



INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

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Serbia and Regional Integrations

On June 15th 2009, the Institute of International Politics and Economics (IIPP) in cooperation with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) organized international conference *Serbia and Regional Integrations*. The participants in the opening session of the conference were Duško Dimitrijević, Acting Director of the IIPE, representatives of the HSF – Klaus Fiesinger, Head of the HSF Department for Central and South East Europe and Lutz Kober, Head of Office of the HSF Project in Serbia and Project in Montenegro, representatives of the institutions of Serbian Government – Marina Jovičević, Assistant Minister in Directorate General for the European Union in the Ministry of Foreign Relations, Tibor Sabo, Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Science and Technological Development and Srđan Majstorović, Deputy Director of the EU Integration Office, and as a representative of the Regional Cooperation Council – Jelica Minić, Deputy Secretary General and Head of the Expert Pool.

There were four working sessions of the conference.

The agenda of the **first session** was within the framework of the title *The Western Balkans – From Conflict to European Integrations*. At the beginning of this session, Jelica Minić presented the main activities of the Regional Cooperation Council from May 2008 to May 2009, analyzing its most important achievements, challenges, potential risks and main actions in the priority areas, and estimated three potential scenarios for further development of the Stabilization and Association Process. The second participant Miklós Déer, Director of the Manfred Wörner Foundation in Budapest, analyzed the significance of regional cooperation and good neighboring policy as a precondition for the European integration, using Central European and Visegrad experiences. Stefan Stratiev, Head of Strategic Studies Department in Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, presented the phenomenon of the new regionalism in South East Europe, analyzing the obstacles for regional cooperation in SEE during the Cold War and regional initiatives after the war, and explained *the networks of networks concept*. In the presentation of Milan Jazbec, Policy Planning Director of Slovene Ministry of Foreign Affairs, participation in the integration process was marked as a unique chance for every country in the Western Balkans to achieve stability and security. The next participant of this session Dragan Đukanović, Research Fellow at the IIPE, summarized the main points of the EU policy towards the Western Balkans from 1996, when the EU established its regional approach, and analyzed current status of potential membership candidates. According to Milan Simurdić, from the Forum of International Relations in Belgrade, the biggest advancement in integration process has been made in the sphere of energy, and the Energy Community was marked as a training room for accession to the EU.

At the end of the first session Jasminka Kronja, from the European Movement in Serbia, emphasized the human capital building as a priority of regional cooperation, presenting the main initiatives in the field of education, scientific and technological research in SEE.

Political aspects of inter-state cooperation forums and regional initiatives in SEE were the agenda of the **second session**. The first participant Sandro Knezović, Research Fellow at the Institute for International Relations in Zagreb, analyzing the reasons for establishing a specific conditionality mechanism for the Western Balkans states in the integration process, pointed that the EU had to implement different approach unlike in the case of Central and Eastern European countries, in order to stabilize the region that had been widely known as a turbulent zone that negatively affected stability of its closer and wider surrounding. Miloš Šolaja, Director of the Center for International Relations in Banja Luka, emphasized that two main goals of institutionalization of regional cooperation were creation of efficient framework for stability, security and rising of standards, and, at the other hand, realization of EU and USA political influence and creation of stabile surrounding for their investments in the region. The legal aspects of the political and economic criteria for joining the EU, with special reference to the harmonization process and the Stabilization and Association Agreement, were the main issue in the analysis of Tatjana Jevremović-Petrović, Research Fellow at the IIPE. The next participant of the second session Borislav Knežević, Senior Advisor at the Serbian Public Procurement Office, pointed significance of the cooperation among the region states offices of public procurement, presenting the EU and regional programmes for promoting cooperation in that field. At the end of the session Dragan Petrović, Senior Research Fellow at the IIPE, analyzing civilization-historical heritage of the European integrations in the Balkans, emphasized that the region which had been crucial for development of Antique civilization, emergence of Christianity and Byzantine empire, essentially belonged to Europe, and pointed that there had been historical and civilization courses (like Turkish invasion through several centuries that brought oriental influence, Asian-African pattern, often wars and political instability) which slowed down of the European code in Balkans.

The agenda of the **third session** were security aspects of inter-state cooperation forums and regional initiatives in SEE. The first participant Jovan Teokarević, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade, identified and analysed preconditions for the establishment of security community in the Balkans in the theoretical framework of Karl Deutsch. Next participant Svetlana Đurđević-Lukić, Research Associate at the IIPE, analyzed the main obstacles for regional cooperation in the area of security, pointing final status of Kosovo and Metohia, degree of unity in Bosnia-Herzegovina, cooperation with the ICTY, territorial demarcation, cultural and symbolic allegiances, and definition of polity/citizenship as the main problems. By the end of the first part of this session, professors and assistants at the Academy of Criminalistics and Police Studies in Belgrade presented their papers. Milan Žarković and Zvonimir Ivanović presented the forms of cooperation in working field and education of law enforcement agencies, with special reference to EU project AGIS and SECI programmes. Milan Milošević analyzed progress in applying special methods for stamping out organized crime, pointing that the region states made positive steps in legislative area, but their agencies (police, special prosecutor office and special courts) were still not adequate for its effective implementation in terms of staff and equipment. Next participants Dane Subošić and Dalibor Kekić presented the structure and functions of the Consortium of Police Academies founded to promote cooperation in the field of police education and training in the region. At the end of the first part of this session, Dragan Mladan and Aleksandra Ljuština-Višekruna presented goals and activities of

European Civil-Military Emergency Planning – CMEP. Aleksandar Fatić, Professorial Fellow at the IIPE, started the second part of this session analyzing structural complexity of organised crime and presenting the technical difficulties that Serbia had faced in trying to implement the newest experiences of more developed countries in fighting organised crime. Regional cooperation in fighting against organized crime was the main issue in the analysis of Atanas Kozarev, Assistant President of the Center for Democracy and Security in Skopje, who presented factors of the efficiency of the cooperation in that field, and Saša Đorđević, Research Assistant at the Centre for Civil-Military Relations in Belgrade, who analyzed police cooperation of SEE countries. The second part of this session ended with presentations of Montenegrin Ministry of Defence officials, Nusret Hanjalić, who analyzed Montenegro's Euro-Atlantic Path, and Zoran Lalović, who pointed climatic changes and natural disasters as a security threat for the region.

The central issues of the **fourth session** were economic aspects of inter-state cooperation forums and regional initiatives in SEE. The first participant Bogdan Dima, Professor at the Faculty of Economy and Business Administration in Timisoara, analyzed economic aspects of foundation of the Regional Cooperation Council, marked sustainable regional development and trans-border economic cooperation as a key factor for RCC objectives achievement. Miroslav Antevski and Dobrica Vesić, Research Fellows at the IIPE, emphasized diffusion and spillovers of knowledge and technologies as a main economic benefits of regional cooperation in SEE. Next participant David Veskov, Member of Presidency of the Pan European Union of Macedonia, presented the economic benefits of regional integration and EU membership for Serbia. Miloš Lutovac, from Higher School of Professional Business Studies in Novi Sad, presented goals of CEFTA and its importance for economic cooperation in the region. At the end of this session Mina Zirojević-Fatić and Sanja Jelisavac, Research Associates at the IIPE, analyzed the main possibilities for future economic cooperation and the challenges in that field.

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