



SEECP DUBROVNIK SUMMIT DECLARATION

30 June 2017

We, the Participants at the Summit Meeting of the South East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECP), Mr. Aleksandar Vučić, Mr. Borut Pahor, Mr. Filip Vujanović, Mr. Hashim Thaçi, Mr. Mladen Ivanić, Mr. Gjorge Ivanov, Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Mr. Boyko Borissov, Mr. Tuğrul Türkeş, Mr. Ioannis Amanatidis, Mr. Alexandru Victor Micula, Ms. Daniela Morari, Mr. Ilir Melo,

In the presence of the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) Mr. Goran Svilanović and representatives from the European External Action Service,

Have met in Dubrovnik on 30 June 2017,

Reaffirming our commitment to abide to the founding principles of the SEECP Charter, the UN Charter, the EU, OSCE and Council of Europe relevant documents,

Reiterating the importance of regional cooperation in South-East Europe for further development of stability and prosperity in the region,

Stressing that the participants of the SEECP remain fully committed to inclusive regional cooperation in South-East Europe and engaged within the SEECP framework, as the most valuable political regional forum,

Highlighting our commitment to further enhance regional cooperation in South-East Europe on the basis of strengthening democratic processes and the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, mutual understanding and interconnectivity,

Emphasizing the main political priority for South East Europe - to assure stability and prosperity of the region through development, economic growth, implementation of necessary reforms and by intensifying efforts in resolving open issues,

Continuing political dialogue as the only instrument to resolve disputes and disparities, and to achieve synergy in dealing with political and economic issues,

Intensifying regional cooperation in South-East Europe in all areas – economic, social, political, cultural and security,

Reaffirming our determination to work jointly at the regional level in responding to current challenging issues.

At this Summit we convened and agreed the following:

EUROPEAN AND EURO-ATLANTIC PERSPECTIVE

We firmly believe in the joint European future. The project of the European Union has proved to be the most successful and efficient guarantee of peace, stability and prosperity in the history of the continent.

We underline the importance of preserving the specific EU strengths, such as equality, openness, solidarity and inclusiveness. Introduction of different membership categories, based on membership seniority, geographical position or various integration speeds, would undermine the basic ideas on which the whole European project rests.

We also reaffirm the importance of the EU membership perspective, which remains the most powerful tool to encourage the implementation of necessary reforms, as well as to maintain long-term peace, stability and security in the region.

We are convinced that European integration will not be complete until all SEECP Participants become part of the EU. Maintaining the momentum of enlargement and continuous commitment to reforms is crucial for the credibility of enlargement policy, based on strict but fair conditionality, including regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations, and the principle of own merit. In this regard, we deem important that SEECP Participants which are also EU Member States persist in their commitment to other Participants by acting as strong promoters and advocates of the European future for all SEECP Participants.

We remain dedicated to support the efforts of Euro-Atlantic aspirants on their way to membership, to the extent that they fully meet the accession criteria and conditions set to them, including good neighbourly relations, being judged on their own merit, strictly but fairly.

We are determined to focus on fulfilling the needs of our citizens, ensuring social, economic and energy stability, boosting economic growth and production, establishing communication and transportation networks.

We believe that social and economic progress, the rule of law and respect for the fundamental values and democratic principles are the foundation for political stability and the key towards integration into the European Union.

SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN SECURITY CHALLENGES

We sadly and bitterly witness the fact that terrorism and violent extremism continue to represent major threats to peace, security and stability, as well as to the overall economic and social prosperity and development of our societies.

We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomever committed and reaffirm our commitment to intensify cooperation in preventing and countering terrorism, violent extremism, radicalisation, as well as all forms of organized crime.

We decide to invest our best efforts in building a sustainable network for cooperation and information sharing in order to efficiently combat threats of terrorism and radicalisation in the region.

We recall the “Joint Statement on Terrorism” adopted by the SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Tirana, on 24 February 2015 and emphasize the importance of implementation of conclusions contained therein.

We welcome the progress made in the implementation of the SEE Regional Platform for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters, as highlighted in the Report presented by the RCC.

We appreciate the efforts of RACVIAC – Centre for Security Cooperation, as an important regional international organization in the areas of, among others, confidence and security building measures, security cooperation and Counter-Terrorism including Foreign Terrorist Fighters. We commend RACVIAC activities aimed at enhancing the security dialogue and cooperation in South-East Europe.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION CHALLENGES

We are convinced that the challenges of irregular migration require stronger cooperation between all the SEECP Participants. A common approach, based on cooperation and dialogue, is required in order to address the challenges of migration.

We recognize migration to be a multilayered and an increasingly complex phenomenon, underlining that the focus of international action should be on addressing its root causes, most effectively in the countries of origin.

We recall the “Joint Statement on Migration Challenges” adopted in Sofia, on 2 February 2016, and emphasize the importance of implementation of conclusions contained therein.

We appreciate the operational achievements of SELEC – Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre – in prevention of illegal border crossings and the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings.

We also appreciate the results of MARRI – Migration, Asylum and Refugees Regional Initiative – reform process and the number of project activities implemented in the areas of fighting trafficking of human beings, and the management of irregular migrations.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

We are convinced that economic interconnectivity between SEECP Participants and developing links to the EU Single Market are keys to economic growth and sustainable development of South-East Europe. This is particularly true in the areas of energy production and transport.

We will cooperate with the aim to increase energy connectivity in the region, by further developing necessary infrastructure, allowing for a reliable energy supply from a diverse range of suppliers at a competitive price. In that regard, we support all existing and scheduled LNG terminals, establishment of a regional gas hub, as well as other energy interconnections and pipelines.

We emphasize the need to enhance coordination between the SEECP Participants in developing energy policies, particularly within the EU framework.

We will increase our efforts to remove or minimize barriers and bottlenecks in the areas of transport infrastructure, investment and innovation, as well as to create conditions for regional transport connections, as harmonized as possible with the relevant EU framework.

We fully support all economic initiatives aimed at strengthening and sustaining economic growth, creation of jobs and ensuring better quality of life for all our citizens.

We welcome the adoption in January 2017 of the Zagreb Charter on Lifelong Entrepreneurial Learning: A Keystone for Competitiveness, Smart and Inclusive Growth and Jobs in the SEECP Participants.

We believe that it is necessary to design and implement concrete policies, structures and capacities aimed at development of an entrepreneurial society, entrepreneurial behaviour and competitiveness. In that regard, the South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (SEECCEL) can serve as a central platform for the implementation of the Charter's action areas.

PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION WITHIN THE SEECP

We strongly emphasize our support to the parliamentary cooperation within the SEECP and the work of its Parliamentary Assembly. Parliamentary cooperation is pivotal in fostering political dialogue, implementing democratic standards, strengthening democratic institutions, the rule of law and in enabling wider public support for our common endeavours and work.

We congratulate the Croatian Parliament on having successfully organized and chaired the meetings of the Standing Committee of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly on 3 December 2016 in Zagreb; General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy on 17 March

2017 in Zagreb; General Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Security Cooperation on 18 March 2017 in Zagreb; the second Standing Committee on 20 May 2017 in Opatija; and the Plenary Session of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly on 8-10 June 2017 in Zagreb.

SEECP-RCC SYNERGY

We fully support and commend synergistic and efficient result oriented project cooperation between the SEECP and the RCC, as its operational arm. The RCC has proved itself as a relevant and complementary tool for enhancing cooperation and boosting overall development in the region.

We recognize the RCC South East Europe 2020 Strategy as a well-structured and comprehensive framework that underpins the ongoing European integration processes in South-East Europe and welcome the endorsement of Annual Report on Implementation (ARI) for 2017, which reflects the progress made by the economies in the implementation of the SEE 2020 Strategy targets.

We endorse the Annual Report of the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council for 2016 – 2017 and we congratulate on a well-prepared RCC Strategy and Work Programme for the period 2017 – 2019.

SEECP CROATIAN CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

We express our appreciation to the Croatian Chairmanship-in-Office 2016-2017 and its achievements under the motto “Connection. Communication. Cooperation”.

We welcome the priorities set by the Croatian Chairmanship-in-Office, accurately reflecting current developments in South-East Europe, as well as a broader European strategic approach to the region.

The events and activities organized during the Croatian Chairmanship-in-Office strengthened the role of our regional forum and enhanced the interaction between its participants.

The Croatian Chairmanship-in-Office organized the following meetings and events:

- Informal meeting of the SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held on 22 September 2016 in New York (MFEA);
- SEECEL Entrepreneurial Camp: Entrepreneurial Nest – a Step Forward in SEE, held on 16–20 October 2016 in Šibenik (SEECEL);
- Days of SEE Films about Migration Crises: Global and Regional Implications, held on 23–25 November 2016 in Zagreb (Embassies of Bulgaria and Slovenia in Zagreb jointly with Croatian MFEA);
- Round Table on VET in SEECP and the Chambers' Role in Promoting Dual Education and Entrepreneurial Learning, held on 1 December 2016 in Zagreb (Croatian Chamber of Commerce);
- Ministerial Meeting: A Charter for Entrepreneurial Learning – the Keystone for Growth and Jobs, held on 2 December 2016 in Zagreb (Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, SEECEL, Croatian Chamber of Economy and MFEA);
- Standing Committee of the SEECP Parliamentary Assembly, held on 3 December 2016 in Zagreb (Croatian Parliament);
- Meeting of the SEECP Committee of Political Directors, held on 2 March 2017 in Zagreb (MFEA);
- Informal Meeting of the SEECP Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held on 3 March 2017 in Zagreb (MFEA);
- General Committee on Economy, Infrastructure and Energy of SEECP PA, held on 17 March 2017 in Zagreb (Croatian Parliament);
- General Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Security Cooperation of the SEECP PA, held on 18 March 2017 in Zagreb (Croatian Parliament);
- Standing Committee of the SEECP PA, held on 20 May 2017 in Opatija (Croatian Parliament);
- Plenary session of the SEECP PA, held on 8-10 June 2017 in Zagreb (Croatian Parliament);
- 1st SEECP Seminar for Junior Diplomats, held on 11-15 June 2017 in Zagreb (RCC and Diplomatic Academy of MFEA).

THE INCOMING CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE

We express to the Republic of Croatia our appreciation for the excellent organization of this SEECF Summit in Dubrovnik and for the overall effectiveness and dynamism of the present Chairmanship-in-Office.

We welcome the incoming Chairmanship-in-Office of the Republic of Slovenia and its priorities and programme, and decide that the next SEECF Summit will be held in the Republic of Slovenia in 2018.