



**SÜDOSTEUROPA-
GESELLSCHAFT**

in cooperation with



Auswärtiges Amt



Stabilitätspakt für Südosteuropa
Gefördert durch Deutschland
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
Sponsored by Germany

Program and list of participants

International Workshop

How to support democratic forces in Serbia?

Berlin, March 9, 2007

Conference Venue

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), Deutsches Institut für Internationale Politik und Sicherheit (German Institute for International and Security Affairs),
Ludwigkirchplatz 3-4, 10719 Berlin Germany

Conference Language: English

Conference Committee

- Dr. Franz-Lothar Altmann, Assoc. Prof., German Institute for International and Security Affairs / Member of the Board of Southeast Europe Association
- VLRI Joachim Bleicker, First Councillor, Head “Western Balkans” Division, German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin
- Dr. Hansjörg Brey, Executive Director, Southeast Europe Association, München
- Dr. Johanna Deimel, Deputy Director, Southeast Europe Association, München
- Björn Kühne, Senior Political Advisor, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, Brussels

Under the direction of

- Gernot Erler, MP, Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office / President Southeast Europe Association (Suedosteuropa-Gesellschaft / SOG)
- MinDir Amb. Dr Michael Schaefer, Political Director, German Federal Foreign Office
- Dr. Erhard Busek, Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, Brussels

The political setting

The parliamentary elections, held in Serbia on January 21, 2007, did not change essentially the political landscape and in particular the balance of power between the pro-European / democratic and the radical / nationalistic forces. Some analysts say that Serbian elections and their results reflect a lack of political and civic consciousness, while the Radical Party remained the strongest single political force, the pro-Western oriented political parties and movements are currently striving to form a sustainable coalition government. All of the latter are following the European integration path but differ widely in their respective programmatic.

Challenges facing the new government and the internal situation in Serbia include the Kosovo status issue which might not only affect the ongoing coalition negotiations but will also put the then new government from the very beginning of its term under enormous stress. Serbia already rejected categorically the Ahtisaari proposal on the future status of Kosovo. Unrests in Kosovo could affect neighbouring Southern Serbia and might further destabilise the internal political situation in Serbia. Additionally, it is still unclear how the new government will deal with ICTY. It is crucial for the future whether the democratic bloc will be able to form a government and, secondly, whether this will then be sustainable and longer lasting. Pressure from the SRS to “clean up” the political scene underlines the urgency of an overall democratic consolidation in Serbia. If liberal and democratic forces are to form a government, it might be fragile and will face a strong radical and nationalist opposition.

According to recent opinion polls, 70 per cent of the Serbian population are supporting the perspective of European integration of Serbia. The rather high voters’ turnout inter alia contributed to the gains of the DS, and enabled G17 plus to again enter the Parliament and the Liberal Democratic Party to surpass the threshold. However, the fragmentation of the political parties landscape with its concentration on individual party leaders rather than on programs raise concerns whether the democratic parties and their pro-Western orientation will keep momentum and at the same time be able to consolidate. Many democratic and reform oriented forces who contributed substantially to the political change in 2000 seem to be frustrated and back out from active political engagement.

The international workshop aims at evaluating the present relevant actors in politics and society in Serbia, and at identifying and supporting those forces in Serbia which clearly follow the Euro-Atlantic / democratic path. This includes not only political parties in Serbia but democratic and reform oriented forces in the civil society and the media as well.

FRIDAY, 9 MARCH 2007

(OFF THE RECORD UNDER THE CHATHAM HOUSE RULES)

10:00 hrs Welcome and Introduction: Gernot Erler, MP, Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office/ President of Southeast Europe Association

Workshop Discussion / suggested topics

Part I: Actors in Serbia

- Which actors in Serbia can be identified as reliable partners with regard to the desired new start and the West orientation?
- How can they be supported and promoted?
- How can political parties in Serbia be supported?
- If political parties are also supported distinctly from outside, which kind of risks does this bear?

Moderation: Amb. Dr. Emely Haber, Special Envoy for South Eastern Europe and Turkey, German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

11:00 hrs Coffee / Tea

11:30 hrs Part II: Political Dialogue

- Which possibilities exist to promote the political dialogue in Serbia in general?
- Which foreign NGOs can be supportive in this respect and which NGOs in Serbia proper can be taken into consideration as partners?
- What kind of role can/shall play the media?

Moderation: Dr. Franz-Lothar Altmann, Assoc. Prof., German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin

Björn Kühne, Special Political Advisor, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, Brussels

13:00 hrs Lunch

14:00 hrs Part III: Coordination / Competition?

- How shall we evaluate the hitherto work of Western NGOs and foundations?
- Is there more cooperation or rather competition among the foreign actors?
- Can we observe distinct diverging national aims and/or approaches between the foreign actors?

Moderation: Goran Svilanović, Chair Working Table I, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, Belgrade

15:00 hrs Coffee / Tea

15:30 hrs Part IV: EU Perspective

- Is the EU-perspective really the only lever or carrot?
- How can bilateral support be offered, and if, by whom?
- Is Germany as single actor suited or should better coordination and cooperation prevail?

Moderation: Amb. Dr Andreas Zobel, German Embassy Belgrade

17: 00 hrs End of the Workshop / Departure of Participants

List of Participants

German Political Foundations

- Dr. Christian Christ-Thilo, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Head of Office, Belgrade
- Dr. Azra Džajić-Weber, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Head of Unit South East Europe/ Eastern Europe / Caucasus, Berlin
- Dr. Klaus Fiesinger, Hanns Seidel Foundation, Head of Department, München
- Britta Joerissen, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Regional Programme Coordinator South Eastern Europe, Berlin

German Embassy in Belgrade

- Ambassador Dr. Andreas Zobel

German Federal Foreign Office

- Amb. Dr. Emily Haber, Special Envoy for South Eastern Europe and Turkey
- VLRI Joachim Bleicker, First Councillor, Head “Western Balkans” Division,
- VLR Heidrun Jung, Councillor, Head of Working Unit Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin
- LR’in Wenke Crudopf, “Western Balkans” Division

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

- Dr. Leo Kreuz, Head of Department for South East Europe, Turkey, Iran / Bonn

Bavarian State Chancellery

- Michael Hinterdobler, Director International Relations, Munich

Members of the German Bundestag

- Marieluise Beck (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN)
- Karl-Theodor Frhr. von Guttenberg, (CSU), Vice President SOG
- Johannes Jung (SPD)
- Dr. Rainer Stinner, (FDP), Member of the Board SOG
- Prof. Dr. Gert Weisskirchen (SPD)
- Uta Zapf (SPD), Vice President SOG

Southeast Europe Association (SOG)

- Gernot Erler, MP, Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office / President SOG
- Dr. Franz-Lothar Altmann, German Institute for International and Security Affairs / Member of the Board SOG, Berlin
- Dr. Hansjörg Brey, Executive Director SOG, München
- Dr. Johanna Deimel, Deputy Director SOG, München
- Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Höpken, Vice President SOG, Leipzig
- Dr. Wim van Meurs, Assoc Prof., Member of the Board SOG, Nijmegen

Institutions / Foundations

- Sandra Breka, Robert Bosch Foundation, Head of Berlin Office
- Cornelius Ochmann, Bertelsmann Foundation, Project Manager, Berlin
- Jan Reckmann, Institute for European Politics (IEP), Project Manager, Berlin
- Dr. Dusan Reljić, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Senior Researcher, Berlin
- Dr. Constanze Stelzenmüller, GMF German Marshall Fund of the United States, Director Berlin Office

Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

- Petra Bläss, Senior Consultant to the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe on Parliamentary Cooperation, Berlin
- Björn Kühne, Senior Political Advisor, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, Brussels
- Goran Svilanović, Chair Working Table I, Stability Pact, Belgrade

International

- Prof. Judy Batt, European Union Institute for Security Studies, Senior Research Fellow, Paris
- Fabrice de Kerchove, King Baudouin Foundation, Project Manager, Brussels
- Roberto Montella, OSCE Mission to Serbia, Executive Advisor to the Head of Mission, Belgrade
- Ambassador Hans Ole Urstad, Head of OSCE Mission to Serbia, Belgrade
- Amb. Ron J.P.M. Van Dartel, Ambassador of the Netherlands in Belgrade

Serbia

- Sonja Biserko, Head of Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia
- Marko Blagojević, Center for Free Elections and Democracy, Director of Operations
- Miloš Đajić, Center of Modern Skills, President of the Steering Committee
- Milica Delević-Djilas, Advisor to the Office for the EU Integration of the Serbian Government
- Prof. Dr. Vojin Dimitrijević, Belgrade Center for Human Rights, Director
- Nataša Kandić, Humanitarian Law Center, Executive Director
- Sonja Licht, Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, President
- Ksenija Milivojević, European Movement in Serbia, Secretary General
- Jelica Minić, Institute of Economic Sciences, President of the Scientific Council
- Milan Pajević, International and Security Affairs Centre, Chairman of the International Advisory Board

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