

### EU TROIKA MEETING IN ANKARA

- ☒ The main subject of the meeting held between the EU Troika and Turkey in Ankara on 4th of June was Balkan states membership negotiations with the Union. Important political figures in the region such as Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul, German Foreign Minister Frank Walter Steinmer, Portuguese Deputy Foreign Minister JoaGravinho and EU enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn attended this meeting. Besides the Balkan states' negotiation dates with the Union, discussions focused on the role of the government in the reform process, as well as on the question concerning possible Turkish cross border operation into Northern Iraq. [Focus, Zaman AFP 04/06/07; Reporternet, 5/06/2007].

### NEW DIRECTIONS FOR CROATIA

- ☒ During her official visit to Croatia, European Commissioner Danuta Hubner reminded Croatian Authorities about some of the key issues for EU accession. She pointed out the extreme importance of organization and quality of public administration, harmonization of national legislation with the *acquis communautaire* and its full transposition areas of public procurement, state

aids/competition, environment and equal opportunities for the implementation of cohesion policy. In that direction she proposed faster reaction of all state bodies and mechanisms responsible for the implementation. Finally, she projected that a system of financial management and control should be set up providing adequate structures and procedures, as well as clear description of tasks and reporting lines between all bodies involved and the provision of appropriate accounting systems. Previously supported by Phare, ISPa and SAPARD, Croatia will be a beneficiary of the Instrument for Pre – accession Assistance (IPA) which will allow for investment amounting to EUR 142 mil per year until full accession to the EU. [Reporternet, 05/06/07]

### POSITIVE REACTION TO ERIC MEIJER'S REPORT FOR MACEDONIA

- ☒ Members of the European Parliament within the Committee on Foreign Affairs gave a positive signal after Mejeir's Report. Only 4 Members voted against proposed amendments which will be incorporated in Eric Meijer's report. By supporting these amendments, 54 Members have shown their satisfaction with the initiation of political dialogue in Macedonia, but still noted that although progress has been already made, Brussels still declares it is far from total

stabilization. Adoption of this Report will turn it into a non-obligatory European Parliament Resolution. It is clearly noted within the Report that Membership negotiations between Brussels and Skopje should start as soon as it possible but without giving precisely an official date for the negotiations. As Macedonian Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that the start of negotiations will significantly foster the reform process in Macedonia and will be a clear signal for the whole region that the effort will be awarded. [Dnevnik, 06/06/07]

### MONTENEGRO'S PROGRESS WITH EURO – ATLANTIC INTEGRATION

- ☒ During her visit to Podgorica, the Head of the EU Monitoring Mission for the Western Balkans, Maryse Daviet met with both Prime Minister Zeljko Sturanovic and Foreign Minister of Foreign Affairs Milan Rocen. In her statement she said that Montenegro is advancing well on the road to Euro – Atlantic integration and announced that EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) office would close down and the next will be opened by European Commission Delegation. This is another argument that the country is considered to be stable and EU oriented. The Government of Montenegro is currently working on a national program for EU integration. [RTCG - 06/06/07; Vijesti, Mina- 07/06/07]