

Leicester, UK. He has wide ranging interests in aspects of e-government and democracy. He is academic advisor to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's (ODPM) Local e-Democracy National Project and a senior research associate at the University of Geneva's e-Democracy Center.

Raphaël Kies is the Deputy Director of the e-Democracy Center in Geneva (e-DC). He has published various articles and reports on Internet voting and on the way political parties have implemented their presence online. His current research

activities focus on the empirical evaluation of online deliberation.

Tiago Peixoto is a Research Associate of the e-Democracy Center in Geneva (e-DC). His main research interests lie on the impact of ICTs on democratic procedures, identifying factors that contribute to successful policies on e-Democracy. Mr. Peixoto has been involved in pioneering work concerning "Participatory Budgeting" and has worked in the past two years on e-Democracy experiences at the local level funded by the European Union.

**16:50 - 17:00** Interactive Discussion

**17:00** Conference Closing

**17:00 - 17:30** Press Conference

**20:30 - 22:00** Official Dinner

**Saturday, 2 July 2005**

Departure of delegations

ORGANIZERS



HELLENIC MINISTRY  
OF TRANSPORT &  
COMMUNICATIONS



STABILITY PACT  
FOR SOUTH EASTERN  
EUROPE



# South Eastern Europe Ministerial Conference on Information Society

## Programme

*Growth in the  
Broadband Era:  
Regional  
Development  
in a Unified  
Europe*



*Joint Preparation  
of the Countries  
of South Eastern  
Europe for the  
2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the  
World Summit on  
Information Society*

**WSIS Thematic Meeting  
"The Impact of ICTs on Democracy Development"**

**Thessaloniki, Greece**

**30 June – 1 July 2005**

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL

**Organizers:** Hellenic Ministry of Transport and Communications, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, UNECE, UNDP, INA



#### Thursday, 30 June 2005

Arrival of the Official Delegations at the airport

#### Official Welcome

**20:30 Official Reception and Dinner**

Offered by the Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications, H.E. Mr. Anastasios Nerantzis

#### Friday, 1 July 2005

**08:00 – 09:00 Registration**

Registration - Grand Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Hotel

**09:00 – 09:30 Conference Opening**

Session Chair: Hellenic Ministry of Transport and Communications

Chairman: H.E. Mr. Anastasios Nerantzis, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications

*Opening statements by Host Country and Organisers*

**09:00 - 09:05** H.E. Mr. Anastasios Nerantzis, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications, Greece

**09:05 - 09:10** Mr. Fabrizio Saccomanni, Chairman, Working Table II, Stability Pact for SEE  
**09:10 - 09:15** Mr. Simon Bensansson, Head of International Relations Unit, DG Information Society and Media, European Commission

**09:15 - 09:20** Mrs. Virginia Cram-Martos, Chief Trade Policy and Government Cooperation, UNDP  
**09:20 - 09:25** Mr. Moises Venancio, Team Leader and Senior Program Advisor for the Western Balkans, Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS

**09:25 - 09:30** Dr. Vassilis N. Takas, President, INA Institute

**09:30 - 10:00 Coffee break**

**10:00 - 11:50 First Plenary Session**

#### eSEEEurope Initiative

Session Chair: Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

Chairman: Mr. Michael C. Mozur, Deputy Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe

**10:00 - 10:10** Dr. Marijana Vidas - Bubanja, Chair of the eSEE Initiative  
*The revised eSEE Agenda: Progress up to now and Future Plans*

**10:10 - 10:20** Mr. Yuri Misnikov, ICT 4D Policy Advisor, UNDP  
*Mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the eSEE Agenda Initiative in the Western Balkan countries from the Information Society policy change perspective*

**10:20 - 10:25** H.E. Mr. Eduard Prodani, Director General, Ministry of Transport & Telecommunications

*Albania: Presentation of the progress achieved in Information Society development since adoption of eSEE Agenda*

**10:25 - 10:30** H.E. Mr. Zeljko Knezevic, Assistant Minister of Transport and Communications  
*Bosnia and Herzegovina: Presentation of the progress achieved in Information Society development since adoption of eSEE Agenda*

**10:30 - 10:35** H.E. Mr. Miroslav Kovačić, State Secretary, Central Government Office for e-Croatia  
*Republic of Croatia: Presentation of the progress achieved in Information Society development since adoption of eSEE Agenda*

**10:35 - 10:40** H.E. Mr. Xhemali Mehazi, Minister of Transport and Communications  
*FYR Macedonia: Presentation of the progress achieved in Information Society development since adoption of eSEE Agenda*

**10:40 - 10:45** H.E. Mr. Pavel Buceatchi, Vice Minister of Information Development  
*Republic of Moldova: Presentation of the progress achieved in Information Society development since adoption of eSEE Agenda*

**10:45 - 10:50** H.E. Mr. Branimir Gvozdenović, Deputy Prime Minister  
*Republic of Montenegro: Presentation of the progress achieved in Information Society development since adoption of eSEE Agenda*

**10:50 - 10:55** H.E. Mr. Aleksandar Popović, Minister of Science and Technology  
*Republic of Serbia: Presentation of the progress achieved in Information Society development since adoption of eSEE Agenda*

**11:00 - 11:50 Second Plenary Session**

#### bSEE Initiative

Session Chair: SE Europe Telecommunications & Informatics Research Institute INA

Chairman: Dr. Pantelis Angelidis, INA Director

**11:00 - 11:07** H.E. Mr. Zsolt Nagy, Minister of Telecommunications and Information Society, Republic of Romania

*Broadband Implementation Progress*

**11:07 - 11:14** Dr.Sc. Diana Šimić, Deputy State Secretary, Central Government Office for e-Croatia  
*Presentation of the Memorandum of Understanding for "bSEE" - Broadband South East Europe Initiative*

**11:14 - 11:21** Mr Theodoros Fessas, Secretary General, Federation of Greek Industries  
*Sustainability of Broadband Investment Projects*

**11:21 - 11:28** Mrs. Cindy van den Boogert, International Relations, DG Information Society and Media, European Commission

*EU Financing Opportunities*

**11:28 - 11:35** Mr. Motoo Kusakabe, Senior Counsellor to the President, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

*Financing Broadband Development*

**11:35 - 11:40** Mr. Panagiotis Tsanakas, Chairman, Greek Research & Technology Network - GRNET

*Financing Broadband Academic Infrastructure: SEE - LITE*

**11:40 - 12:00 Signing Ceremony**

Signing Ceremony of the revised eSEE Agenda - bSEE MoU

**12:00 - 13:40 Lunch break**

**13:45 - 17:00 Third Plenary Session**

**Joint Preparation of the Countries of South Eastern Europe for the Second World Summit on the Information Society**

Chairman: Mrs. Virginia Cram-Martos, Chief Trade Policy and Government Cooperation, UNDP

**13:45 - 13:50** Mrs. Virginia Cram-Martos, Chief Trade Policy and Government Cooperation, UNDP  
*Introductory Comments on: Using International Standards, Norms and Tools for Electronic Business: A Way to Involve Small Countries and Companies in International Business*

**13:50 - 14:00** H.E. Mr. Miroslav Kovačić, State Secretary, Central Government Office for e-Croatia  
*Preparing for the Second Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society*

**14:00 - 14:05** Mr. Ivar Tallo, Director, e-Governance Academy (Estonia), United Nations Development Programme

*Sustainable Mechanisms to Build the Information Society in the Transition Economies. I. Using the Momentum of WSIS*

**14:05 - 14:10** Mr. Gordan Radman, Member of the Business Advisory Council of the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe

*Sustainable Mechanisms to Build the Information Society in the Transition Economies II: The Business Perspective*

**14:10 - 14:15** Mrs. Cindy van den Boogert, International Relations, DG Information Society and Media, European Commission

*EU preparation for the WSIS; building the Information Society*

**14:15 - 14:20** Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE Trade  
*UNECE's work on electronic business and international standards*

**14:20 - 14:35** Ministers and National Representatives

*Exchange of views on the Issues in this Session and questions*

#### WSIS Thematic Meeting

**The Impact of ICTs on Democracy Development**

Thematic Meeting Chair/Moderator: Dr. George Papadatos, Minister Plenipotentiary, Dept. of International Organizations, Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**14:40 - 16:50** WSIS Thematic Meeting - Panel Discussion on the Use of ICTs on Democracy Development

#### Panellists:

*Alexander H. Trechsel is Professor of Political Science and holder of the Swiss Chair on Federalism and Democracy at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence, Italy. His most recent books are "The European Union and E-voting" (co-edited with Fernando Mendez, Routledge, 2005), "The Future of Democracy in Europe" (co-edited with Philippe C. Schmitter, Council of Europe Publishing, 2004) Lawrence Pratchett is Director of the Local Governance Research Unit at De Montfort University,*