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# **BALKAN COMMUNICATION NETWORK**

## **6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

### **“ENERGY, SECURITY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT”**

#### **14-18 September 2011, Ohrid, Macedonia**

### **OHRID DECLARATION**

1 – “The Balkan Communication Network 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference” was held in Ohrid, Macedonia, on 14-18 September 2011, in the House of *Uranija* – branch of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The Conference was organized by TASAM –Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies and the Center for Strategic Research of MANU – Macedonian Academy of Arts and Sciences. The Conference was opened by Vice Prime Minister of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Vladimir Pesevski and the Mayor of Ohrid, Mr. Aleksandar Petreski. The meeting was held with participation of 50 high level officials, scholars, representatives of Centers for Strategic Research from the BCN and the European Commission. There were representatives for the following countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey. The application for membership of Montenegro and Kosovo was accepted at the Conference, and it was agreed the following Annual Conference of the BCN to be held in Albania, in 2012, on the topic of Human Development.

2- The main topic of the Conference was Energy, Security and Human Development. During the two-day work, presentations and discussions were conducted in five separate sessions under the titles of “Energy Resources in Balkans - Strategies and Opportunities for Co-operation”, “Energy Security and Energy Politics in Balkans”, “Achieving Human Development Goals with the Sustainable Energy Strategy in Balkans”, “Nuclear Energy: Human, Environmental and Safety Perspectives in the Balkans”, “Legal Framework for Sustainable Energy Development: International Treaties and Balkan Countries “ and various opinions concerning the cooperation between countries and institutions have been exchanged.

**3-** In the meeting, it was unanimously agreed one more time that the BCN had been established to materialize close cooperation between the Member Institutions and to contribute to decision-making processes by presenting alternative approaches to various regional issues. This would constitute second-track diplomacy by civil society organizations which would be conducive to establish closer understanding and confidence between member countries' participating institutions and civil society through their think-tanks and NGOs. It was emphasised during the meeting that though BCN was initiated by SAM (Centre for Strategic Research of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey) its creation reflects the common will of all participating institutions and the importance of its ownership by all member institutions.

**4-** It has been emphasized during the Conference that energy issues constitute one of the most important pillars of sustainability to initiate, perpetuate and ensure what can be done for human development in the sense of better living and better health standards both in the world and in the Balkans. It was unanimously confirmed that the importance of sustainable energy lies in the fact that its joint utilization by regional countries or adjacent communities immediately promotes production and consumption efficiency and is translated simultaneously into human development objectives.

**5-** It has been met on the common ground that energy infrastructure and reliable energy supply remain a substantial and constitutive part of the problem of human insecurity today in the region; that there is evidence that energy infrastructure and reliable energy supply are crucial to the problems solving of human security. Therefore, the contributions of energy infrastructure and reliable energy supply to human security remain limited by the socializing character of the economic and political system of which they are inextricably a part.

**6-** Given the fact that the region of South-Eastern Europe is in the process of being integrated in the European Union and with the time it will be implementing the European energy and climate strategy, very ambitious goals for renewable energy will change the energy planning in the region. If understood as opportunity and well implemented, the renewable energy may become a significant driver of economic growth, regional development and employment generator.

**7-** For the sustainable stability both within the region and within EU, energy security is a vital issue area as by very nature it's characterized by the intermingling of political and commercial objectives and involvement of multiple actors. As a result, more often than not it has been difficult to strike common positions and develop a cooperative relationship between the Balkan countries and the EU. Within this regard, evolving energy partnership between the Balkan countries and the EU in the context of the Southern gas corridor, as well as the implications of this relationship for the Balkan countries relations with the countries of the EU becomes an important issue given the role of energy security concerns.

**8-** It has been confirmed that a reliable, accessible, affordable, and safe supply of energy is fundamental for a modern industrial society. Nuclear energy meets the abovementioned conditions and has a very good results in the past decades compared to the other types of energy production.

**9-** The greatest emphasis was that, with regard to the abovementioned items, there has been a consensus on the urgent need to the significant initiatives in Balkan countries. In this framework, it is also agreed upon the idea that 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of BCN and its results are a strategic call for all formal and civil decision makers in Balkan countries to make active and proactive initiatives.

16 September 2011, Ohrid