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WHAT IS THE OUTCOME OF THE STABILITY PACT SO FAR?

The Stability Pact Perspective

Let me start my words by quoting from a Security Sector Reform inventory (a gaps analysis paper) that just became available. It encompasses the target states of the Stability Pact. We commissioned this analysis from York University in Canada at the end of last year. We hope to release the project before the end of this year. The inventory is a living document to be updated as required and it contains over 400 entries. It is the largest database that exists in terms of security sector reform-related activities in the region.

There is also an indicative gaps analysis. Unsurprisingly, one of the first sentences of this analysis is, "one of the most striking conclusions to be drawn from this project is the overall lack of coordination among international actors within the area of security sector reform. At the regional level, this gap is beginning to be filled by the SP on a sector-by-sector basis through such initiatives as the Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings and the Regional Implementation Plan on Small Arms and Light Weapons Proliferation. As well, other regional initiatives, such as the SECI's Regional Centre for Combating Transborder Crime, are also beginning to come to terms with the problem of regional coordination within particular areas of the security sector."

The analysis goes on: "Perhaps more problematic, however, is the lack of coordination among internationally led initiatives within particular target states. Even within the same sector, international actors often appear to be only marginally aware of other international initiatives."

So there is a lack of coordination in implementation and even in a coordinated flow of information.

Does anybody care that the Stability Pact is there and equipped to, using our jargon, "synergise"? Well, apparently they do. The latest example is the Ohrid Symposium on border security to be held later this year, proposed by the Macedonians and developed in cooperation with NATO. Border security and management is not, in fact, in the traditional mandate of NATO. However, they do have a field presence in the region and lack of border security hampers their work. In fact, the major international players in border security are the European Commission and the World Bank. However, NATO does not have any direct links with either of these organisations. That is the most important reason why they have proposed to put the Symposium under Stability Pact auspices. But the Stability Pact will not only be a shop window in terms of this process. Beyond being a neutral meeting place, it has working experience from the Border Task Force that it can actively bring into the concept of the Symposium.

The Stability Pact Office

The Stability Pact Office, or to give its full title, the Office of the Special Coordinator for the Stability Pact for South East Europe, has been created to assist the Special Coordinator. The Office expenses are paid by the European Union, even though we are not an EU body. An average of four people work for each Working Table. Therefore, it is not a large office.

I am a Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs official, a diplomat. I have been fully seconded by my government to the Office of the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact since April 2000. I work in the Working Table on Security Issues. So my presentation might be more from that table.

My presence in the SP is my government's contribution to the European Union-led effort to bring lasting stability and prosperity to South East Europe.

By now I have worked two years in the Office of the Special Coordinator. I have witnessed the Quick Start Package-phase. I have seen the euphoria. I have also been there during the transition to the second phase, when, initially at least, there was much cynicism about the need for a continuation of the SP.

In this respect, the appointment of Dr. Busek as Special Coordinator signified a renewal of faith and determination by the EU and has been welcomed both by the Secretariat and my country of origin. Dr. Busek's knowledge of the region as the Coordinator of SECI has also been an important factor in this.

The Stability Pact

I am now quoting from the brochure: "The Stability Pact - its major achievements":

"The Stability pact is a political initiative to encourage and strengthen cooperation between the countries of SEE as well as to streamline existing efforts to assist SEE's political, economic and security integration in Europe. The Pact does not implement the projects that were placed under its auspices at two Regional Conferences (March 2000 and October 2001) but is an instrument to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the projects of all its partners. These include the countries of SEE and neighbouring countries, the EC, NATO and OSCE, the International Financial Institutions, the member states of the European Union, the USA, Russia, Japan, Canada, Norway, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia.

"The Stability Pact's three Working Tables...have helped to develop projects worth 5.4 bn. Euro...At the EU's initiative, the SP was adopted in Cologne on 10 June 1999. At a summit meeting in Sarajevo on 30 July 1999, the Pact was inaugurated."

The brochure then goes on to list 15 achievements. They certainly are not the only ones, but those included in the top list for economy of space

and effectiveness of the message. I will later give you more examples from Working Table III.

Nevertheless, if you look at these 15, you may not be able to see finished road projects of a grand scale, but you will certainly see cooperation and coordination of a large number of states and other SP partners on a variety of processes. In fact, the developing culture of international and regional cooperation is very visible. Again, it is not listed there but I believe that the chairmanship of the WTIII being taken over by a Croatian is an indication of the increasing consciousness and practical involvement of regional ownership. So is the involvement of the chairman of SEECF, Serbia and Montenegro, in the meetings of the Informal Consultation Council that guides the Pact in its work. Other participants of ICC are the European Commission and the Stability Pact Office.

The culture of international and regional cooperation is advancing rapidly in South East Europe and the benefits are beginning to be reaped. The contrast is clear if you look at the region from outside. This is what I actually did when I participated in a conference in Baku, which had the aim of analysing the cooperation in SEE and to determine how much they are valid for the Caucasus. There may be some way to go yet, but we have indeed made progress and we can be instrumental in making even more progress.

What was on our side? I believe one of the most important elements that we have used to our advantage to promote regional cooperation and reform in the countries, is their desire to be part of European and Euro-Atlantic institutions. I am not well-versed in the academic affinities of the subject of the next panel: "Does regional approach promote or hinder the faster integration into Euro-Atlantic structures." However, I believe that the prospect of integration into Euro-Atlantic structures has been a positive force for our efforts to promote regional cooperation.

To emphasise the nature of the Stability Pact, it is a coalition of the willing. We have no budget, no presence in the field and no legally binding contract with our partners. We cannot impose sanctions. We are

not an implementing agency, but we depend on the political will of the implementing agencies and other partners to work with us towards common goals. We have to work with them, look for gaps in terms of regional cooperation, point out the areas where international donor interest should focus, or areas where the coordination of effort and cooperation between various actors would yield more efficient results. We have to convince the actors involved.

Working Table on Security

I talked about the QSP and the following transition phases. Please remember that in the past there has been at least one specific attempt to set up a Stability Pact, which in fact failed. So there was a great effort to do the right thing and an accompanying search.

The QSP idea has definitely been the result of that search. Preceded by the great hype of the Cologne and Sarajevo summits, the QSP further increased the expectations in the region to a level difficult to fulfil.

There were many worthy QSP that became reality. In the WTIII, the prime example is RACVIAC (Regional Arms Control and Verification and Assistance Centre) in Zagreb. Another is the re-education of military officers that were made redundant as a result of military downsizing in Bulgaria and Romania.

However, during the plethora of Quick Start Package projects, we did our duty, phoning the people responsible to learn about the results and put them to paper.

But even then, it was clear that QSP could not be the way forward. These were mostly projects that were neither connected to each other, nor in many cases new. However, this constituted an important database of which actor was interested in getting involved in which sector. So we took advantage of that and started to develop processes.

RACVIAC is already one of our major success stories since it provides a superb and cost-effective forum within the region for dialogue, cooperation and confidence-building in South Eastern Europe. The fact that military personnel from all the countries of the region, including Yugoslavia, now regularly participate in RACVIAC's programmes is a clear demonstration of how far we have got.

In addition to RACVIAC's primary mission of enabling the countries of the region to fulfil their international arms control commitments, we hope that the centre will play an increasing role in promoting the full integration of the military into democratic societies and reinforcing the democratic oversight and control of military establishments. For example, the retraining project was not only extended to include Croatia and Albania, but the method, i.e. bringing together NATO and IFIs that would not otherwise come together, was extended to military base conversion and possibly to military industry conversion.

The SALW initiative also inspired by QSP offers of the US and Norway to do assessments. A regional implementation plan was developed and as the most significant feature of that plan, on 8 May, the Regional Clearinghouse in Belgrade opened. The task of the clearinghouse will be to help SEE governments and non-governmental organisations develop projects aimed at strengthening capabilities to stem the illicit flow of SALW in the region.

Another successful example of cooperation under the auspices of the Stability Pact is the Canadian-initiated process on Mine Action. The chairman of this process is now Croatian and the initiative has made some way in terms of destroying the stockpile mines. That may not be as glamorous as mine clearance, but it is a clear contribution to the countries of the region to abide by the Ottawa Convention rules.

We also made important progress in bringing the regional countries and relevant organisations together in the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Initiative (DPPI). DPPI is about cooperation at the regional level on civil emergency planning. This initiative also contained at least two international actors that would not have worked together otherwise:

NATO and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. An operational team visited 12 regional and neighbouring countries, wrote a report on the current situation and brought suggestions for regional cooperation. We have now hired an Executive Secretary with the contributions of three donor countries. The first result of DPPI, a PfP international fire fighting exercise with the involvement of 28 countries will, take place in two weeks time in Croatia.

While, as you can see, we have been working closely with NATO in the Defence Sub-Table, our focus in terms of the J&HA Sub-Table was the European Commission.

In the field of Justice and Home Affairs we will be concentrating on developing the region's capacity to fight organised crime and criminality. The Secretariat for the Pact's organised crime initiative or SPOC is being moved to Bucharest and will be effectively co-located in the Parliament building with the already operating Regional Centre for Combating Transborder Crime.

This proximity will create much greater opportunities for efficiency while highlighting our determination to base more and more of our activity in the region. It is also an example of Dr. Busek's commitment to take practical steps that will bring closer together the work of all the initiatives operating in South East Europe.

The Vienna-based Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings will be moving forward with its three-year Action Plan. Its strategy is designed to counter the activities of traffickers and assist victims through programmes for awareness-raising, training and exchange programmes, cooperation in law enforcement, victim protection programmes, return and reintegration assistance, legislative reform and prevention.

The Asylum and Migration Initiative or MAI is to develop national and regional programmes and strengthened regional cooperation to encourage orderly migration policies in line with European standards.

This is an outstanding example of how the Stability Pact seeks to complement the EU's Stabilisation and Association Process.

The Anti-Corruption Initiative or SPAI will continue its efforts to develop a political dialogue between countries and international experts, national programmes and joint monitoring procedures. It seeks to insure that the countries of the region adopt and implement European and other international instruments, strengthen relevant legislation, promote integrity and business operations and encourage an active civil society.

Finally, I should note our efforts to further regional police cooperation through a programme developed by the Association of European Police Colleges. This activity seeks to increase police skills, enhance democratic, policing and develop regional networks and cross border cooperation. This year's courses will be given on trafficking in small arms and light weapons, trafficking in drugs, police management, police ethics, financial crimes and money laundering and policing a multicultural society.

As you can see we will have a full plate of activity. Our strong emphasis is on the practical setting activities in motion that generate patterns of cooperation and empower those who are seeking to create lasting democratic institutions in the region.

At the same time, our overall efforts in the security field are based on a number of basic principles.

We must accept the principle that democracy is the cornerstone of good governance. If security sector reform is to succeed we must have effective democratic institutions and capable civilian leadership.

Transparency in planning, management and budgeting must be promoted. The lack of transparency will almost certainly undermine a country's economic and political stability more than transparency will threaten its security.

We must create environments where civil society is able to monitor the security sectors. Such an activity is not only legitimate but, also critical. We need to strengthen the capabilities of non-government organisations to carry out this activity.

And, of course, we need to continue to give top priority to actions that promote regional and sub-regional activities. It is hard to think of an area where regional cooperation is more essential than in the security field.

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