



“Future through Cooperation”

**CHISINAU JOINT STATEMENT
OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
OF THE SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN COOPERATION PROCESS (SEECP)**

CHISINAU, 5 JUNE 2009

Forging Partnership for Cooperation and Development

We, the Heads of State and Government of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP),

Having reviewed the current situation in South East Europe and beyond at this decisive point in time and fully aware of the historical opportunities opening up to our countries and peoples;

Determined to exercise reinvigorated leadership and genuine cooperation in order to consolidate the achievements reached so far in our region and continue to move the South East Europe further towards the European mainstream;

Reiterating our full adherence to the completion of integration of South East Europe in the European Union and most of the countries into the Euro-Atlantic structures;

Determined to spare no efforts in forging partnership, solidarity and cooperation in addressing the global economic and financial crisis and its impacts to South East Europe;

Mindful of economic, natural and human potentials of our region and resolute to find the best ways to utilize them in order to accelerate regional development and respond to the current crisis effects;

Aware of the key role of genuine cooperation in facilitating dialogue, strengthening peace and stability, building trust and realisation of joint development projects thus contributing to fulfilment of our common goals;

Partnership for European Integration

We reaffirm that the accession to the European Union (EU) remains our key goal and we are convinced that the European perspective of the region shall be kept high on the agenda of the EU and its institutions. We believe that Euro-Atlantic integration for those opting for it shall also add to the stability, security and cooperation in our region.

We underline the importance of consolidating stability and security as well as strengthening of cooperation in South East Europe for building a free, democratic and united Europe;

We are dedicated to strengthen shared responsibility and mutual understanding in solving outstanding issues in the spirit of dialogue, compromise, mutual respect, equality, good neighbourly relations and in line with the principles of international law and our commitment to the European Union;

We have confidence that the EU will continue to advance the European perspective of the entire South East Europe;

We are determined to continue working together and assisting each other on the implementation of the European agendas. We will speed up the EU accession related reforms. We are committed to strengthening democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms and good neighbourly relations;

Partnership for Development and Prosperity

We reaffirm our determination to promote concrete joint actions in responding to the effects of the current global economic crisis. Aware of the necessity to add a regional component to our national policies, we support elaboration of measures, initiatives and projects in order to enhance economic activity and strengthen competitiveness at national and regional levels keeping at the same time the pace of economic reforms as well as openness of our markets;

We welcome the comprehensive conclusions of the G 20 Summit of 2 April 2009 in London hopeful they will produce desired effects on the world economy. We strongly support the efforts of the EU and the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) aimed at assisting our region to respond to the crisis. In this respect we invite the EU and IFI's to continue to elaborate strategies and measures which will help strengthening strategic economic sectors in the region;

We recognize that the scope of the crisis calls for innovative, far-reaching and effective response and reaffirm our interest to consult on large-scale regional development projects, especially in the field of energy, infrastructure and transport, jointly and in cooperation with the EU and international institutions, as well as interested partners close to the region;

We call upon the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) to establish a high-level expert panel aimed at stimulating in-depth discussion on economic and financial measures in response to the crisis by acting in a coordinated manner at the regional level and in consultations with the EU institutions and other international partners.

Partnership for Strengthening of Rule of Law

We underline the importance of the rule of law for the overall prosperity and security, strengthening democracy and human rights. In this light, we emphasize the necessity to uphold and ensure full respect of the rule of law throughout South East Europe;

We recognise the rule of law as a paramount factor in the creation of the environment for secure economic and social activities and investment that are so crucial in responding to the current crisis and acceleration of reforms in order to generate development throughout the region;

We confirm our willingness to continue vigorously cooperating with the EU and other international partners in ensuring good governance, transparent legal framework, fight against corruption and organized crime throughout the region;

We are determined to work together to ensure that practices in the field of the rule of law including all its administrative, legislative and judicial aspects, are in compliance with relevant EU standards. We will ensure that the administrative capacities of our institutions, where necessary, will be upgraded and enhanced in order to ensure the unimpeded implementation of the rule of law in all its aspects.

Adopted in Chişinău, on 5 June 2009