corruption of the judicial system in South East Europe**. The project starts in 2009 and has to assess, at national and regional levels:

- the experience gathered by the criminal law practitioners - judges, prosecutors and police officers - in investigating, prosecuting and trailing high level corruption;
- the existence of corruption phenomenon and corruption typologies in criminal law enforcement professional activity
- the vulnerabilities to corruption and to improper influences of the judges, prosecutors and police officers dealing with high level corruption

The representatives of the RCC Secretariat participated at the Western Balkans Security Conference of the Salzburg Forum and the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference on the South East European Police Cooperation Convention Execution Programme organized by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior, Vienna 16 – 18 July 2008, which gave important inputs for bi- and multilateral cross-border police cooperation, fostering of regional initiatives in South East Europe, launching the Intercultural Dialogue and Internal Security Project by the summer of 2009.

The Head of Justice and Home Affairs Unit participated at the **Regional Co-ordination Meeting on Multi-Beneficiary IPA 2008 Programmes**, 21 – 23 May 2008, held in Istanbul, contributing to brainstorming on priorities and future programming under Multi-beneficiary IPA Programme 2009, enhancing regional ownership and participation and participating in the finalization of draft project fiches on: *“Fight against terrorism, organised crime, financial crime and drug trafficking”* and *“Regional support to strengthen the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative - SECI Regional Centre's capacity in the fight against serious and organised crime”*.

The RCC Secretary General and the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact and SECI attended the Meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> **SECI Centre Joint Cooperation Committee**, held in Bucharest, 5-6 June 2008. During several meetings with Europol representatives and SECI Centre Director, the RCC Secretariat supported SECI in formalizing cooperation and coordination with Europol.

The RCC Secretariat continued to assist the **Migration, Asylum and Refugee Regional Initiative (MARRI)** and Regional Centre in Skopje. A meeting between the MARRI Director and the RCC Secretary General took place in Sarajevo on 3 September 2008, with the aim of developing cooperation and discussing possible joint projects.

The RCC Secretariat assisted the Secretariat of **the Regional Anticorruption Initiative (RAI)** in taking measures ensuring: sustainability, achievement of practical results, fostering the impact following the dissemination of anti-corruption best practice and lessons learned and identifying new priorities as combating high level corruption more efficiently.

#### IV. Security Cooperation

Activities of the Security Cooperation Unit of the RCC Secretariat (SCU) were focused on the smooth transition from the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe in respect of the functioning Task Forces and Initiatives – RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation, Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative (DPPI) and South Eastern and Eastern European Clearing House for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), as well as on finding common ground and cooperation mechanisms between major stakeholders in the regional defense and security cooperation, in particular with South East European Defense Ministerial (SEDM). The RCC Secretariat's efforts are focused on avoiding possible duplication of activities, concentrating Task Forces and increasing efficiency of the cooperation and coordination among regional programs, including through their appropriate endorsement to the EU, NATO and the whole donor community.

The RCC Secretariat provided assistance to **RACVIAC** for its successful transformation in a Center for Security Cooperation with a new structure and legal status adapted to regional countries requirements and building its fully regional ownership concept.

The RCC Secretariat concentrated on increasing cooperation with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the EC Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative. Active support was given to the **DPPI** Chair-in-Office in preparing Strategy and Action Plan, as well as in addressing legal and administrative issues for the DPPI Secretariat. SEECP Ministerial Conference, in April 2008, agreed that the DPPI will remain the coordinating body of the activities in an effort to contribute to the development of a cohesive regional strategy for disaster preparedness and prevention. The RCC Secretariat actively worked with the DPPI Chair-in-Office and the DPPI Secretariat on the establishment of legal framework concerning institutional relations between the RCC Secretariat and the DPPI, with a view to signing the Protocol on institutional and financial issues between the two institutions.

The RCC Secretariat actively worked on the conclusion of a new agreement with UNDP extending **SEESAC** activities and transforming them to community violence prevention conceptual approach. The General Secretariat of the EU Council was tasked by CODUM to follow up with this request. Full support was given to SEESAC for its application for the EU funding.

Country visits were accomplished and bilateral working relations established with relevant representatives of national institutions. In cooperation with the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary cooperation, the World Bank, NGOs and SEE countries' institutions joint initiatives are under development. Extensive discussions with relevant actors were held in relation to the possible establishment of the **Southeastern-Central Europe Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility resulting in the Southeast Europe Catastrophe Insurance Facility Regional Conference**, organised in cooperation with the World Bank, which will be held in Zurich on 23 and 24 October 2008. Extensive consultations were also held concerning the establishment of a Forum of Heads of Security Institutions, Security Experts in Parliamentary Staff and Defense establishments Working Groups and Forum of Women serving in the Armed Forces.

The RCC Secretariat has also actively worked on the elaboration of the project on the establishment of the South East Europe Regional Fire-Fighting Centre (SEEFREC). The development of the final project concept is to be expected in the final quarter of 2008, upon the consultations with the potential international partners including relevant IFIs.

## **V. Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues**

In the field of **Building Human Capital** (BHC) the RCC Secretariat established contacts with the Education Reform Initiative of SEE and Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkans and supported constitution of the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital, chaired by Romania and Co-Chaired by Austria and Croatia. The Task Force is supposed to provide cooperation and coordination framework for its founding members in the field of human resources: ministers responsible for education, science and research in SEE, ERI SEE, and Steering Platform on Research for the Western Balkans and the RCC.

The RCC is backing the Task Force BHC **Mobility Programme for Capacity-Building in Regional Cooperation Management**. The programme is designed as a support measure to avoid potential shortages on middle-level civil servants who are acquainted with and capable of managing regional activities and programmes in education, science and research, and acting as contact points for the existing networks of cooperation.

The RCC Secretariat has been involved in channelling the project idea on the establishment of Regional Research Strategy, which has been endorsed by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. The project will be presented at the IPA Multi-Beneficiary Programme Coordination Meeting, which will take place in the premises of the RCC Secretariat, 9-10 October 2008.

The RCC Secretariat presented its BHC plan of activities at the Regional High Level Conference on Human Resource Development, held on 25-26 May 2008, in Sofia, and supported signing of the Sofia Declaration encouraging regional cooperation regarding human resources development as one of the most important elements of employment and social policy. The Conference was organized, together with DG Employment, Social Policy and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission.

The RCC Secretariat presented its activities and working plans in the BHC area at the Meeting of the Ministers of Education from South Eastern Europe, held on 5 June 2008, in Oslo, as a side event on the occasion of the Informal Conference of European Ministers of Education on The Institutional Foundations for Dialogue and Respect. The participants in the side meeting were the Ministers of Education of the SEE region, including Moldova, as well as the EU Presidency, the European Commission, and the Norwegian hosts. The meeting was focused on the current state of affairs with regard to Building Human Capital in the region, and its result was a joint regional statement which on the

one hand heavily refers to the new possibilities within the RCC, and on the other tried to relate to the content of the conference itself.

At the Constituent Meeting of the RCC Task Force Building and Fostering Human Capital, held on 13 June 2008, in Ljubljana, as a side event on the occasion of the Meeting of the Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkan Countries, the RCC Secretariat took part as a founding member and presented its priority area Building Human Capital.

At the IFI AG Working Group on Social Sectors held on 17 June 2008, the RCC Secretariat presented its main activities related to BHC and took part in the discussion on related issues in the context of adopted framework of close cooperation between the RCC and IFI AG. Several new issues were raised like full participation of South East Europe in EU education benchmarking, establishment of independent regional forums of experts in some specific fields, facilitation of the emerging regional labour market etc.

At the International Conference for the Central and Eastern Europe, Balkans, Caucasus and Baltic States on Science and education Policies, held in Chisinau, Moldova, from 19-20 September 2008, head of BHC Unit exchanged ideas and thoughts with the key decision makers in national science and education policies from Central and South Eastern European countries. The conference focused on strengthening international impact of national research and education programs, strengthening research in higher education, stemming and reversing brain drain and developing a knowledge-based economy.

For the **parliamentary cooperation** as an over-arching theme, the first meeting of National Parliamentary Coordinators, Stability Pact and European Parliament (in particular DG Presidency and AFET Secretariat), on 31 January 2008, marked the new phase of activities under the leadership of the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation, in Bulgaria. At that occasion, the RCC Secretariat took over the agreed set of joint activities which were decided to be developed over the course of 2008. According to the needs and priorities expressed by the parliaments of South East Europe, it has been agreed that events will be organized both for MPs and parliamentary staff. The first event of that nature, on "Parliament's communication policy and transparency in the context of the EU integration", targeting both MPs and parliamentary staff of SEE Parliaments, took place in Brussels on 14-15 May 2008 and was attended by the representatives of the RCC Secretariat.

Excellent cooperation has been established with the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in Sofia in particular in the process of preparation of forthcoming events aimed to tackle the issues of harmonization of legislation with the EU *acquis*, visa issues, Parliamentary budget and the law on budget, free trade and adaptation to the internal market. All these events are in the process of organization and will be realized until the end of the year.

The **gender equality** and gender issues have been included as one of the cross-cutting issues in the RCC's work. The RCC has attended the Regional Parliamentary Workshop



of SEE Women's MP exchange meeting in Kotor, Montenegro whereby the first contacts were made and further cooperation will follow.

## **IX. Setting up of the RCC Secretariat**

After the announcement of a number of appointments to the posts in the RCC Secretariat on the occasion of the RCC Board meeting in Pomorie on 20 May 2008, the reporting period was marked with the completion of the review of applications for the posts in the RCC Secretariat and the gradual employment of all officials of the Secretariat at the envisaged posts. During the reporting period, 16 appointed officials started with their work in the RCC Secretariat, thus bringing the number of officials both in Sarajevo and in the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels to 30.

The RCC Secretariat currently comprises of a total of 35 staff members, out of which 30 RCC Secretariat's officials and five members of technical and service staff (public affairs assistant, driver/security officer, two drivers/courriers, receptionist). A complete list of the RCC Secretariat's staff is appended in Annex II to the report.

To date, two positions of the officials in the RCC Secretariat are still vacant – the Expert on Infrastructure and Energy and the Assistant to the Head of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels. While the appointment to the latter position is about to be made following the regular procedure, the former will, due to the lack of adequate candidates indentified in the context of the process of screening of applications done in cooperation with the former Office of Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, have to be retendered. The public invitation for applications for this position, with slightly revised and more specified terms of reference, will be issued in mid-October 2008.

Pursuant to the powers of the Secretary General of the RCC under Article 13.c. of the Statute of the RCC the decision on the creation of the post of the Legal Advisor was adopted and the position was publicly tendered in the course of July 2008. The decision on the appointment to the position was made at the end of September and the commencement of work of the person appointed is expected as of end of October 2008. The creation of this position is of particular importance in the context of the process of coordination and streamlining of relevant regional initiatives and structures in South East Europe, having in mind the imminent task of the RCC Secretariat to regulate institutional relations with these initiatives and structures through adequate legal instruments (agreements, memoranda of understanding etc.).

At the end of June 2008, the RCC Secretariat was completely furnished through a donation of office furniture by the Government of the Republic of Turkey.

The Headquarters Agreement between the RCC Secretariat and the the Kingdom of Belgium concerning the status of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels was signed 29 August 2008 in Brussels. Five officials of the the Liaison Office assumed their

duties as of 15 July 2008 and started their activities on maintaining regular contacts with the EU institutions, in particular with the European Commission as well as with other Brussels-based institutions of relevance for the RCC activities (e.g. NATO, international financial institutions) in the priority areas.

The Kingdom of Belgium has conditioned the implementation of the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement related to the privileges and immunities of fiscal nature (in particular in relation to the taxation of income) in respect of the Head and Deputy Head of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels with the adoption of the authentic interpretation 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 the Agreement, which would confirm the taxability of the officials of the RCC Secretariat in their countries/places of origin/permanent residence. In this view, having in mind the necessity to proceed with creating legal conditions for the establishment of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels, the Secretary General of the RCC initiated on 11 August 2008 a consultation procedure among the parties to the Host Country Agreement with the aim of reaching agreement on the authentic interpretation of Article 17.1 (d) of the Host Country Agreement and proposed a draft text of interpretative declaration which would confirm the taxability of the RCC Secretariat's officials in their countries/places of origin/permanent residence. The consultation procedure is currently under way. The application of the respective provisions of the Headquarters Agreement concerning the privileges and immunities of fiscal nature of the Head and Deputy Head of the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels, in particular in relation to the direct taxation, by the Kingdom of Belgium is directly dependant on the outcome of the above mentioned consultation procedure.

The Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the RCC for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council, whose main task is keeping of regular contacts with the current and forthcoming EU Presidencies, assumed duties also on 15 July 2008. The Special Envoy is also, due to organizational and logistical reasons, based in Brussels. According to the internal organizational arrangements the Special Envoy enjoys logistical and administrative support from the RCC Secretariat's Liaison Office in Brussels.

## **X. 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.

## **XI. State of financial contributions to the RCC Secretariat's budget**

Until 1 October 2008, the following financial contributions to the RCC budget have been received:

- Czech Republic – 50.000 EUR – 19 December 2007
- Ireland – 50.000 EUR – 21 December 2008
- Latvia – 50.000 EUR – 21 December 2008
- Croatia – 80.000 EUR – 14 January 2008
- Austria – 150.000 EUR – 16 January 2008
- Montenegro – 40.000 EUR – 23 January 2008
- Romania – 140.000 EUR – 21 February 2008
- Slovenia – 50.000 EUR – 4 April 2008
- Switzerland – 181.000 EUR – 11 April 2008
- Norway – 103.026 EUR – 9 May 2008
- Hungary – 50.000 EUR – 26 May 2008
- Serbia – 60.000 EUR – 29 May 2008
- Bulgaria – 140.000 EUR – 13 June 2008
- Italy – 50.000 EUR – 19 June 2008
- Moldova – 40.000 EUR – 11 July 2008
- The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – 60.000 EUR - 22 July 2008
- Poland – 50.000 EUR – 30 July 2008
- Bosnia and Herzegovina – 60.000 EUR – 4 August 2008
- Sweden – 150.000 EUR – 25 August 2008
- European Community – 800.000 EUR (as the payment of the first installment out of committed 1.000.000 EUR pursuant to the Grant Contract signed on 30 June 2008) – 25 August 2008

-Germany – 100.000 EUR (as the payment of the first installment out of committed 200.000 EUR, pursuant to the Agreement signed on 15 September 2008) – 26 September 2008

As per outstanding financial contributions of the RCC Board members to the RCC Secretariat's budget, out of 12 RCC members from South East Europe the contributions are still to be received by Albania (60.000 EUR), Greece (140.000 EUR), UNMIK/Kosovo (40.000 EUR) and Turkey (140.000 EUR).

Out of 17 RCC Board members coming from outside of the region of South East Europe, four contributions are still outstanding – Finland (50.000 EUR), France (50.000 EUR), Spain (50.000 EUR) and the United States of America (128.300 EUR). The forthcoming payment of financial contributions pledged by France and Spain has been announced to the RCC Secretariat through official channels.

A Grant Agreement has been signed with the United States of America on 24 September 2008 concerning their contribution to the RCC Secretariat's budget and the activities of the related initiatives in South East Europe (eSEE, RAI, DPPI SEE). The actual allocation of financial resources from the United States to the RCC Secretariat's budget is currently in the process.

## **XII. Future activities of the RCC Secretariat**

In the coming period, in implementing the Strategic Work Programme 2008 – 2009, the RCC Secretariat will focus on project and result-oriented activities with a view to achieving overall economic and social progress in South East Europe, consolidating the region's European and Euro-Atlantic potential and perspective. The RCC Secretariat will encourage flexibility in order to create a climate and environment conducive to dialogue and cooperation.

In the process of implementation of the RCC Strategic Work Programme 2008-2009 close relationship will also be maintained with the Chairmanship-in-Office of the SEECF, currently held by the Republic of Moldova.

Forthcoming events of particular importance are the following:

- 7 October 2008, Zagreb- Political consultations with Croatia
- 9 – 10 October 2008, Sarajevo - Multi-beneficiary IPA Coordination Meeting
- 13 October 2008, Sarajevo - Regional Coordination Meeting
- 15 October 2008, Ankara - political consultations with Turkey
- 15 October 2008, Sofia - regional presentation of the RCC and its activities
- 23 - 24 October 2008, Zurich - the Southeastern-Central Europe Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility Conference co-organised by the World Bank and the RCC Secretariat

- 7 November 2008, Sarajevo - 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the RCC National Coordinators from South East Europe
- 10 November 2008, Belgrade- Regional presentation of the RCC and its activities
- 24 November 2008, Zagreb - Regional presentation of the RCC and its activities
- 12 December 2008, Sarajevo - RCC Board Meeting

## ANNEX I

### **LIST OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE RCC SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE RCC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS IN THE PERIOD 21 MAY - 1 OCTOBER 2008**

- SEECP Meeting of the Heads of State or Government- Pomorie, 21 May 2008 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff, Spokesperson, Political Advisor)
- Meeting of Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme- Brussels, 21 May 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> South East Europe Energy Dialogue - Thessaloniki, 21- 22 May 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Multi-Beneficiary Programme Coordination Meeting- Istanbul, 22-23 May 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Meeting with UNDP - Geneva, 22- 23 May 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of South East Europe Investment Committee (OECD Investment Compact)- Paris, 23 May 2008 (Secretary General and Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Regional High Level Conference on Human Resources Development- Sofia, 25-26 May 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Study Visit to the European Commission, handover meetings with the Stability Pact, meetings with the officials of the DG ELARG of the European Commission- Brussels, 26-28 May 2008 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Chief of Staff, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Senior Expert on Security Cooperation, Spokesperson, Political Advisor)
- Meeting of Regional Competition Authorities from SEECP Participating States- Sofia, 29 May 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Conference on History in Action: Preparing for the Future Common Approaches, organized by the Slovenian EU Presidency - Bled, 29 - 30 May 2008 (Political Advisor)
- Workshop of the Gender Task Force on Active Employment Policy - Kotor, 30 May - 1 June 2008 (Political Advisor)

- Ljubljana Agenda for the New Phase of Stabilization and Association Process, Belgrade 30-31 May 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEE Health Network- Chisinau, 30- 31 May 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Staff - to - Staff Meeting between UN ECE and RCC Secretariat – Sarajevo, 2 June 2008 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Chief of Staff, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- RACVIAC Seminar on Assessment of Current Regional Security Situation in SEE- Zagreb, 2- 4 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation)
- Meeting of the Business Advisory Council- Sarajevo, 4 June 2008 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool and Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Western Balkans Civil Society Forum- Ljubljana, 4- 5 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Meeting with the Director of the Center for eGovernance Development- Sarajevo, 4 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with SECIPRO Coordinator- Sarajevo, 4 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Seminar on Police Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Security Sector Reform and the Stabilization and Association Process- Sarajevo, 4- 6 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- JCC – Board meeting, SECI Center- Bucharest, 5 June 2008 (Secretary General)
- Meeting of the Ministers of Education from South Eastern Europe- Oslo, 5 June 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Meeting with the World Bank Center for Financial Reporting- Sarajevo, 5 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- EBRD Western Balkans Donor Forum – Rome, 6 June 2008 (Secretary General)
- Vienna Economic Forum: Go South East, Invest in Albania, Invest in the Region- Tirana, 8-9 June 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Coordination meeting of the Secretary General with the appointed officials of the RCC Liaison Office in Brussels and the Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General

for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council- Zagreb, 9 June 2008 (Secretary General and Head of Administrative Unit)

- Seminars on the fight against corruption and protection of the EU financial interests- Bucharest, 9- 13 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Meeting with eSEE Secretariat- Sarajevo, 12 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Coordination visit to the CEI Executive Secretariat- Trieste, 12 June 2008 (Secretary General and Political Advisor)
- Briefing for the Working Group on Western Balkans (COWEB) of the Council of the EU by the RCC Chief of Staff – Brussels, 12 June 2008 (Chief of Staff)
- Constituent Meeting of the RCC Task Force Building and Fostering Human capital- Ljubljana, 13 June 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Multinational Advisory Group Working Group on RACVIAC New Organization- Zagreb, 15- 16 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation)
- WEC Regional Energy Forum- Neptun, 15-19 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Political consultations with the President of the Republic of Moldova and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova- Chisinau, 16 June 2008 (Secretary General and Political Advisor)
- Meeting of IFIAG (Human Capital Development)- Brussels, 16 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Conference on "Regional Cooperation, Opportunities, Challenges and Synergy"- Chisinau, 17 June 2008 (Secretary General and Political Advisor)
- Conference “The Balkans in Europe: containment or transformation? A Policy Dialogue” - European Policy Centre- Brussels, 17 June 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- International Financial Institutions Advisory Group (IFI AG) meeting on Human Development on Enhancing opportunities for employment in the Western Balkans- Brussels, 17 June 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Meeting with the DPPI Chair- in-Office- Zagreb, 17 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation)



- Meeting with the European Training Foundation- Sarajevo, 18 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Official Launching of the European Fund for the Balkans - Participation at the Panel Discussion with Members of the International Commission on the Balkans- Sarajevo, 18 June 2008 (Secretary General)
- Clean Energy and Transparent Energy Policies for the Balkans, Regional Conference for South East Europe- Sarajevo, 19 June 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Meeting with the Regional Secretariat for Parliamentary Cooperation in SEE- Sofia, 19 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation)
- Meeting with the representatives of institutions responsible for security cooperation in Bulgaria- Sofia, 20 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation)
- Meeting of High-Level Officials on Employment- Sarajevo, 20 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting of eSEE Working Group and bSEE Task Force- Cavtat, 23- 24 June 2008 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Friends of Europe's Economic Roundtable "A Balkan Balance Sheet"-Brussels, 24 June 2008 (Secretary General and Political Advisors)
- International Financial Institutions Advisory Group Plenary meeting- Brussels, 24 June 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Start-Up Conference on the EU/CE Project Support to the Prosecutors' Network in South Eastern Europe- Rome, 25- 26 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- The Energy Community meetings: Energy Efficiency Task Force (EETF), Permanent High Level Group (PHLG) and the meeting with the European Public Service Union (EPSU) representative- Brussels, 25- 27 June 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Consultation meeting with the Deputy Director General for Political Affairs/Head of the Balkans Department and EU Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic- Paris, 26 June 2008 (Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Energy Community Ministerial Council Meeting- Brussels, 27 June 2008 (Secretary General and Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)

- Meeting of the RCC National Coordinators from South East Europe- Sarajevo, 30 June 2008 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Senior Expert on Security Cooperation, Spokesperson, Expert on Economic and Social Development, Political Advisors, Junior Political Advisor)
- Third Summer University for Democracy Governance, Power and Democracy organized by Council of Europe- Strasbourg, 1 July 2008 (Secretary General and Junior Political Advisor)
- Meeting with the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe and other officials of the Secretariat of the Council of Europe - Strasbourg, 1 July 2008 (Secretary General and Junior Political Advisor)
- Meeting with officials of Ministry of External Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo, 2 July 2008 (Senior Expert on Energy and Infrastructure)
- First regional meeting of cross-border cooperation, sustainable development, territories and decentralized cooperation in the Balkans- Sofia, 3-4 July 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Meeting of SEE Investment Committee working Group on Human Capital (OECD Investment Compact)- Sarajevo, 3- 4 July 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Croatia Summit 2008: Security, Development, Prosperity organized by Croatian Government- Dubrovnik, 4-5 July 2008 (Secretary General, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Senior Expert on Security Cooperation)
- Multinational Advisory Group Working Group on RACVIAC's legal status- Zagreb, 6- 7 July 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation)
- Political consultations with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria– Sofia, 8 July 2008 (Secretary General, Political Advisor)
- Meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia- Zagreb, 8 July 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation)
- Fifth Meeting of the EU Committee of the Regions, Working Group on the Western Balkans- Sarajevo, 8 July 2008 (Political Advisor)
- Meeting with USAID representatives – Sarajevo, 8 July 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)

- Meeting with the World Bank counterpart in charge of transport – Sarajevo, 8 July 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Political consultations with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia– Belgrade, 9 July 2008 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Political consultation with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic - Athens, 10 July 2008 (Secretary General, Political Advisor)
- Meeting with Director of CEFTA Secretariat- Brussels, 10 July 2008 ( Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- International Energy Conference- Kolasin, 10- 13 July 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Donors Conference for Kosovo hosted by the European Commission - Brussels, 11 July 2008 (Secretary General, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting of EC-IFI Special Working Group on SMEs- Brussels, 11 July 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with The World Bank representatives- Zagreb, 14- 15 July 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation)
- Meeting with World Bank Country Sector Coordinator – Sarajevo, 14 July 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development and Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with Private Sector Development Consultant of the World Bank – Sarajevo, 15 July 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development and Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with officials of US State Department and US Embassy – Sarajevo, 15 July 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with representatives of the SEE Network of Policy Makers and of the International Financial Corporation- Sarajevo, 15 July 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)- Zagreb, 15- 16 July 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Presentation of World Bank study “Western Balkan Integration and the EU”- Sarajevo, 16 July 2008 (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)

- Political consultations with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Sarajevo, 16 July 2008 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- Meeting with Vice President for Europe and Central Asia region of the World Bank - Sarajevo, 16 July 2008 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Chief of Staff, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development, Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Political Advisors)
- Western Balkan Security Conference of the Salzburg Forum and Conference on the South East European Police Cooperation Convention Execution Programme (SPEP)- Vienna, 16- 18 July 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Meeting with the IEA representatives – Sarajevo, 17 July 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- OSCE Expert Conference on International Co-operation to Combat Trafficking in Illicit Drugs and Chemical Precursors- Vienna, 17- 18 July 2008 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Political consultations with the Prime Minister of Montenegro and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro- Podgorica, 18 July 2008 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- Meeting with RAI representatives- Sarajevo, 24 July 2008 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Annual meeting of the SEE Heads of Governments, organized by the Austrian Chancellor - Salzburg, 27 July 2008 (Secretary General)
- Meeting with SEEPKA and RAI representatives – Sarajevo, 29 July 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs and Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Meeting with FIAS Regional Program Coordinator – Sarajevo, 30 July 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with SEC Coordinator of the Pan-European Regional Council of the International Trade Union Confederation (PERC-ITUC) – Sarajevo, 31 July (Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development and Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Participation at the get together of the EU representatives active in and for SEE Hosted by Austrian Ministry for European and International affairs - Salzburg, 31 July -1 August 2008 (Secretary General)

- Meeting with the Regional Environmental Centre senior staff and project managers – Szentendre, 4-6 August 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Meeting with Director of the Center for e-Governance Development for South-East Europe (CeGD), UNDP Portfolio Manager for eGovernance and Head of eSEE Secretariat - Sarajevo, 6 August 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development and Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with Chief of Staff of USAID’s Enabling Labor Mobility (ELMO) – Sarajevo, 13 August 2008 (Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Participating at extraordinary Regional Meeting of DPPI SEE and meeting with Chair-in- Office of the DPPI SEE - Zagreb, 25 -26 August 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation)
- Meeting with Head of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) – Sarajevo, 28 August 2008 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Signing of the Headquarters Agreement with the Kingdom of Belgium concerning the status of the RCC Secretariat’s Liaison Office in Brussels – Brussels, 29 August 2008 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff, Head of Liaison Office in Brussels, Deputy Head of Liaison Office in Brussels)
- Consultation meeting with the Deputy Director General for Political Affairs in Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic- Paris, 2 September 2008 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- Meeting with MARRI representatives – Sarajevo, 3 September 2008 (Secretary General, Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Political Advisor)
- Meeting with Political Unit Liaison Officer to SEE of the Institute for European Training and Information (IETI) – Sarajevo, 4 September 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Meeting with the Head of Policy Coordination Unit in the DG ELARG of the European Commission – Brussels, 4 September 2008 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor)
- Meeting with Expert Adviser in the Joint Security – Intelligence Committee of the BiH Parliament – Sarajevo, 9 September 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation and Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues)

- Meeting with the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH – Sarajevo, 9 September 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Annual meeting of SIDA and Swedish MFA in the Balkans – Novi Sad, 9-10 September 2008 (Secretary General and Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)
- Fourteenth International Summer School “Regional Cooperation in South East Europe”, Cervia, Italy, 10 September 2008 (Political Advisor)
- Meeting with the Vice President of the European Commission responsible for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy – Brussels, 10 September 2008 (Deputy Head of Liaison Office, Advisor)
- European Centre for Western Balkans Development – International Conference Slovenia – Celje, 10-11 September 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Joint Working Group on Gas Infrastructure and Regulation, SEETO and HMSS meeting – Belgrade, 10-12 September 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Steering Committee – RAI – Sarajevo, 11 September 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Comprehensive Migration Management System Seminar – Ohrid, 12 September 2008 (Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Panel on “Reform Strategies and Regional Cooperation”, organized by the Southeast Europe Association - Berlin, 12-13 September 2008 (Political Advisor)
- First Coordination Conference of the SEE Initiatives on Justice and Home Affairs – Sarajevo, 15-16 September 2008 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Political Advisor)
- Meeting with the Delegation of the Belgrade Center for Civil Military Relations (CCMR) – Sarajevo, 16 September 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Senior Expert on Security Issues)
- Investment Reform Index 2009 – Sarajevo, 16-17 September 2008 (Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool and Senior Expert on Economic and Social Development)

- Participation in the Energy Security in Europe Roundtable and the meeting with the REC Deputy Executive Director – Budapest, 17-19 September 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Meeting with UNODC Regional Programme for South East Europe coordinator – Sarajevo, 17 September 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Meeting with OECD Principal Administrator, Investment Compact for SEE on Anti-corruption Indicators in the 2009 Investment Reform Index - Sarajevo, 17 September 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Participation at the Conference on further enlargement of EU organized by the Czech Foreign Ministry- Prague, 18 September 2008 (Secretary General, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- Political consultations with the Deputy Prime Minister of the Czech Republic responsible for European Affairs and the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic – Prague, 18 September 2008 (Secretary General, Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council)
- Meeting with UNHCR representatives – Sarajevo, 18 September 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs and Senior Expert on Security Cooperation)
- Meeting with Director for Financial Instruments and Regional Programmes in the DG ELARG of the European Commission – Brussels, 19 September 2008 (Secretary General, Head of Liaison Office in Brussels, Deputy Head of Liaison Office in Brussels, Advisor in the Liaison Office in Brussels)
- Meeting with Deputy Director General of DG ELARG of the European Commission - Brussels, 19 September 2008 (Secretary General, Head of Liaison Office in Brussels, Deputy Head of Liaison Office in Brussels, Advisor in the Liaison Office in Brussels)
- International Conference for the Central and Eastern Europe, Balkans, Caucasus and Baltic States on Science Education Policies Moldova – Chisinau, 18-21 September 2008 (Senior Expert on Building Human Capital)
- Participation in the Energy Efficiency Task Force meeting, permanent High Level Group Meeting and meeting with ECS Director – Zagreb, 22-24 September 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- Meeting with the Director for Western Balkans in the Directorate General for External and Politico-Military Affairs of the General Secretariat of the EU Council – Brussels, 23 September 2008 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor)
- Meeting with the Head of Enlargement Unit in the General Secretariat of the EU Council – Brussels, 23 September 2008 (Head of Liaison Office, Advisor)

- Political consultations with the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo, 24 September 2008 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff, Junior Political Advisor)
- Meeting with UNHCR representatives – Sarajevo, 24 September 2008 (Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs)
- Participation at the Joint Meeting of the SEECP Committee of Political Directors and Directors responsible for EU affairs of the SEECP participating states Chisinau, 26 September 2008 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- 10<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting of the PE Transport Corridor VII – Vienna, 25-26 September 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- The Balkan Trust for Democracy’s Fifth Anniversary – Belgrade, 25-26 September 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool)
- Participation at SEDM meeting – Skopje, 22-24 September 2008 (Senior Expert on Security Cooperation)
- Participation at the Regional ESDP Conference – Skopje, 24-26 September 2008 (Special Envoy of the RCC Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the EU Council and Senior Expert on Security Cooperation)
- Meeting with the Head of Cabinet of the Commissioner responsible for Enlargement in the European Commission – Brussels, 23 September 2008
- Participation in the Partnership for the Improvement of Danube Infrastructure and Navigation event (PIDIN) – Vienna, 30 September 2008 (Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy)
- RCC presentation in Moldova – Chisinau, 30 September – 1 October 2008 (Deputy Secretary General/Head of Expert Pool, Senior Expert on Infrastructure and Energy, Senior Expert on Justice and Home Affairs, Senior Expert on Building Human Capital, Junior Political Advisor)
- Political consultations with the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations in Kosovo/Head of UNMIK and with representatives of Kosovo authorities under Security Council resolution 1244 – Pristina, 1 October 2008 (Secretary General, Chief of Staff)
- Meeting with the EU Special Representative for Kosovo – Pristina, 1 October 2008



## **ANNEX II**

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

#### **SECRETARY GENERAL**

1. Mr. Hido Bišćević- Secretary General of the RCC

#### **EXPERT POOL**

1. Ms. Jelica Minić- Deputy Secretary General/ Head of Expert Pool
2. Ms. Emira Tufo- 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. Efreem Radev- Senior Expert on Security Cooperation, Head of Security Cooperation Unit
6. Mr. Mladen Dragašević- Senior Expert on Building Human Capital, Head of Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues Unit
7. Mr. Nand Shani- Expert on Economic and Social Development
8. Mr. Predrag Vujičić- Expert on Justice and Home Affairs
9. Ms. Mimika Loshi- Expert on Parliamentary Cooperation and Cross-Cutting Issues
10. Ms. Maja Taylor- Assistant to the Head of Expert Pool
11. Ms. Elvira Ademović- Assistant to the Expert Pool

## **FRONT OFFICE**

1. Mr. Miroslav Papa- Chief of Staff
2. Ms. Dinka Živalj- Head of Media Unit/ Spokesperson
3. Mr. Alphan Solen- Political Advisor
4. Ms. Alenka Hudek- Political Advisor
5. Mr. Ivan Bojanić- Junior Political Advisor
6. Ms. Jasna Sinančević- Personal Assistant to the Secretary General
7. Ms. Nataša Mitrović- Assistant to the Chief of Staff

## **ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT**

1. Mr. Alexandru Murzac- Head of Administrative Unit
2. Mr. Sead Filipović- Finance Officer
3. Ms. Mirela Mahić- Administrative Officer
4. Mr. Maid Medunjanin- IT Officer
5. Ms. Alma Ganić- Accountant
6. Ms. Dijana Kešelj- Translator

## **LIAISON OFFICE IN BRUSSELS**

1. Mr. Stanislav Daskalov- Head of Office
2. Mr. Basil Coronakis- Deputy Head of Office
3. Mr. Sorin Sterie- Advisor
4. Ms. Lidija Topić- Advisor
5. Ms. Martine Dell- Office Administrator

**SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR RELATIONS WITH  
THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

1. Mr. Jovan Tegovski- Special Envoy of the Secretary General for Relations with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**RCC SECRETARIAT'S TECHNICAL AND SERVICE STAFF**

1. Ms. Selma Ahatović- Lihic- Public Affairs Assistant
2. Mr. Siniša Cvetković- Driver/Security
3. Mr. Fikret Kadrić- Driver/ Courier
4. Mr. Denis Sulić- Driver/ Courier
5. Ms. Eldina Ligata- Receptionist