

**Statement of the
Deputy Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact, Michael Mozur
OSCE Ministerial, Ljubljana, 6 December 2005**

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to address you today on the Stability Pact's activity in South East Europe and close collaboration with the OSCE.

We are working well together because the Stability Pact fits naturally under the OSCE umbrella, given the OSCE's broad concept of security -- military and civilian, economic and environmental -- as well as its concern for democratization and human rights.

We are pleased with the clear progress made by South East Europe this year.

- EU integration has moved forward in all countries of the region. Next year's tasks are achievable.
- Regional cooperation is now seen as essential to the process of EU and Euro-Atlantic integration.
- The October signing of the treaty creating a regional energy market based on EU standards is truly a significant economic step forward.

The year ahead brings important challenge and opportunity, and we count on the OSCE as a major partner. The Stability Pact will focus its efforts in key areas:

- Addressing the region's economic difficulties – including high unemployment, weak infrastructure, and social concerns.
- Improving countries' and the region's investment climate and transforming the 30 bilateral free trade agreements into a badly needed regional free trade area.
- Ensuring ratification and implementation of the regional energy treaty without delay.
- Reinforcing the role of Parliaments in the reform process and supporting the regional dimension of Parliamentary Cooperation given its importance for democratization and Euro-Atlantic integration.
- Fighting corruption and organized crime, both crucial security issues in South East Europe. The regional dimension of our common effort is essential. The OSCE's support is important as is an increased role for the EU.
- Linking the Transborder Crime Fighting Center in Bucharest and the Stability Pact's Organized Crime Initiative with police, prosecutors and judges in South

East Europe, and with Europol, EuroJust and Interpol. We applaud the EU's decision to support this effort.

- Addressing refugee and migration issues. Here, work remains unfinished. The Stability Pact will be supportive, working with the OSCE, the Migration and Refugee Returns center (MARRI) in Skopje and others, given this issue's fundamental importance to regional stability and reconciliation.
- Working on the social and economic dimension of defense reform. This week in Zagreb, the Stability Pact's defense conversion initiative is launching working groups on the retraining of redundant military personnel, base conversion, converting defense industry to the civilian economy and addressing small arms and light weapons abatement. The OSCE is important in this latter undertaking.

We are working to ensure that the Stability Pact's network of regional cooperation activities is seamless. I am pleased to report that UNMIK/Kosovo participates in almost all of the Stability Pact's initiatives and we are working to bring them into the rest. This is essential to the region's overall progress and viability and remains a high priority.

Stability Pact initiatives work closely with OSCE institutions and field missions in a partnership based on comparative advantages. This partnership has produced success in such initiatives as:

- The Ohrid Process for Border Management and Security, a joint effort by the countries of the region, the OSCE, the EU, NATO and the Stability Pact. It is moving ahead well as countries of the region implement their commitments.
- And the Stability Pact Parliamentary Troika. Comprised of the Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, this is an important forum in support of reform in the region. OSCE missions assist through training and capacity building.

Such Stability Pact efforts as the small arms center in Belgrade, the anti-corruption center in Sarajevo, and the Center for Gender Equality in Zagreb provide support to OSCE missions.

Looking further ahead, the Stability Pact is striving hard to consolidate success and to achieve true regional ownership and leadership of the regional cooperation agenda in South East Europe.

We will work with our partners, including the OSCE, to develop an approach that will, post-Stability Pact, sustain a solid foundation of regional cooperation in the years to come.

This is an important goal, one key to the region's future prosperity and stability. We ask your support.

We welcome the interest and efforts of the South East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECP) and its Greek Chairmanship to address this regional ownership challenge and are hopeful that a basis for a greater SEECP role will be achieved.

In conclusion, let me thank the Slovene Chairmanship-in-Office for its strong engagement in South East Europe and with the efforts of the Stability Pact this year. We look forward to working closely with the incoming Belgian Chairmanship in Office in the year ahead.

On behalf of Dr. Busek and all working within the framework of the Stability Pact, I must say that we look forward to continued productive cooperation with the OSCE and to contributing further to security and stability within South East Europe, a key area of OSCE interest and activity.

Thank you very much.