

### EURO – ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL SECURITY FORUM IN OHRID, MACEDONIA

- ☒ Last week, on 28 and 29 June, Macedonia hosted Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council Security Forum (EAPC) in Ohrid. The Forum was attended by Foreign and other ministers of NATO and partner countries, as well as more than 200 domestic and foreign reporters. As it was announced, the forum brought together delegations of all 49 members of the EAPC, some 20 ministers of foreign affairs, defense and economy of NATO members and of countries from the region. In the opening speech, in the first panel of EAPC, NATO Secretary General, Jaap De Hoop Scheffer, said that the security situation in the Balkans is positive and extremism has been marginalized in nearly all countries in the region. He also announced that he is satisfied with the progress made by the three Adriatic charter countries Albania, Croatia and Macedonia but still Adriatic Charter countries will not join the NATO in package and that each country will be assessed individually and the decision on NATO Membership invitation will be performance-based. After Mr. Scheffer introduction, Macedonian Prime Minister, Mr. Nikola Gruevski, addressed the participants and said that Macedonia is well aware of performance-based decision and that the Government works hard to run through and accomplish the goal. Apart from the Kosovo and Balkan countries Participants on the Security Forum also discussed Afghanistan and Energy Security in the Region. [Makfax, Setimes.net 29/06/07; Utrinski vesnik 30/06/07]

### EU WANTS CONSENSUS ON KOSOVO STATUS

- ☒ According to Cristina Gallach, the European Union High Representative for CFSP, Javier Solana's spokeswoman, Brussels insist on consensus on Kosovo future status and this question should be resolved as soon as possible. This was a reaction to recent Moscow's opposition to the special envoy Martti Ahtisaari's plan. Namely, Russia has threatened to veto UN Security council resolution leading to the "Serbian province" sovereignty which would seriously violate Serbia's territorial integrity. This, third draft resolution based on Ahtisaari's plan proposed granting Kosovo independence without prior permission of Serbia. On the contrary, Russia insists on decision that would satisfy both Belgrade and Pristina. In her statement, Ms. Gallach also noted that Kosovo is a European problem and the region's future is with European Union, not with Russia, therefore its status depends on EU decision but only with UN Security Council's consent. [RIA Novosti 03/07/07; B92, 04/07/07]

### INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF SERBIA AND ROMANIA MEETING IN BUCHAREST

- ☒ The Southeast European Internal Affairs Ministers last week met in Bucharest. During the two-day conference they discussed the fight against cross - border crime in the region and cooperation in combating terrorism. As it was announced, both sides, the Serbian and Romanian Government representatives, Serbian Internal Affairs Minister Dragan Jovic and his Romanian counterpart Cristian David, would sign a cooperation agreement for combating crime, drug trafficking and international terrorism. [B92, BETA 05/07/07]

### REFERENDUM FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

- ☒ Turkish Court Deputy Head, Hasim Kilic, announced that a referendum will be held on constitutional amendments that would allow the people - rather than the Parliament - to elect the country's president. This was the opinion of seven court's members. The ruling comes two weeks before general elections scheduled for 22 July. The current President Ahmet Necdet Sezer vetoed legislation proposed by ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) regarding presidential election and mandate and together with main opposition Republican People's Party he appealed the adopted changes before the Constitutional Court. The Court decision will give an opportunity to Turkish people to decide whether they want to choose their head of state, or as it is written in current law, it will be done by elected members of parliament. [Setimes.net 06/07/07]