



## Stability Pact's contributions to fight terrorism

1. On 10 June 1999, at the European Union's initiative, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe was adopted in Cologne. It is considered the first serious attempt of the international community to replace the previous reactive crisis intervention policy in South Eastern Europe with a comprehensive long-term conflict prevention strategy.

The Stability Pact represents an internationally created framework for donor support to the region. In the founding document, more than 40 partner countries and organizations undertook to strengthen the countries of South Eastern Europe "in their efforts to foster peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity in order to achieve stability in the whole region". Euro-Atlantic integration was promised to all the countries in the region.

The impact of EU and NATO enlargement has implications well beyond the institutional borders defined through new membership. The open doors left to the countries remaining outside these organizations serve as a pivotal incentive for the reforms in the field of democracy, security and economic development.

The Stability Pact is complementary to the EU's Stabilization and Association Process and the Accession Process, and provides a bridge between the Western Balkans, the candidate countries in SEE (Bulgaria and Romania), and the Republic of Moldova. It remains a unique process of cooperation and assistance; it brings to the same table donors and beneficiaries, countries of the region, EU Member States, NATO Allies, G-8 members, as well as other important countries outside this circle (like Switzerland), and pivotal international organizations such as the United Nations, OSCE and the Council of Europe.

Within the Stability Pact, Working Table III (Security and Defense, Justice and Home Affairs) deals with questions of both internal and external security. The aim is to establish transparency and predictability and to promote regional co-operation.

Any assessment of the situation in South Eastern Europe confirms that security in the region has significantly improved. Democracy has been strengthened to a large extent, which is demonstrated by the fact that all countries in the region are members of the Council of Europe.

Continued help for the countries of South Eastern Europe is needed, but at the same time countries of the region can significantly help in combating the criminal networks that manifests themselves on the streets of Western Europe.

Border management is becoming a more important part of the long-term security architecture of South Eastern Europe. This importance is also reflected in the high amount of attention paid by international organizations to border issues.

2. Significant progress has been made within the justice and home affairs' initiatives launched under the umbrella of the Stability Pact, but further reforms and enhanced capacity building efforts are needed in areas such as migration and asylum, organized crime (including the trafficking in human beings), corruption, police training and regional law enforcement cooperation.

Fighting organized crime and corruption remain among the top priorities of Working Table III, with the respective Executive Secretariats established in the region.

Regional ownership is a goal that has been supported widely throughout the region, and it is the core principle in the work of the Stability Pact.

The overall objective of the Stability Pact's activities on Justice and Home Affairs is to promote national reforms within the countries of South Eastern Europe through regional cooperation and closer international links particularly with members of the European Union and within the framework of the Security Sector Reform. The Stability Pact's activities on Justice and Home Affairs are now focused on implementation. JHA has become one of the priority areas of the European Union's activities in South Eastern Europe.

The priorities in the field of JHA are correlated with the EU demands:

The need for a comprehensive system for orderly migration, including measures to combat trafficking in human beings and safeguarding asylum systems in line with best European standards;

The need for enhanced judicial cooperation; and,

The need to combat organized crime and corruption through the development of effective and impartial law enforcement.

3. Facilitated by the Stability Pact's Working Table III the countries of the region engaged in consultations on their contribution towards fighting terrorism. Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Turkey adopted a "Declaration on the contribution of the countries of South Eastern Europe to the international fight against terrorism" on the occasion of the Regional Conference in Bucharest, in October 2001.

In this declaration (**annexed**), the mentioned countries agreed to cooperate in the global fight against the scourge of terrorism, and in this respect:

- to strengthen their cooperation within the Stability Pact Working Table III in fighting terrorism through its initiatives (SPOC, SPAI, Police Forum Initiative, SPTF on Trafficking in Human Beings and SALW - related activities);
- to work towards enhancing the level of cooperation both bilaterally and on a regional level in the following spheres:
  - sharing of information and analysis regarding terrorism and terrorist organizations, in close cooperation and coordination with Europol, Interpol and the SECI Center; training police and other related security sector agencies to be more effective in combating terrorism;
  - exchanging experts, including, inter alia, the exchange of liaison officers in border security posts and HQs;
  - exchanging information on cross-border financial transactions that might relate to financing terrorist actions;
  - further harmonizing, in line with European standards, domestic legislation regarding extradition, prosecution and other legal mechanisms aimed at combating terrorism.

According to the Bucharest declaration on counterterrorism, all countries involved agreed that a regional contribution to the international campaign against terrorism is an integral part of the stabilizing process in the region. In the aftermath of conflicts in the Balkan region that was and still is accompanied by terrorist actions through different sides, instability, political, economic and social disorder can serve as a social context in which terrorist actions emerge and gain support.

4. One of our core goals for this period has been to support the fight against organized crime in the region. The London Conference on Organized Crime requested operational links to be established between Europol and the Bucharest based Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime. The Stability Pact is mediating these links and the Secretariat of the Organized Crime Initiative (SPOC), based in Bucharest also, is working closely with the Center in the field of legislation and its implementation. The development of multi-disciplinary coordination mechanisms, cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the potential establishment of specialized units are key elements for the region. The SPOC Secretariat is currently developing projects to support the SEE countries on implementing witness and personal data protection in order to achieve the mutual exchange of relevant data between the

region and EU law enforcement bodies. The UN Palermo Convention on Transnational Organized Crime represents one of the most important tools for regional cooperation.

Closely related, our Anti-Corruption Initiative (SPAI) brings together European and international actors involved in combating corruption and supporting South Eastern Europe in this respect. Significant measures are necessary to guarantee a de-politicized and professional public administration, to strengthen the rules relating to conflicts of interest, to strengthen the role and capacities of police and prosecutors, to screen the legal system in order to eliminate provisions which might favor corruption and to develop internal and external auditing. To enhance regional ownership, the SPAI Steering Group has decided to establish a regional secretariat in Sarajevo. Currently, the international partners and the anticorruption staff are completing the establishment of this office.

In May 2002, UNDP and the Stability Pact opened in Belgrade a Regional Clearinghouse for Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Clearinghouse is now working in several countries along with OSCE missions to reduce excess supplies and illicit trafficking.

Last year, another structure created under the Stability Pact's umbrella, RACVIAC (Regional Center for Arms Control and Verification), organized a seminar on regional terrorism, hosted by Turkey, in Istanbul. The main outcomes of this meeting, together with the meeting of the SECI Center's Task Force on terrorism, hosted also by Turkey, were:

- there are links between Terrorism and Organized Crime networks; preventive legislative measures could help the fight against terrorism;

- sharing information is important for the prevention of and fighting terrorism;

- cooperation should be extended to the operational level. The discussions during the seminar were considered as a starting point for the future developments in this regard. The representatives of intelligence services expressed their will to be more actively involved in the regional dialogue;

- a strategic regional framework should be agreed at the highest decision level in order to send a strong signal to law enforcement officers;

- cooperation among South Eastern European countries that has been already started on the bilateral basis has to continue. Then, the regional approach could be much easier agreed;

- financial support from the EU and NATO for regional cooperation in this field should be considered;

the SECI Regional Center to Combat Transborder Crime was recognized as the operational framework for the regional cooperation in the field of the law enforcement.

5. The practical effect of the variety of initiatives on counterterrorism created in South Eastern Europe particularly after September 11<sup>th</sup> is difficult to judge without an in - depth analysis of all relevant aspects. One well-established way to gain better knowledge about a complex field of institutional cooperation is to organize an external review. In the United States independent evaluation and monitoring of counterterrorist activities is common, but such a joint mechanism for independent evaluation is lacking in Europe. Although there are many efforts at different levels within the European institutions/organizations (EU, Council of Europe, OSCE, Europol) and in a global perspective (e.g. UN, Interpol, NATO) those analyses are mostly limited to and dependent on information produced within the same organization.

The Stability Pact could facilitate a monitoring and counseling procedure under a joint UN - OSCE umbrella. It could assist in developing recommendations and guidelines to steer and coordinate joint efforts against terrorism in the region. Such a “concerted action” could help to establish a communicative network, not an additional organization but a stable and functioning connection among existing authorities. We should use the possibilities offered by the SECI Center and its Task Force and by the RACVIAC military network. The WT III Secretariat is ready to support and lobby for any concrete ideas in this respect. The aim should be to jointly provide a realistic assessment of threats and threat potentials as well as a judgment of strength and weakness of the counterterrorism forces.

Also, through its Police Forum initiative, the Stability Pact is offering special training modules. At the request of UN/OSCE Antiterrorism Units, we can develop modules to provide training in counterterrorism activities.

Facilitated by the Stability Pact's Working Table III (Security and Defence) the countries mentioned below engaged in consultation on their regional contribution towards fighting terrorism. The Declaration was adopted on the occasion of the Regional Conference in Bucharest, 26 October 2001. The consultations were started following the terrorist attacks on the United States in September.

**Bucharest, 26 October 2001**

**DECLARATION ON THE CONTRIBUTION  
OF THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE TO THE  
INTERNATIONAL FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM**

The Governments of South East Europe, Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Turkey and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia:

\* Unequivocally condemning all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomever committed and whatever the motivation, as underlined by 1999 OSCE Istanbul Declaration;

\* Bearing in mind the European destiny of the countries of South Eastern Europe, and considering that a regional contribution to the international campaign against terrorism is in line with the main objective of full integration into the European Union and Euro-Atlantic structures;

\* Underscoring that the fight against terrorism is not a fight between religions or cultures, but a fight against universal evil;

\* Referring to the United Nations Security Council Resolution SC1373 (2001) dated 28 September 2001 which specifically: "(4.) notes with concern the close connection between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, money-laundering, illegal arms-trafficking, and illegal movement of ... potentially deadly materials, and in this regard emphasizes the need to enhance coordination of efforts on national, sub-regional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen a global response to this serious challenge and threat to international security."

\* Recalling the June 1999 Cologne Document creating the Stability Pact for South East Europe, which stated: "The Stability Pact aims at strengthening countries in South Eastern Europe in their efforts to foster peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity, in order to achieve stability in the whole region... To that end we pledge to cooperate towards ... combating ... terrorism and all criminal and illegal activities." And, the Sarajevo Declaration on the Stability Pact by Heads of State issued in July 1999, which stated "We will also promote ...effective measures against ...terrorism."

\* Referring to the OSCE Ministerial Council Statement of November 2000, which: "stressed that eliminating the root causes of terrorism required an environment of strong democratic institutions, full respect for human rights and the rule of law in parallel with actions to suppress terrorism."

\* Taking note of the 12 February 2000 Charter of the South East European Cooperation Process countries on Good Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in South Eastern Europe, which states that: "the framework of this process comprises political cooperation, which includes ... (the) elimination of terrorism...";

\* Further taking note of the 23 February 2001 Action Plan for Regional Economic Cooperation, adopted at the Skopje SEECP Summit, which states that: "The Heads of State and Government are committed to comprehensive and decisive measures to combat corruption, organized crime, elimination of terrorism, illicit drugs, arms and human trafficking... and that the competent Ministers of the SEECP countries hold regular annual meetings with the aim of discussing problems arising from the illicit activities and to take concrete actions for their prevention";

\* Further taking note of the Concluding Document of the Negotiations Under Art V of the Annex I-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina which states that: "(General Art 6) The participating states recall that they are committed to take appropriate measures in preventing their respective territories from being used for the preparation, organization or commission of acts of extremist violence, including terrorist activities, against other participating States and their citizens.";

\* Building on the SEECAP documents which identified terrorism as a key political and military security challenge requiring joint action in the region;

\* Convinced that all countries, as well as international organizations and particularly the UN, OSCE, EU, CoE, ICAO have prominent roles to play in the fight against terrorism, and that regional and sub-regional initiatives must obtain increased coherence and effectiveness, in this context taking note of the 1998 Antalya Cooperation Agreement between Turkey, Bulgaria, and Romania



on Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Money Laundering, Arms and Human Trafficking and other Major Crimes as an example of such a sub-regional agreement;

\* Convinced that the combating of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved, is an essential element for the maintenance of international peace and security;

\* Convinced that those responsible for acts of terrorism must be brought to justice through prosecution, extradition, or other legal mechanisms, and that states that support terrorism should be subject to United Nations sanctions;

\* Recalling their long-standing and fruitful cooperation on this and other topics of mutual security concerns;

\* Resolved to strengthen their own cooperation in combating terrorism in support of the international campaign against this scourge;

\* Call upon all states to renounce terrorism and to deny financial support, the use of their territory, the provision of arms and equipment, and any other means of support to terrorist organizations;

\* Emphasize that signing, ratifying and implementing international legal instruments regarding the fight against terrorism constitute a serious responsibility on the part of States, and call on all countries to consider becoming Parties, if they have not yet done so, to the relevant international conventions relating to the suppression of acts of terrorism;

1. Agree to cooperate in the global fight against the scourge of terrorism, and in this respect,

1.1 to strengthen their cooperation in Stability Pact Working Table III initiatives which can be made use of in the fight against terrorism, such as, SPOC, the Police Initiative, the Border Guards initiative, and SALW-related activities;

1.2 to work towards enhancing the level of cooperation both bilaterally and on a regional level in the following spheres:

a) Sharing of information and analyses regarding terrorists and terrorist organizations, in close cooperation and coordination with Europol, Interpol and the SECI Crime Center;

- b) training police and other related security sector agencies to be more effective in combating terrorism;
- c) exchanging experts, including, inter alia, the exchange of liaison officers in border security posts and HQs;
- d) exchanging information on cross-border financial transactions that might relate to financing terrorist actions;
- e) further harmonizing, in line with European standards, domestic legislation regarding extradition, prosecution and other legal mechanisms aimed at combating terrorism.

2. Agree also, to effect a more focused exchange of information, to establish an ad hoc Group on Terrorism Issues in the context of the Stability Pact Working Table III.

This Declaration is intended to supplement existing arrangements between the Parties to address terrorism.

Nothing in this Declaration shall be construed as derogating from the provisions of such agreements or arrangements.