

English language translations of author article by RCC Secretary General, Goran Svilanovic, featuring RCC's SEE 2020 strategy, published by 9 dailies from the region:

1. [Politika](#) (Serbia, published on 24 January 2014)
2. [Dnevni avaz](#) (Bosnia and Herzegovina, published on 22 January 2014)
3. [Nezavisne novine](#) (Bosnia and Herzegovina, published on 22 January 2014)
4. [Vecernji list](#) (Bosnia and Herzegovina, published on 22 January 2014)
5. [Vijesti](#) ( Montenegro, published on 20 January 2014)
6. [Mapo](#) (Albania, published on 17 January 2014)
7. [Jutarnji list](#) (Croatia, published on 17 January 2014)
8. [Utrinski vesnik](#) (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, published on 17 January 2014)
9. [Tribuna](#) (Kosovo\*, published on 16 January 2014)

*\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*

*Politika*

Friday, 24 January 2014

## **One million jobs in the region over the next 7 years**

**EU citizens will not support accession of countries that are economically much weaker than the EU Member States**

***Goran Svilanović,  
Secretary General of the  
Regional Cooperation Council***

Do you know that trucks travel from Ljubljana to Tirana for more than five days?

Do you know that the average GDP of the SEE countries is just a third of the average GDP of EU Member States?

Do you know that the countries of the region doubled their public debt over the last five years and that 800,000 people lost their jobs?

Regional infrastructure and economies are insufficiently interconnected. The policy of upholding macroeconomic stability by continuous raise of debts and layoff led to dramatic consequences to each of the affected families, and has also shaken the democratic order and values that are the foundation of our societies.

Seven economies and altogether developed as Portugal. This has to be changed!

Representatives of Serbia, Kosovo\*, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Montenegro, [The Former Yugoslav Republic of] Macedonia and Croatia adopted a comprehensive strategy prepared by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) – South East Europe 2020 - Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective in late November 2013 in Sarajevo. Seven governments decisively stand behind the SEE 2020 strategy to provide better quality of life for their citizens and lead them out of the current crises, with the support of the RCC and the European Commission.

In reality, this implies: creation of one million jobs in the region over the next 7 years, increasing energy efficiency by 9% and government productivity by 20%, doubling trade and investments, and finally, increasing productivity by one third.

In addition to this, there is a need for an educational system that would increase the number of young highly educated experts by additional 300,000 with a realistic opportunities for employment; employment growth from 39% to 44%; and increase of total regional trade turnover by more than double from 94 to 210 billion euro.

These are just numbers, but they testify of the SEE 2020 ambitions, and the awareness that layoff is not the way out of the crises. Economic criteria for the EU accession remain very clear – functional market economy and capacity for competitiveness, the ability to compete on the EU market.

Serbia opened negotiations for a European Union membership this week. Tuesday was a great day for Serbia as its European perspective has now been fully set on track. This is also a great moment for the entire region, as it sends a message that hard work, perseverance and courage pay off, even in times of crisis. Finally, this is great news for the European Union, as it shows its full dedication to the enlargement process and inclusiveness.

It is due to this that Serbia's contribution in preparing and implementing the South East Europe (SEE) 2020 strategy is even more significant now.

EU citizens will not support accession of countries that are economically much weaker than the EU Member States. Full implementation of the SEE 2020 strategy and attainment of specific and measurable goals the strategy sets out is the way to mitigate gaps and come closer to the EU standards in education, employment, work conditions and productivity. In addition to employment growth, the most important objective of SEE 2020 is to raise the region's GDP to half of the EU's average.

In the upcoming years, the main task for the RCC will be to provide for the SEE 2020 implementation. To this end, we will establish a comprehensive progress monitoring system for each of the countries. We already have an operational and action plan in place that includes regional economies, and up to 20 ministries and agencies per each, 15 regional sectoral coordinators, private sector, civil society, and international organisations and donors. Citizens will be regularly informed as to the progress through the EC's annual Progress Reports.

The Government of Serbia adopted the SEE 2020 strategy – Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective, and supported it alongside with all other countries as a common development strategy for the region. In the SEE 2020 implementation process, Serbia can expect full support by the Regional Cooperation Council, the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and the European Union, as decided by the EU Council on 17 December 2013.

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*Dnevni avaz*  
Wednesday, 22 January 2014

By: Goran SVILANOVIĆ  
Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council

**POSITIONS Goran Svilanović, Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council for Avaz**

## **We Seek to Open One Million New Jobs**

**Out tasks also include increase of energy efficient by 9%, increase government productivity by 20%, doubling trade and investments...**

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### **Role of Education**

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### **Development Strategy**

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the SEE 2020 strategy – Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective, and supported it alongside with all other countries as a common development strategy for the region. In the SEE 2020 implementation process, Bosnia and Herzegovina can expect full support by the Regional Cooperation Council, the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and the European Union, as decided by the EU Council on 17 December 2013.

#### ***Region Lags Behind EU***

- *Trucks travel from Ljubljana to Tirana for more than five days*
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- *Average GDP per capita of the Balkans is 1/3 GDP of the EU*
- *800,000 people lost their jobs over the last five years in the Balkans*
- *Balkan countries increased their public debt by 200% over the last five years*
- *7 Balkan countries with the economy the size of Portugal*

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## **Column**

Goran SVILANOVIĆ  
(the author is Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council)

### **Full implementation of the strategy brings us closer to the EU**

**The most important objective of SEE 2020 is to raise the region's GDP to half of the EU's average**

**Seven governments decisively stand behind the SEE 2020 strategy to provide better quality of life for their citizens, with the support of the RCC and the European Commission**

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*Vecernji list*  
22 January 2014

Guest Commentary  
By: **Goran Svilanović,**  
**Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council**

## **Seven Economies of the Region and Altogether Developed as Portugal. This Has to Be Changed!**

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*Vijesti*  
20 January 2014

p. 21  
By: Goran Svilanović, [Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council]

## **Position**

### **The Region Has to Advance**

**The crises threatened the outlook for joining the EU. EU citizens will not support accession of countries that are economically much weaker than the EU Member States. Full implementation of the SEE 2020 strategy and attainment of specific and measurable goals the strategy sets out is the way to mitigate gaps and come closer to the EU standards**

*Do you know that trucks travel from Ljubljana to Tirana for more than five days?*

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Representatives of Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo\*, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, [The Former Yugoslav Republic of] Macedonia and Croatia adopted a comprehensive strategy prepared by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) – South East Europe 2020 - Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective in late November 2013 in Sarajevo. Seven governments decisively stand behind the SEE 2020 strategy to provide better quality of life for their citizens and lead them out of the current crises, with the support of the RCC and the European Commission.

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The Government of Montenegro adopted the SEE 2020 strategy – Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective, and supported it alongside with all other countries as a common development strategy for the region. In the SEE 2020 implementation process, Montenegro can expect full support by the Regional Cooperation Council, the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and the European Union, as decided by the EU Council on 17 December 2013.

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*Mapo*

17 January 2014

COMMENTARY

By: GORAN SVILANOVIĆ, [Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council]

## **South-East Europe 2020; What should be changed?**

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The Government of Albania adopted the SEE 2020 strategy – Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective, and supported it alongside with all other countries as a common development strategy for the region. In the SEE 2020 implementation process, Albania can expect full support by the Regional Cooperation Council, the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and the European Union, as concluded by the EU Council on 17 December 2013.

*Goran Svilanović,  
Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council*

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*Jutarnji list*  
Friday, 17 January 2014

By:  
**GORAN SVILANOVIĆ,**  
Secretary General of the  
Regional Cooperation Council

## **800,000 People Lost Their Jobs over the Last Five Years in the Region**

**Seven governments intend to open one million jobs in the region with the SEE 2020 strategy, increase energy efficiency and double trade and investments**

Do you know that trucks travel from Ljubljana to Tirana for more than five days?

Do you know that the average GDP of the SEE countries is just a third of the average GDP of EU Member States?

Do you know that the countries of the region doubled their public debt over the last five years and that 800,000 people lost their jobs?

Regional infrastructure and economies are insufficiently interconnected. The policy of upholding macroeconomic stability by continuous raise of debts and layoff led to dramatic consequences to each of the affected families, and has also shaken the democratic order and values that are the foundation of our societies.

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Representatives of Croatia, Serbia, Kosovo\*, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Montenegro and [The Former Yugoslav Republic of] Macedonia adopted a comprehensive strategy prepared by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) – South East Europe 2020 - Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective in late November 2013 in Sarajevo. Seven governments decisively stand behind the SEE 2020 strategy to provide better quality of life for their citizens and lead them out of the current crises, with the support of the RCC and the European Commission.

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**In addition to employment, the most important objective to to raise GDP to half of the EU's average by 2020**

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employment; employment growth from 39% to 44%; and increase of total regional trade turnover by more than double from 94 to 210 billion euro.

These are just numbers, but they testify of the SEE 2020 ambitions, and the awareness that layoff is not the way out of the crises. Economic criteria for the EU accession remain very clear – functional market economy and capacity for competitiveness, the ability to compete on the EU market.

The crises threatened the outlook for joining the EU. EU citizens will not support accession of countries that are economically much weaker than the EU Member States. Full implementation of the SEE 2020 strategy and attainment of specific and measurable goals the strategy sets out is the way to mitigate gaps and come closer to the EU standards in education, employment, work conditions and productivity. In addition to employment growth, the most important objective of SEE 2020 is to raise the region's GDP to half of the EU's average.

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**Do you know that trucks travel from Ljubljana to Tirana for more than five days on average**

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Respecting its obligations as regards Europe 2020, which is bounding to all Member States, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the SEE 2020 strategy – Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective, and supported it alongside with all other countries as a common development strategy for the region. In the implementation of those elements of SEE 2020 of importance to it, Croatia can expect full support by the Regional Cooperation Council, the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and the European Union, as decided by the EU Council on 17 December 2013.

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*Utrinski vesnik*  
17 January 2014

**Opinion**  
**Balkans by 2020**

**Goran Svilanović**

**Seven South East Europe economies are altogether economically developed as Portugal. This has to be changed!**

Do you know that it takes more than five days for trucks to travel from Ljubljana to Tirana?  
Do you know that, actually, the average GDP of the SEE countries is just a third of the average GDP of EU Member States?  
Do you know that the countries of the region doubled their public debt over the last five years and that 800,000 people lost their jobs?  
Regional infrastructure and economies are insufficiently interconnected.  
The policy of upholding macroeconomic stability by continuously increasing the indebtedness and layoffs led to dramatic consequences to each of the affected families, and has also shaken the democratic system and values that are the foundation of our societies.  
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The Government of Macedonia adopted the SEE 2020 Strategy – Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective, and supported it alongside with all other countries as a common development strategy for the region. In the SEE 2020 Strategy implementation process, Macedonia can expect full support by the Regional Cooperation Council, the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and the European Commission, as concluded by the EU Council on 17 December 2013.

(Author – the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council)

<http://mapo.al/2014/01/17/europa-juglindore-2020-cfare-duhet-ndryshuar/>

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*Tribuna*  
16 January 2014

## **COLUMNS**

**Goran Svilanović, [Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council]**

### **Regional Cooperation – How Can It Function?**

*Do you know that trucks travel from Ljubljana to Tirana for more than five days?*

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The crises threatened the outlook for joining the EU. EU citizens will not support accession of countries that are economically much weaker than the EU Member States. Full implementation of the SEE 2020 strategy and attainment of specific and measurable goals the strategy sets out is the way to mitigate gaps and come closer to the EU standards in education, employment, work conditions and productivity. In addition to employment growth, the most important objective of SEE 2020 is to raise the region's GDP to half of the EU's average.

In the upcoming years, the main task for the RCC will be to provide for the SEE 2020 implementation. To this end, we will establish a comprehensive progress monitoring system for each of the countries. We already have an operational and action plan in place that includes regional economies, and up to 20 ministries and agencies per each, 15 regional sectoral coordinators, private sector, civil society, and international organisations and donors. Citizens will be regularly informed about the progress through the EC's annual Progress Reports.

The Government of Kosovo adopted the SEE 2020 strategy – Jobs and Prosperity in a European Perspective, and supported it alongside with all other countries as a common development strategy for the region. In the SEE 2020 implementation process, Kosovo can expect full support by the Regional Cooperation Council, the EU Commissioner for Enlargement and the European Union, as concluded by the EU Council on 17 December 2013.

**(The author of this article is the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council and the former minister in the former Yugoslavia. This article is written exclusively for the newspaper Tribuna.)**

*[\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.]*