

## **REPORT OF WORKING GROUP II – SECURITY AND STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE**

Working Group II discussed problems related to security and stability in Southeast Europe. The discussion was conducted in a professional and collegial manner. It reflected agreement on principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms, but significant differences on questions related to state building and arrangements among states.

The group envisioned Southeast Europe ten years from now as a region of peace. They agreed that the following steps are necessary in order to secure that peace:

- Building capable states throughout the sub-region. This involves the establishment of functioning democracies with full respect for minority rights, viable economies based on market principles, and good neighborly relations between all states.
- Free movement of citizens across borders. A Schengen-type border regime is necessary. Members of all ethnic groups also should be guaranteed the right to interact freely with their ethnic counterparts in other political entities.
- The status of Montenegro is for the citizens of Montenegro to determine. However, a decision for independence could possibly affect delicate political balances and international arrangements elsewhere in the sub-region. Whatever the outcome for Montenegro, there is a necessity to create new forms of trans-state communication and relations between the components of former states.
- The democratic changes in Serbia are of historic importance. Further political, security, and economic reforms in Serbia should receive full international support in order to promote Serbia's full participation in the international system.
- Continuation of an international, NATO-led military presence in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina depends upon decisions that will be made both within and outside the sub-region. While this presence continues, the countries of the sub-region should progressively integrate into the Euro-Atlantic security system, and develop, as part of this process, security arrangements within the sub-region. Particular attention must be paid to the fight against organised crime, illegal trafficking, and terrorism.

In order to advance these goals, the group recommends that a panel of eminent persons accepted by sub-regional states and the international community conduct an independent review and assessment on a fast track in order to:

- Assess the current political and security situation in the sub-region;
- Propose an action plan of political, security, and economic measures for building capable democratic states and viable economies;
- The plan of action should be elaborated in the context of the ongoing processes for creating a European security system and EU enlargement.