

9th Permanent High Level Group

Vienna, 14 July 2004

CONCLUSIONS

- (1) The PHLG thanked the Austrian Presidency for the organisation of the meeting and the excellent chairmanship of Dr Zluwa.
- (2) The Commission presented the draft treaty document. The comments received on the day were noted by the Commission.
- (3) The Chairman and the Commission confirmed the intention to maintain Moldova as an Observer in the process and in the Treaty.
- (4) The PHLG welcomed the intention of the Commission to create a full Secretariat to facilitate the ECSEE Project using allocated and existing funds under the Quickstart programme, and called on the Commission to set up the full Secretariat without delay, or to directly assist a Secretariat, if a Secretariat is created or accepted by the PHLG with a legal personality prior to the contract implementation date. Moreover, the PHLG emphasised the need to have continuity in the organisational Secretariat functions which are ably carried out now.
- (5) The PHLG welcomed the Romanian initiative to hold outreach meetings with parliamentarians, NGOs, and unions, which is strongly supported by the Stability Pact. The PHLG requested the Commission to extend whatever appropriate support it could to the initiative.
- (6) The Commission received the proposal of the PHLG that two seminars be held. The first would be for legal experts to discuss the implications of the draft treaty document. The second would be to consider the energy technical requirements of the same document. The Commission was requested to convey this element to the Energy Working Group of the Council.
- (7) The Commission agreed to consider the insertion of a definitions section in the draft treaty document.
- (8) All agreed that further government consideration of the document was needed and resolved to accomplish this in time for a substantive discussion in the September PHLG. In order to keep up the momentum, delegations are asked to submit written comments to the Commission by the end of August, in order for the Commission to prepare for the two seminars. The comments will be consolidated by the Commission and circulated before the next PHLG.
- (9) The PHLG noted the offer from Turkey that the Regional Regulatory Board be located in Istanbul.
- (10) The Secretariat gave a short progress report on ministry benchmarking and asked for volunteers to form a small subgroup to manage the process.