



WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE STABILITY PACT

From Slovenia's point of view the Stability Pact (SP) is an appropriate and efficient mechanism for achieving lasting peace, stability, democracy and development in South-Eastern Europe (SEE); this is, politically, economically and in security terms, in Slovenia's strategic national interest. Slovenia participates in the Stability Pact as an equal partner as a donor, providing assistance to a variety of projects (pursuant to the decrees of the Slovenian government and of the National Assembly) in accordance with its interests and capacities.

Slovenia has historical cultural and social contacts with South-Eastern European countries, and the Slovenian language is closely related. Therefore, Slovenia can easily contribute its knowledge and experience to its neighbours. Slovenia has been helping for several years now and will continue to bring stability and prosperity to this region.

SLOVENIA'S ACTIVITIES

We support and welcome the stabilisation and association process in SEE and hope that stabilisation and association agreements will soon be concluded with all countries that are sufficiently prepared to do so.

Slovenia actively participates in all Stability Pact structures, and is leading and co-financing many projects in the economic and security fields, as well as in democratisation and human rights processes.

As part of the Working Table on Democratisation and Human Rights, Slovenia has focused its activities primarily on the protection of human rights and minority rights. In this respect it is chairing the Task Force on Human Rights and Minorities, which has developed long-term objectives and strategies.

In the first half of 2001 Slovenia was a co-chair of the Working Table on Democratisation and Human Rights. The objectives of our co-chairmanship were to revive different activities and ensure their cost-effective management and the transparency of procedures, and to intensify the involvement of SEE countries in all these activities.

The most important single event was the meeting of the Working Table on Democratisation and Human Rights in Portoroz – on 14

NATIONAL ANTHEM

*God's blessing on all nations,
Who long and work for that
bright day,
When o'er earth's habitations
No war, no strife shall
hold its sway;
Who long see
That all men free
No more shall foes, but neighbours be.*

*Text by France Preseren
Musik by Stanko Premrl*



and 15 May 2001, where strategic priorities (return of refugees, the media, inter-ethnic dialogue and trans-border cooperation, youth and education) were adopted. Almost equally important for the further functioning of the Stability Pact was the meeting of non-governmental organisations at Brdo pri Kranju on 12 May 2001.

The central projects within this Working Table, co-financed by Slovenia, are: the establishment of the International Centre for Inter-Ethnic Studies and Minorities under the auspices of the Institute for Ethnic Studies and the "Maribor Initiative", a long-term project, lead by the non-governmental organisation ISCOMET from Maribor. Its objective is the positive contribution of different religious communities to democratisation processes in SEE countries. A project for studying the Roma issue and for psychosocial assistance to children who suffered in the recent armed conflicts are two further long-term projects. Slovenia has also provided training for local community representatives from SEE countries. The office of the Slovenian Human Rights Ombudsman is taking part in establishing similar institutions elsewhere in SEE.

In general the most tangible and useful assistance Slovenia provides to SEE countries is the transfer of its "know-how" (knowledge and experience) to their institution-building process and their Euro-Atlantic integration processes. In this respect we helped establish the Customs, Stock Exchange, Clearing

House, Statistics and Bank for Promoting Exports by transferring our "know-how" of investment, trade liberalisation and the development of small business in some SEE countries. The Bled School of Management trains managers from SEE countries; this year it is starting to train government officials. The Centre for Excellence in Finance has been established to offer training in the field of reconstruction of the financial sector and financial administration to representatives from SEE countries.

SLOVENIA ACTIVE IN THE SECURITY SECTOR

Slovenian experts actively participate in initiatives concerning home affairs, especially the Anti-Corruption Initiative and the Initiative against Organised Crime. At present Slovenia, as a junior partner to Austria and Germany, is starting a programme to train people from Croatia in the field of asylum and migration procedures and legislation. It is also active in the field of police training, where it is preparing a training module on police management. In 2001 Slovenia prepared and proposed an education module on "Disaster Preparedness and Prevention". The most prominent project by Slovenia in the security field is the humanitarian demining and mine victims assistance.

This year Slovenia will send one of its officers to the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) in Zagreb.

In 2000 Slovenia invested a total of 4 million euros in a variety of projects, 2.7 million of which was invested in projects as part of the Working Table on Economic Reconstruction, Development and Cooperation.

A total of 2.76 million euros was allocated for 2001, 2.0 million of which was for projects as part of the Working Table on Economic Reconstruction, Development and Cooperation (humanitarian aid not included).

The estimated cost of projects for 2002 and 2003 is approximately 3.2 million euros per year.

Expert activities and other services are not included in this amount. Projects led by other participants to which Slovenia contributes offices and buildings are also not included in estimations of Slovenia's financial contribution.

