
275th Plenary Meeting
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**DECISION No. 344
REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE**

The Permanent Council,

Acting pursuant to paragraph 11 of the Istanbul Summit Declaration of 19 November 1999,

Guided by the Charter for European Security,

Following up Decision No. 306 of the Permanent Council of 1 July 1999,

Determined to continue its support for the aims of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, which was placed under the auspices of the OSCE,

Taking into account the report to the Istanbul Summit by the former Special Envoy of the Chairman-in-Office on the Regional Strategy for South Eastern Europe,

Adopts hereby the Regional Strategy for South Eastern Europe.

The Regional Strategy for South Eastern Europe has the following goals and elements:

- To develop a comprehensive and interdimensional policy on region-wide and cross-border issues in South Eastern Europe;
- To extend individual OSCE field operations' expertise and resources to other existing OSCE field operations in the region by directing them, *inter alia*, to actively and closely communicate, co-operate, share experience and expertise, and also develop common activities, within their mandates;
- To increase close co-operation with other international organizations including subregional organizations - in particular with lead agencies, where designated - on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security which calls, *inter alia*, for avoidance of duplication of tasks and a focus on the added value each organization can provide;
- To assist countries in the region in implementing their OSCE commitments and obligations under international law;
- To support ongoing regional efforts in arms control as well as in confidence and security building;

- To support appropriate mechanisms, arrangements and initiatives of (sub)regional co-operation;
- To develop carefully targeted OSCE regional projects which would add value;
- To reinforce its support to the Pact's goals and activities;
- To undertake activities, including executing projects requested by the Stability Pact; and
- To propose OSCE projects to contribute to the Stability Pact's objectives.

OSCE regional projects in South Eastern Europe – either in the form of an “OSCE only” project, an OSCE-led project or OSCE input into a project of another international institution – have to satisfy the following criteria:

- An issue within the OSCE's competence;
- An issue relevant to South Eastern Europe's needs as established in consultation with States of the region;
- A geographical extension to two or more countries in the region;
- Consistency with the mandates – in particular with respect to substance and geographical application – of the respective OSCE institutions/missions;
- Co-operation and co-ordination with other OSCE field operations in the region and with the OSCE's institutions;
- Consultation and co-ordination with other international institutions active in the area, if appropriate; and
- Added value to the work of other field operations of the OSCE and to the efforts of the international community.

The Permanent Council requests the Chairperson-in-Office to implement and co-ordinate the activities of the Regional Strategy for South Eastern Europe, after broad consultation with interested participating States, including finding agreement on focused regional projects, and to develop effective co-operation with the Secretariat and other relevant structures of the Stability Pact, as well as to report back regularly to the Permanent Council, which may take decisions thereupon.

The Permanent Council confirms that a project proposal that is outside an OSCE mission's/institution's mandate and/or necessitates additional funding by the OSCE requires a separate decision of the Permanent Council.