



STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE

8th SPAI STEERING GROUP MEETING

- FINAL MINUTES-

**4 November 2004
BUCHAREST, ROMANIA**

The minutes were prepared by the SPAI Regional Secretariat Liaison Office in Sarajevo. The document summarizes the discussions and the decisions taken during the 8th SPAI Steering Group Meeting held on 4th of November 2004, in Bucharest, Romania.

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PART ONE

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE 8TH SPAI STEERING GROUP MEETING

VENUE AND ORGANIZERS

1. The 8th Steering Group Meeting took place in Bucharest, Romania. It was organized by the Stability Pact Anticorruption Initiative Regional Secretariat Liaison Office in Sarajevo in cooperation with the Romanian Ministry of Justice – Crime Prevention and Anticorruption Directorate.
2. The SPAI Steering Group Meeting was held back - to - back with a series of events regarding the fight against corruption in South Eastern Europe:
 - 2nd of November 2004 - SPAI meeting organized by the OECD on *International Cooperation to Fight Corruption in South-east Europe: Achievements, Lessons Learned and Future Challenges*.
 - 3rd of November 2004 – *Friends of the SPAI Chairman Meeting* and visits of the SPAI Chairman and SPAI Senior representatives to the *Romanian National Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office* and *SPOC Secretariat*.
 - 5th of November - *Second Meeting of the SEECP Consultation Group on Fighting Organized Crime and Corruption*.

MEETING's OBJECTIVES

3. The main objectives of the 8th Steering Group were to:
 - assess the progress made both at national and regional level in the implementation of the SPAI objectives;
 - to provide updated information about the steps undertaken by SPAI RSLO in implementing the Workplan for 2004-2005;
 - to provide updated information regarding the role of the SPAI and SPAI RSLO within the SEECP Joint Campaign to Fight Organized Crime and Corruption.

CHAIRMAN AND STEERING GROUP MEETING PARTICIPANTS

4. The Steering Group (SG) Meeting was chaired by Professor Ugo Draetta, Chairman of the Stability Pact Anticorruption Initiative (SPAI).
5. All eight SPAI member countries were represented at the meeting – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Romania and Serbia.



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6. Participating SPAI supporting countries – France, Norway, Switzerland and the United States were represented.
7. The following organizations were represented: ABA/CEELI, Council of Europe (CoE), the European Commission, the Office of the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), World Bank, UNMIK and Transparency International.

DOCUMENTS

8. In order to facilitate the discussion, the SPAI countries, donor countries and the participating organizations were invited to submit to the SPAI RSLO the progress reports developed according to a template (attached within the Documents section). Copies of the documents were distributed prior to the meeting.
9. Also, prior to the meeting the SPAI RSLO ensured the distribution of the SPAI RSLO *Workplan for 2004 -2005* – final version and third issue of the SPAIgram.
10. All the reports submitted to the SPAI RSLO in preparation for the SG Meeting are distributed in electronic to the Steering Group members together with the final minutes.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

11. The Steering Group Meeting took place in Bucharest, Romanian Ministry of Justice, within the Council Room.
12. The OECD and the SPAI RSLO jointly covered the travel and meeting-related living expenses of the SPAI senior representatives. The reimbursements were done during the meeting or via a bank transfer. The funded participants were required to make their own travel arrangements and bring a receipt, copy of tickets and visa.
13. The accommodation for the funded participants was arranged by the RSLO and the OECD at the following hotel also recommended to other participants: **Hotel Central**, Brezoianu Street No 13, Bucharest, Tel: + 40 21 315 56 37;
14. The working language of the meeting was English. No translation was provided. On request the organizers provided facilities for PowerPoint presentations.



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PART TWO

8th SPAI STEERING GROUP MEETING - DISCUSSIONS

OPENING REMARKS AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

15. Professor Ugo Draetta, SPAI Chairman opened the Steering Group Meeting by making a brief review of the recent developments within the SPAI framework;
16. On behalf of Romanian Ministry of Justice, welcoming remarks were delivered by Ms. Simona Maya Teodoroiu, State Secretary, who emphasized the efforts undertaken by the Romanian government in combating corruption and recognized the important role of SPAI RSLO, as a forum between countries and donors, in facilitating exchange of views and experiences and originating common approaches against corruption.
17. The SPAI Chairman, Professor Ugo Draetta, made the announcement of the new appointed Executive Secretary of SPAI RSLO, Mr. Veselin Sukovic. With this occasion, the Chairman expressed, on behalf of the Steering Group, appreciation for the work done by the former Executive Secretary of RSLO, Mr. Josip Brkic and gratitude to the RSLO's Anticorruption Expert, Mr. Cornel-Virgiliu Calinescu for the considerable work carried out during this process of institutional change.
18. Also, official announcements were made with regard to the newly appointed senior representatives for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia.
19. Further on, the Chairman announced the idea, launched by Mr. Rainer Geiger, Deputy Director of the Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs of the OECD, of an Annual SPAI Award to be offered to an expert distinguished in fighting corruption in one of the SPAI countries.
20. After the introductory remarks the Steering Group Members approved without modification the draft agenda prepared by the Regional Secretariat Liaison Office.

PROGRESS REPORTS – NATIONAL LEVEL

21. Senior representatives of SPAI countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia) presented national progress reports. For the first time within the Steering Group Meeting the SPAI countries were required to provide the updated information in a standard reporting



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system – template - developed by the RSLO, according with the decision taken by the SG members in Sveti Stefan (full reports attached within the national reports section).

22. Within their interventions all the senior representatives expressed their expectations from the SPAI RSLO as a Regional Anticorruption Centre and facilitator of the regional cooperation.

PROGRESS REPORTS – REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

23. **Mr. Veselin Šuković, SPAI RSLO** Executive Secretary delivered a brief report on the administrative and operational steps undertaken by the SPAI RSLO to fulfill the 7th Steering Group Meeting decisions:

- *Redraft the Work plan for 2004 - 2005 according to the inputs provided by the Steering Group members:*
 - The reshaped SPAI RSLO Workplan was approved on **June 18th 2004** following the silence procedure;
 - All activities are conducted by SPAI RSLO in accordance with the **time framework and performance criteria;**
 - SPAI RSLO ensures permanent contact and cooperation with **all 8 SPAI countries.**
- *SPAI role in implementing the SEECP Joint Declaration to Fight against Organized Crime and Corruption in SEE:*
 - SPAI RSLO took active role in drafting the Joint Declaration;
 - The final document contains specific reference to the SPAI and SPAI RSLO as *fora* and mechanisms to enhance regional cooperation in fighting corruption in SEE;
 - First regional event to implement the Joint Statement was jointly organized by the RSLO and SEECP Chairmanship in Office – Regional Start up workshop on UN Convention against Corruption – 9 – 10 September, Sarajevo, BiH.
- *Standard reporting system based on the template developed by the SPAI RSLO:*
 - The template was developed by the SPAI RSLO;
 - SPAI countries started to report according to the template.

24. With this occasion the Executive Secretary renewed the appeal for the country representatives to prepare the reports for the next SG on the basis of the template in their disposal. (The report is attached within the SPAI RSLO reports section).



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25. **Mr. Cornel-Virgiliu Calinescu, SPAI RSLO** Anticorruption Expert, explained further the activities and measures undertaken by RSLO in the four major programmatic areas identified in the work plan: the process of implementing UN Convention in the region, the developing of public awareness campaigns, promoting and sharing of best practices in the fight against high level corruption and the assessment with regard to the SPAI countries needs and specific requirements. The anticorruption expert stressed the importance of the Annual Meeting for a final assessment of the situation and the renewing of the SPAI mandate for future assessment of SPAI countries needs and requirements. (The report is attached within the SPAI RSLO reports section)
26. **Norway, Mr. Thor Gislesen:** Stressed the attention on the important achievements reached by RSLO from the last SG Meeting in Sveti Stefan and the encouraging fact that all the SPAI countries are playing active part in setting the needs and working out the program.
27. **World Bank, Mrs. Bloemenkamp:** noticed the progress achieved by RSLO and suggested to focus not only on sharing new legal instruments and new laws but focus on implementation experiences and finding good implementation examples from the region itself.
28. Further Information on ongoing activities in the framework of the SPAI were provided by SPAI partner countries and organizations:
- a. **ABA/CEELI, Ms. Molly Inman** expressed her appreciation for the SPAI RSLO development achieved so far and explained the support given to RSLO through Institutional Building Adviser Office in Sarajevo, which, in July, provided training for financial issues. Also, it was stressed the support given to the RSLO in the process of developing the website and anticorruption library.
 - b. **European Commission, Mr. Hans Rundegren:** Stated that there is an agreement between EU and Stability Pact on what should be the core objectives of the SP that is to bring together countries from the region and international actors, to coordinate financial support and promote regional ownership, but not directly or as a main objective to implement projects as such. The background is that the EC is contributing directly to the costs of SP Brussels Office, according to special procedure and it is not possible to give additional direct financial support. The other way for the EC to contribute is to include support within specific projects, so that the beneficiary countries can submit requests for technical assistance or training to the EC and RSLO could have a coordinating role in such process.



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- c. **World Bank, Mrs. Sandra Bloemenkamp:** Thanked the SPAI country representatives for their progress reports, although, she said, it seems hard to compare the progress and see where the countries are and suggested that the standard format can be expanded in order to see how the countries are achieving progress. On the preventive side, the governance side the WB has worked with all the SPAI countries and this will continue with ongoing and future programs. The World Bank is trying to develop clear indicators measuring the results of the progress, particularly on pillar II and V of the SPAI, where she offered collaboration with RSLO. The World Bank representative confirmed, also, the suggestion for RSLO to play an active role in the diffusion and sharing of implementation experiences, considering the use of videoconference services.
- d. **World Bank, Ms. Sabine Simross:** Explained the utility of GDL (Global Distance Learning) services in providing infrastructure to hold meetings via videoconference and how the World Bank has been using GDL centers for trainings in a range of sectors mostly on governance issues. The World Bank is, at the moment, discussing about a course on anticorruption, following the last Steering Group Meeting and inputs from all SPAI countries are welcomed for the contents of such activity.
- e. **OECD, Ms. Inese Gaika:** Explained the ongoing activities of OECD, focusing the attention on three different activities. The first is the scoping paper aiming to assess the main achievements and to formulate the lessons learned in implementing the SPAI and its future challenges. All SPAI Steering Group members were invited to update the draft of the Scoping Paper by sending inputs on the relevant chapters. The OECD representative informed that the Anti-corruption Network for Transition Economies (ACN) is the new framework for OECD anti-corruption activities with non-member countries in Europe and Central Asia and invited SPAI members to take active part in the ACN activities through exchange of experience and expertise. The OECD representative named the five focal areas of the ACN 2005-2006 Work Programme: anticorruption bodies, monitoring of corruption and anticorruption efforts, business integrity, political corruption and anticorruption legal standards. Finally, the OECD representative presented the new phase of the ongoing OECD SPAI Conflict of Interest project, which aims to assess Conflict of Interest policies. The country representatives were invited to participate actively (The report is attached within the regional reports section).
- f. **Council of Europe, Ms. Livia Stoica-Becht:** Presented the anticorruption activities of the Council of Europe implemented so far in the SPAI countries, particularly in the framework of the PACO IMPACT project, Octopus Programme and the Joint Programme Moldova 2004-2006. She reported also on the forthcoming



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which will be implemented in the next months, focusing on both national detailed projects and regional projects.

- g. **OSCE, Mr. Drino Galicic:** Presented the outcomes of the joint activity organized with SPAI RSLO on “Investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating high level corruption cases” on 5-7 October in Podgorica, stressing the importance of bringing together specialized professionals to discuss and share experiences. In this occasion, the OSCE representative mentioned the mission objectives and offered the organization full support to RSLO for future activities that comply with the mission priorities.

SPAI RSLO WORKPLAN AND THE REGIONAL CAMPAIGN TO FIGHT ORGANIZED CRIME AND CORRUPTION

29. **Mr. Veselin Sukovic, SPAI RSLO Executive Secretary** announced the project of organizing an Anniversary Meeting – FIVE YEARS OF SPAI, as a high level forum, in February of the next year. The goal of this event is not only to celebrate the 5 years since the establishment of the Stability Pact Anticorruption Initiative but also to assess the progress achieved in these 5 years of activity, lessons learned, to identify future challenges and to state the new mission of the Initiative based on the country priorities. Final Goal: Joint Declaration on the future objectives of SPAI and mandate of SPAI RSLO within this framework. The Executive Secretary asked the participants to express their decision about this initiative and from SPAI country partners to identify their representatives to the Anniversary Meeting, to support the process of drafting the Joint statement and to identify resources to cover the expenses of non governmental participants. (The presentation is attached within the SPAI RSLO reports section)
30. **Norway, Mr. Thor Gislesen:** Suggested that any project proposal which the Steering Group gets should not be proposed to the donor countries before passing through RSLO and verifying if it fits with RSLO strategy and secondly, that seminars or workshops on anticorruption arranged by international organizations in the area should be undertaken through RSLO, stressing on the concept of “not competition but cooperation”. The Norway representative suggested that RSLO should explore the scope of cooperation with trade unions and the private sector, through the Business Advisory Council, operating under Working Table II of the Stability Pact.
31. **Mr. Cornel-Virgiliu Calinescu, SPAI RSLO Anticorruption Expert** presented the RSLO project of building the anticorruption network and anticorruption library, which is being carried out in collaboration with the SPAI country representatives and ABA/CEELI. Regarding the network, after mentioning the availability of 60 contacts in the region for the moment, he invited the SPAI members to submit additional inputs



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with contact information from anticorruption governmental and nongovernmental experts. According to the SPAI RSLO workplan, the deadline for building the Network and the Anticorruption library is December 2004. (The report is attached within the SPAI RSLO reports section)

32. **SEECP Chairmanship in Office, Mrs. Elena Paris:** Presented the SEECP Consultation Group on Fighting Organized Crime and Corruption in SEE, its composition and tasks, asking the SPAI members to collaborate for the completion of the network of national contact points. Mrs. Paris announced that the SEECP has developed a Matrix on Legislative and Institutional building measures which sets items for reporting, a complex monitoring mechanism and a self assessment mechanism, without excluding external assessment. With reference to this Matrix she suggested that the information gathered through SPAI could be used to fill and update the SEECP matrix and invited SPAI RSLO to explore the possibility that members of the SEECP Analytical Team participate in field visits for gathering information together with SPAI and be involved in drafting training programs for the SEECP countries. Another co-operation point of contact was identified in the SPAI Resource Center which could provide the SEECP Consultation Group necessary information and assistance in attracting financing of projects of regional co-operation identified.
33. **Mr. Cornel-Virgiliu Calinescu, SPAI RSLO** Anticorruption Expert presented the mechanism and the set of activities envisaged by the RSLO in order to ensure an efficient system to permanently update the SEECP matrix – the component regarding the Compliance with the UN Convention against Corruption. This includes: twinnings among SPAI countries, country by country visits of a joint team (consisting in representatives of: one or two SPAI countries, RSLO, SEECP, Stability Pact, United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime etc.), national and regional workshops, periodic video conferences. (The presentation is attached within the SPAI RSLO reports section).



PART THREE

8th SPAI STEERING GROUP MEETING – CONCLUSIONS

STEERING GROUP CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

The members of the SPAI steering group agreed upon the following conclusions and decisions:

34. All SPAI member countries fully endorsed the appointment of Mr. Veselin Sukovic as the new Executive Secretary of SPAI RSLO in Sarajevo.
35. The Steering Group members took note of the appointment of the new SPAI senior representatives for Albania, BiH, Montenegro and Serbia;
36. It was agreed that RSLO, in close cooperation with OECD and other interested SPAI partners, will start and conclude the process of drafting the Terms of reference for the Annual SPAI Award - until June 2005 allowing the first awarding ceremony to take place in the autumn of 2005. The Chairman stressed the fact that the proposal would not be further developed without the approval of Mr. Busek, the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact.
37. All SPAI SG members were informed about the RSLO's proposal to organize an Anniversary meeting – *FIVE YEARS OF SPAI* during the first half of 2005. General agreement was reached to support the process of organizing the event and of producing a Joint statement to be endorsed by the SPAI countries and SPAI partners with regard to the future objectives of SPAI and mandate of SPAI RSLO within this framework. In this respect, RSLO was tasked to produce, in cooperation with SPAI countries and partners, an outline regarding the format, content and objectives of the Anniversary meeting;
38. Based on a first draft list of 10 potential RSLO trainings, all SPAI member countries agreed to further identify new possible topics or to set the priority among the ones already compiled by RSLO. SPAI countries will submit their proposals to RSLO by the end of 2004. RSLO will incorporate these proposals within its calendar of activities for 2005.
39. All SPAI member countries expressed their agreement and support with regard to the role of the RSLO in permanently updating the SEECF Matrix on Legislative and



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- Institutional Building Measures – component regarding the UN Convention against Corruption. To this end the mechanism and set of activities suggested by the RSLO were approved;
40. All SPAI member countries agreed to further support the process of building the Regional Anticorruption Network and Anticorruption Library. To this end the members countries will submit in due time all the relevant information to the SPAI RSLO;
 41. All SPAI member countries reviewed during the meeting the anticorruption video clips produced by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and agreed to support SPAI RSLO involvement within the United Nations Anticorruption Awareness Campaign. To this end SPAI RSLO is tasked to take all necessary measures in order to ensure regional wide distribution of this campaign by promoting the anticorruption video clips;
 42. All SPAI member countries agreed to update the Scoping Paper prepared by OECD in order to assess the achievements and the main lessons learned in implementing the SPAI and agreed to send their inputs to OECD within 20th of November 2004;
 43. Based on a specific request formulated by the SPAI donors, SPAI RSLO will prepare a document containing information about the Office's current financial arrangements, envisaged costs for 2005-2006 and areas where additional financial support is needed. Furthermore, the SPAI Chairman called for a quick decision on the SPAI RSLO internship program and suggested that the document incorporating all these aspects to be distributed to the SPAI donors during the Stability Pact Working Tables and Regional Table Meetings, to be held in Skopje, FRY Macedonia, 17 – 19 November 2004.



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PART FOUR

8th SPAI STEERING GROUP MEETING - DOCUMENTS

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

- ***FINAL AGENDA OF THE 8th STEERING GROUP MEETING***
- ***LIST OF PARTICIPANTS***
- ***NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORTS***
- ***REGIONAL PROGRESS REPORTS (SPAI RSLO and OECD)***
- ***TEMPLATE PROGRESS REPORT***