

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY**

At the invitation of the Hellenic Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations Development Programme and the Southeast Europe Telecommunication and Informatics Research Institute (INA), Ministers and representatives from the eSEE Initiative member states, Hellas, Romania, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and representatives from private sector and research organizations met in Thessaloniki on 30 June and 1 July, 2005 for the South Eastern Europe Ministerial Conference on the Information Society.

1. At the moment when the international community is preparing for the second phase of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) and the European Commission has announced the i2010 Initiative, we underline the importance of the Information Society in facilitating co-operation in South Eastern Europe, in establishing greater economic and democratic stability in the region, and in promoting social and cultural cohesion and strengthening economic integration.
2. We welcome the Declaration of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on human rights and the rule of law in the Information Society and confirm our commitment to adopt policies for the further development of the Information Society which are compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights and which aim to preserve, and whenever possible enhance, democracy, to protect human rights, in particular freedom of expression and information, and to promote respect for the rule of law.
3. We recognise as best practice the eEurope and i2010 Initiatives and are aware of their importance for achieving the goals of the renewed Lisbon Strategy.

4. We acknowledge the importance of the eSEE Initiative and reaffirm our commitment to the **eSEE Agenda**¹ to align national policies for the development of Information Society and to establish the legal framework for the development of Information Society harmonised with the EU Acquis Communautaire.
5. We recognise the complexity of some tasks included in the eSEE Agenda and agree to modify their deadlines as follows:

OBLIGATION	NEW DEADLINE
• Adoption of National and UNMIK Strategies for IS Development on the basis of the common guidelines prepared by the eSEE WG	December 2005
• Cabinet or equivalent Level Bodies for the development of IS on the basis of the unified model ToR prepared by the eSEE WG	March 2006
• Legal framework on e-Signature	March 2006
• Legal framework on e-Commerce	March 2006
• Law on Cyber- crime	June 2006
• Law on Telecommunications	June 2006
• Law on Personal Data Protection	June 2006

6. We take note that in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999), UNMIK takes this opportunity to associate itself to the commitments included in the eSEE Agenda for the Development of the Information Society with the above new deadlines.
7. Connectivity is a central enabling agent in building the Information Society. We recognise the importance of affordable broadband infrastructure for meeting the goals of the eSEE Agenda and welcome the signing of the Broadband South Eastern Europe Memorandum of Understanding.
8. Information and network security, authentication, privacy and consumer protection are prerequisites for the development of the Information Society and for building confidence among users of ICTs. We recognise that Internet crosses all borders and cyber-security can only be accomplished through regional and global international cooperation.
9. We acknowledge the importance of international standards, especially open, interoperable and non-discriminatory standards that facilitate development and more generalised access to ICTs at more affordable conditions for all potential users .
10. We recognise the potential of e-Business models to stimulate economic growth, job creation, and regional trade and acknowledge the proposed guideline National Strategy for Building a Framework for e-Business.
11. We welcome the reports of significant progress in information society development in the eSEE Initiative member countries; recognise the efforts

¹ eSEE Agenda for the development of the Information Society was signed in Belgrade on 29 October 2002 under the auspices of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

undertaken and the results achieved. We recognise the need to align the eSEE Agenda with the new targets set out by the i2010 Initiative and the WSIS documents taking into account regional and national circumstances and priorities, and agree that the eSEE Initiative Working Group shall prepare a proposal of the eSEE Agenda+ to be adopted at the next South Eastern Europe Ministerial Conference on the Information Society.

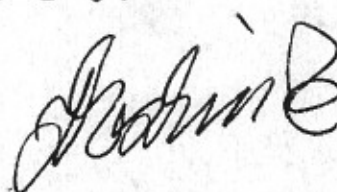
For Albania

H.E. Mr. Eduard Prodani
General Secretary
Ministry of the Transport and Telecommunication



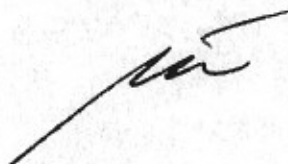
For Bosnia and Herzegovina

H.E. Mr. Zeljko Knezevic
Assistant Minister of Transport and Communications
The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina



For Croatia

H.E. Mr. Miroslav Kovačić
State Secretary
Central State Administrative Office for e-Croatia



For the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

H.E. Mr. Xhemali Mehazi
Minister of Transport and Communications

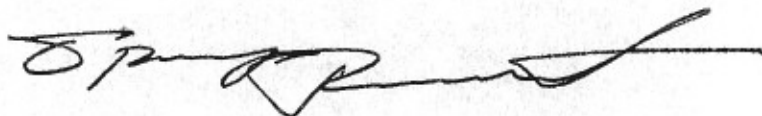
For Moldova

H.E. Mr. Pavel Buceatchi
Viceminister of Information Development



For Montenegro

H.E. Mr. Branimir Gvozdenović
Deputy Prime Minister



For Serbia

H.E. Mr. Aleksandar Popović
Minister of Science and Environmental Protection.



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For UNMIK

**For the Special Representative of the Secretary General, acting for the
Provisional Institutions of Self Government**

Mr. Joachim Rücker

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General
UNMIK/Pillar IV Economic Reconstruction (EU)