



Proposed themes for discussion
Meeting of the Working Tables, Sofia, May 17

Working Table I (Democratisation and Human rights)

Working Table I will examine recent developments and future challenges with regard to handing over initiatives into **regional ownership**, and will provide an overview on the participation of local actors in the various Working Table I initiatives and programmes. The session will also highlight the importance of activities related to youth and youth cooperation, in which the Stability Pact has been active through its Education and Youth Task Force. The Working Table will use this occasion to inform the participants about the already existing programmes and to encourage an increased involvement by South Eastern European governments, as well as of international organisations and NGOs, in youth-related programmes.

Working Table II (Economic reconstruction, development and cooperation)

The key theme for the Working Table II meeting will be **infrastructure development** in South Eastern Europe. The main focus will be on issues impeding project implementation as well as on possible steps to overcome these. Background papers will be circulated on the key issues in advance, while short updates will be provided on the different infrastructure sectors (energy, transport infrastructure and environment) on the spot. In addition, conference participants will be briefed on the forthcoming meeting of the region's Health Ministers (scheduled to take place in Skopje in November 2005), which will be held to discuss the economic aspects of health sector development.

Working Table III (Security issues)

Working Table III will focus on the issue of **defence conversion**, including a follow-up to a relevant ministerial meeting, which is to be held on 31 March in Bucharest within the framework of the South East European Cooperation Process. The Sofia meeting will discuss the various ways that Stability Pact partners may increase their support in this area either through the Stability Pact Defence Conversion Task Force, or through RACVIAC and SEESAC. Consideration will also be given to a renewed effort by relevant international organisations regarding an initiative on military budget transparency. In addition, participating organizations and governments will be updated on developments regarding the MARRI Regional Forum and the transfer of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative to regional ownership.