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**SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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Directorate for OSCE and CoE

STATEMENT

by ambassador Milorad Scepanovic, Director of the Directorate for OSCE and CoE
at the

Annual Meeting of the Fourteenth OSCE Economic Forum

*“The Importance of Interlinking
in Enhancing Transportation Security in the OSCE Area”*

Prague, Czechia, 22-24 May 2006

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“The Importance of Interlinking in Enhancing Transportation Security in the OSCE Area ”

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It goes without saying that in the present system of global and collective security, it is in the mutual interest to ensure inter-departmental and inter-disciplinary links and cooperation among the participating States within the framework of the relevant international organizations such as, first of all, the United Nations and OSCE with a view to a timely and proper response to threats to peace and security.

Secure transportation networks and transport development have as an aim to enhance regional economic co-operation and stability. In order to achieve this goal we need to be able to introduce in the countries of the participating States “security culture” and “security education” in all fields of activities including transport and infrastructure security.

Improved monitoring and use of the latest findings, achievements and coordination of action with the relevant specialized units existing in international organizations is urgently needed.

I sincerely believe that our previous meetings as well as this Annual Meeting - XIV Economic Forum, will achieve its main objective - that is - to be able to be closer to defining the role of the Organization in the area of transport and to identifying concrete activities to be pursued than we were at the beginning of the process. There is, of course, still a long way ahead of us but my perception is that we are moving in the right direction.

In addressing transport-related issues in the context of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Economic Forum, it seems we have been able to identify a number of areas in which the OSCE could make a contribution through its activities. These areas and activities include: the implementation of existing commitments in the area of transport, such as relevant United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) conventions; the promotion of good governance in the area of transport, for example by addressing non-physical barriers to transport; the reconciliation of transport development and environmental concerns; the specific needs of landlocked

countries, *particularly as concerns transit transport and the need to facilitate border-crossing; and the potential contribution to conflict resolution of initiatives in the area of transport to conflict.*

Therefore the Economic Forum should continue to discuss ongoing and future activities for the economic and environmental dimension, in particular the work in implementing the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

Serbia and Montenegro could contribute significantly from the point of view of undertaken activities in the Danube commission, Black Sea Initiative, Adriatic/Ionian Initiative and many others.

The key question we have to answer at the Annual Meeting of the Fourteenth Economic Forum now is no longer “what to do” but “how to do it”.

In this respect, we should insist on the implementation of existing transport-related conventions in close co-operation with the UNECE Transport Division, capacity-building and training initiatives, and initiatives for regional events aimed at improving regional and subregional co-operation in the area of transport. Most importantly it is needed to provide the projects and initiatives of international importance, first of all with funding . We should be ready inside of our countries as well as among the participating States to facilitate exchanges of experiences, best practices and information and share it with interested partners and present them afterwards internationally.

The issue of transport security and more concrete recommendations regarding the OSCE's role in aviation security, port control mechanisms, urban transport security and the protection of critical transport infrastructure should be made. The security experts should be more involved, since , in turbulent geo-political environment we live in today, their knowledge and expertise is invaluable to us in all fields, especially transport. One of the biggest achievements of our time should be to endure in struggle to obtain the freedom of movement, of people and goods as the *conditio sine qua non* of “*human security*” and as a precondition of protection of elementary human rights in 21 Century.

European values are founded on integrational processes and multiculturalism and multiethnicity, freedom of movement of people, goods and capital as principles. Serbia and Montenegro fully supports the European standards.

If the common goal of all the countries from West Balkans and the South-Eastern Europe is to enter EU it goes without saying that mono-ethnicity orientation is not in accordance with these, above mentioned principles because it tends to pursue what is completely contradictory to the core principles of EU and its integration processes which should permanently inter-link the whole of the European area.

Therefore Serbia and Montenegro considers that Kosovo and Metohija cannot be Europeanized without a special role first of all of the UN, EU and OSCE.

The position of no other people in Europe today is so tragic and inhuman as the position of Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija. Corraled in small enclaves on the territory of the Province, the Serbs are deprived of the basic human rights and freedoms, including the right to life or the freedom of movement. Multi-ethnicity and dialogue of culture according to european standards are *conditio sine qua non* in 21. Century.

In South-Eastern Europe there are evident problems of latent presence of extremist terrorist threats, arms and drugs trafficking, organized crime, ilegal migrations, as well as human trafficking. Such problems are not regional but European as well.

Serbia and Montenegro has entered the negotiations with the European Union on stabilization and association. The accession to European Union would provide a better perspective and chance for the solution of Kosovo and Metohija's status in a more rational way and without tensions since all countries of the Western Balkans aspire to join the European Union and the interest of the Union is to promote stability of the region rather than of create foci of crisis. Once in the European Union, the countries of the Western Balkans would have borders which would soon be transparent, but unchangeable, which is in the interest of Serbia and Montenegro as well.

The transportation development and its security in the region of South-Eastern Europe should have the priority in the framework of economic- ecological dimension. Transport inter-linking in the South-Eastern Europe the area of intensive integration processes has the key role together with security and development issues. The overall stability and security in Europe is inter-dependent with the security level in each and every part of Europe.

The OSCE is there to build bridges: not only literal bridges and infrastructure aimed at interlinking in the field of transportation, but even more importantly "*bridges*" between policy-makers, governments, international organizations, institutions and other relevant stakeholders such as nations and their countries especially in South-Eastern Europe on their way to united, integrated and interlinked European Family.