

NGO ROUNDTABLE
“INTER-ETHNIC RELATIONS IN THE FYR OF MACEDONIA”
*(First Meeting, European Centre for Minority Issues,
Flensburg, Germany, 10-13 December 2000)*

FINAL PROGRAMME

SUNDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2000

- 09:50 Arrival of Macedonian participants at Hamburg airport (Macedonian Airlines flight IN310 dep. 07:00 Skopje, arr. 09:50 Hamburg). Pick up and transfer to Flensburg by bus.
- 12:00 Check in at hotel MERCURE (*Norderhofenden 6-9, 24937 Flensburg, tel: ++49-461-84 11 0, fax: ++49-461-84 11 299*)
- 13:00 Lunch (*Hansen's Brauerei, Schiffbrücke 16, tel: 14 13 90*)
- 15:00 Sightseeing tour of Flensburg (*meeting point: Schiffahrtsmuseum Flensburg, Schiffbrücke 39*)
- 16:30 Coffee (*Location: ECMI / Kompagnietor Building, Schiffbruecke 12, tel: ++49-461-14 14 90, 14 14 912*)
- 17:00 **Presentation:** "History of Majority-Minority Relations in the Danish-German Border Region" (Mr. Troels Rasmussen, Institute for Border Region Research, Aabenraa, Denmark)
- 19:30 Opening Dinner (*Restaurant Bellevue, Hafendamm 4, tel: 180 740*)
Keynote Speech: Amb. Tore Bøgh, ECMI Board member, former Head of various OSCE Missions in Serbia and Skopje)

MONDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2000

(Location: ECMI, Kompagnietor Building, Schiffbruecke 12, tel: ++49-461-141490, 1414912, fax: ++49-461-1414919).

- 09:00-10:30 **OPENING SESSION**
(Chair: Amb. Tore Bøgh)
- 09:00 The European Centre for Minority Issues and its Tasks (ECMI Director Marc Weller)
- 09:20 Introduction to the Roundtable (ECMI Research Associate Farimah Daftary)
- 09:30 Short introductory presentations by the Roundtable participants on their organisation (3 minutes each)
- 10:30 *Coffee break*

- 11:00-13:00 SESSION I: INTEGRATING CIVIL SOCIETY IN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL INITIATIVES IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE
(Chair: Amb. Tore Bøgh)
- ♦ ***The FRESTA Programme of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs***
11:00 Introduction (FRESTA Secretariat, Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
(to be confirmed)
- 11:30 The Balkan Human Rights Network (Dr. Erik André Andersen, Danish Center for Human Rights, Copenhagen)
- 12:00 The South East European Refugee Assistance Network (Mr. Lars Funch Hansen, Danish Refugee Council, Copenhagen)
- 12:30 *Discussion*
- 13:00 *Lunch (Ristorante San Marco, Grosse Str. 28, tel: 225 35)*
- 14:30 Visit of ECMI Specialised Library on Inter-Ethnic Relations, Minority Issues and Ethnic Conflict in Europe (Mr. William McKinney, ECMI Electronic Services Librarian)
- 15:00-18:00 SESSION I (CTD)
(Chair: Dr. Priit Järve, ECMI Senior Analyst)
- ♦ ***International NGO Initiatives***
15:00 "Empowering human rights and minority NGOs in Southeast Europe: CEDIME-SE and the Minority Rights Group International Balkan Projects"
(Dr. Panayote Dimitras, Greek Helsinki Monitor & CEDIME-SE, Athens)
- 15:30 *Coffee break*
- ♦ ***The Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe***
16:00 "Promotion of Multi-ethnic Society and Democratic Citizenship: The Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe and the Work of the Council of Europe" (Mr. Hans-Peter Furrer, ECMI Board member, Director of Political Affairs, Council of Europe, Strasbourg)
- 16:30 "Southeast European NGOs for the Stability Pact" (Ms. Anca Ciuca, Foundation for Democratic Change, Bucharest)
- 17:00 *Discussion on results of networking efforts in SEE and the integration of NGOs in the work of the Stability Pact and other international initiatives*
- 19:30 *Dinner (Restaurant Eckener Haus, Norderstr. 8, tel: 180 026)*

TUESDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2000

(Location: Flensborghus, Norderstrasse 76, tel: 144 080).

09:00-10:30 - SESSION II: NGO ROUNDTABLE ON INTER-ETHNIC RELATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
(Chair: Mr. Hans-Peter Furrer, ECMI Board member, Director of Political Affairs, Council of Europe, Strasbourg)

09:00 "NGOs at the Local Level: Managing Multiethnic Local Communities and the LGI Programme" (Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative)
(Ms. Petra Kovács, Open Society Institute - Budapest)

09:30 "Main Issues in Inter-Ethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia and the Contribution of International and Local NGOs" (Dr. Mirjana Najčevska, Center for Human Rights; Macedonian Helsinki Committee, Skopje)

10:00 *Roundtable discussion*

10:30 *Coffee break*

11:00-12:30 SESSION II WORKING GROUPS (Three parallel working group sessions on the main areas of NGO activity with the aim of: (a) exchange of information regarding current initiatives by participating NGOs; (b) assessment of results and analysis of obstacles faced; (c) identification of common issues faced by the various ethnic communities where NGOs can have an impact with a view to cooperation on resolving priority problem issues; and (d) formulation of preliminary ideas concerning joint projects.)

- Working Group 1: Human Rights, Civil Society and Conflict Resolution
- Working Group 2: Women's Issues
- Working Group 3: Media

12:30 *Lunch (Nico's Smørrebrød at Flensborghus)*

14:00-15:30 SESSION II (CTD)
(Chair: Farimah Daftary, ECMI Research Associate)

- Summary by moderators of the main issues of concern in that area and priorities for action identified.
- Compilation of preliminary ideas and proposals for joint projects
- Compilation of topics of interest for detailed discussion at the next roundtable meeting
- Selection of three NGOs to act as 'Area Coordinators'

15:30 *Coffee break*

(!!!!!! Move back to ECMI / Kompagnietor Building, Schiffbruecke 12, tel: ++49-461-141490, 1414912 !!!!)

16:00-18:00 SESSION III: PANEL ON "NGO CAPACITY BUILDING AND CONDITIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE USE OF NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES AND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES" (Panel speakers: Panayote Elias Dimitras, Petra Kovács, Boris Tsilevich, William McKinney)

- The MINELRES project on minority human rights in Central and Eastern Europe (Mr. Boris Tsilevich, Member of the National

Parliament of Latvia, Riga; Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg)

- COMIR (Consortium of Minority Resources) (Mr. William McKinney, Electronic Services Librarian, ECMI, Flensburg)
- Balkan Human Rights Web Pages (Dr. Panayote Dimitras)
- Best Practices Database (Ms. Petra Kovács)

16:45 *Panel Discussion*

17:15 *General Discussion on obstacles to effective cooperation and networking*

19:30 *Dinner (Schwartzter Walfisch, Angelburgerstrasse 44, tel: 135 25)*

WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2000

(Location: Flensborghus, Norderstrasse 76, tel: 144 080).

08:30-12:00 **CLOSING SESSION**

(Chair: Farimah Daftary, ECMI Research Associate)

08:30 Roundtable discussion of the "Stability Pact Declaration on NGO-Government Partnership in South-Eastern Europe" (Bucharest, 27 October 2000) and its possible implementation in the Macedonian context (Ms. Anca Ciuca, Foundation for Democratic Change, Bucharest)

09:30 Discussion of modalities for collecting specific recommendations based on "positive experience" and best practice, based on projects implemented by participating NGOs. These Recommendations are intended to serve as a "guide to good practice" in formulating and implementing future projects. They will address the priority areas of action as identified by the working groups the previous day. The proposals for recommendations will be collected by the area coordinators and compiled by ECMI for distribution and discussion at the next meeting of the roundtable in Skopje in Spring 2001.

10:00 *Coffee break*

10:30 Review of the task list for the next roundtable meeting, including:

- Nominations for additional NGOs to include at the second roundtable meeting in Spring 2001.
- Collection of further proposals for the Roundtable Recommendations.
- Collection of additional ideas and proposals for joint projects in each of the three areas.

11:00 *Closing Remarks*

12:45 *Closing Lunch (Restaurant Borgerforeningen, Holm 17, tel: 233 85)*

14:00 *Departure for Hamburg Airport (pick-up point: Hotel Mercure)
(Macedonian Airlines flight IN311 dep. 18:00 Hamburg, arr. 21:00 Skopje)*