



**SUMMIT OF THE HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT OF THE  
SOUTH EAST EUROPE COOPERATION PROCESS (SEECP)**

**ADDRESS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE REGIONAL  
COOPERATION COUNCIL (RCC), HIDO BIŠČEVIĆ**

**BELGRADE, 15 JUNE 2012**

Thank you Mr. Chairman, distinguished President Nikolić,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege to address this year's SEECP Summit, here in Belgrade.

I would like to extend gratitude and appreciation to the Serbian authorities for the leadership and openness, for the fruitful cooperation achieved with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and its Secretariat during the Chairmanship-in-Office (C-i-O) of the SEECP.

We benefited enormously from this sound synergy.

As it was the case during the current, and it is my conviction that it will be with the upcoming SEECP C-i-O, the region continued successfully to profile itself as a zone of genuine peace, security and stability.

Looking back at the period from the last Summit, change is evident: rapprochement and reconciliation are taking roots, many issues from the past were addressed with greater vigour and determination to succeed, the enlargement countries have made considerable progress on their way towards the EU, and the regional cooperation is bearing its fruits.

The progress attained within the region calls upon all of us to keep the positive momentum in our part of Europe. There are no uncertainties about the crucial importance to preserve these positive trends, as the region needs to avoid status quo in the context of the broader European and Euro-Atlantic goals, in particular given the political and economic consequences of the current crisis on the EU itself and, to no lesser degree, given the fluctuating priorities within the international agenda.

Regional cooperation with a targeted regional approach is and must continue to be one of the most effective platforms for economic growth and social development of the region.

But, at the same time, we need to evaluate and find best modalities and mechanisms to consolidate cooperation within the SEECP framework.

What we also need at this point in time, are well defined and result-orientated development projects encompassing the entire region, as an efficient response to the crisis and in what may or may not happen with the priorities within the EU enlargement process.

Once again, I want to refer to the ideas and initiatives already known to you and which have to benefit from proper political support as opposed to mere discursive commitments – the project of reconstructing and modernizing railways systems in SEE, strengthening rule of law, building a secure environment, making SEE more conducive to sustainable economic growth, benefiting from the human potentials of this region, promoting a free and an impartial media and many more.

Excellencies,

Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), as a key forum for guiding and monitoring cooperation in SEE and for promoting regional ownership and responsibility, stands ready to capitalize on these ideas and stimulate the initiation of new concrete regional ventures with a greater added-value, by working together with all its members, the EU institutions and international partners.

I want to thank you for adopting my Annual Report which proves that RCC has delivered in all key priority areas.

Needless to say, RCC is ready to continue to fulfil its mission, sparing no efforts to ensure all-inclusiveness as its ground rule in the interest of all members.

The adoption of the Final Declaration today represents an expression of continuity and at the same time opens further the window to a prosperous and stable future.

In this respect, I would like to invite all SEECP participating states to make the best possible use of the RCC as a platform to pool together regional projects that will bring a new sense of building and improvements in all the key priority areas of cooperation in SEE.

I am confident this could be achieved by your joint support to the RCC under the new leadership of Mr. Goran Svilanović. I am glad that I leave the legacy of my five years of work into his able hands.

Finally, I would like to express gratitude to all of you for support over the past period, to our Serbian hosts and wish the best of success to the incoming Chairmanship-in-Office of SEECP.

Thank you for your attention.