

**DECISION
OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE REGIONAL
COOPERATION COUNCIL

ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POSITION OF

THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL FOR RELATIONS WITH THE
PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

- I. Pursuant to the competencies of the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council under Articles 13 c. and 13 i. of the Statute of the Regional Cooperation Council, the Secretary General has decided to establish the position of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council for relations with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
- II. This special position within the framework of the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat has been established in order to ensure close and continuous cooperation between the RCC and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, including the incoming Presidencies, with a view to the promotion of the objectives of the Regional Cooperation Council in the context of regional cooperation in South East Europe and the region's European perspective within the Agendas of the Presidencies.
- III. This special position is also of key relevance for the activities of Regional Cooperation Council and its Secretary General as such regular interaction between the Regional Cooperation Council and its Secretariat as a key interlocutor of the European Union in South Eastern Europe is of particular importance for full complementarity of regional cooperation activities with the European Union integration processes.
- IV. The Terms of Reference for the position of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council for relations with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union are the following:
 - 1) The Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council for relations with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union shall establish close dialogue and interaction with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in respect of all issues of relevance for the regional cooperation in South Eastern Europe and on the activities and work of the Regional Cooperation Council and its Secretariat as well as with the incoming Presidencies. The aim of the dialogue and interaction is to establish close

cooperation between the Regional Cooperation Council and the Presidency of the Council of the European Union on issues relating to the regional cooperation in South Eastern Europe, with the focus on continuous political dialogue and focus of the South Eastern European Agenda as confirmed by South East European Cooperation Process (SEEC) Meetings of the Heads of State or Government and executed by the SEEC Chairmanship-in-Office within the Programme of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

- 2) The Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council for relations with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union shall directly interact on a permanent basis with the representatives of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in Brussels as well as with the representatives of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in respective capitals. This interaction also includes the incoming Presidencies of the Council of the European Union.
- 3) The Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council for relations with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union shall directly interact and liaise with the representatives of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union chairing relevant bodies of the Council of the European Union in relation to the issues concerning regional cooperation in South Eastern Europe as well as the activities and work of the Regional Cooperation Council and its Secretariat which are discussed or planned to be discussed at the agendas of the respective bodies of the Council of the European Union.
- 4) The Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council for relations with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union shall advise the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council on all issues related to the relations of the Regional Cooperation Council and its Secretariat with the current and incoming Presidencies of the Council of the European Union.
- 5) The Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council for relations with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union shall participate, upon the invitation, together with the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council where appropriate, at the meetings, conferences and workshops organised by the Presidency of the Council of the European Union where the issue of regional cooperation in South Eastern Europe and the activities of the Regional Cooperation Council and its Secretariat will form part of the agenda.
- 6) The activities of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council for relations with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union shall be coordinated with the Head of the Liaison Office in Brussels, in particular in relation to the areas falling within the competence of more than one institution of the European Union.
- 7) The Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council for relations with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union

shall be appointed for the initial term of two years. In his/her activities the Special Envoy shall act under the authority of the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council and is responsible directly to the Secretary General. For terms of practical coordination of activities the Special Envoy shall consult and cooperate with the Chief of Staff of the Regional Cooperation Council.

- 8) The Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council for relations with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union shall be based in Brussels. The competencies of the Special Envoy and the Regional Cooperation Council Liaison Office in Brussels remain distinct, each acting under its Terms of Reference. Administrative and logistical support to the activities of the Special Envoy shall be provided by the Regional Cooperation Council Liaison Office in Brussels. For reasons of regulating special status in the Kingdom of Belgium on the basis of the Headquarters Agreement concerning the status of the Regional Cooperation Council Liaison Office in Brussels, Special Envoy shall be considered as the official of the Regional Cooperation Council Liaison Office in Brussels. This consideration and enlistment remain solely for the administrative purposes and have no implications as to the division of competencies between the Special Envoy and the Regional Cooperation Council Liaison Office in Brussels and the line of responsibility envisaged by respective Terms of Reference.

- V. Having in mind the envisaged change of competencies of the institutions of the European Union following the entry into force of a Lisbon Treaty the Terms of Reference for the position of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council for relations with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union shall be revised in order to incorporate the relations with the future institution of the High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union.

Sarajevo, 16 May 2008