

### TURKEY AND GREECE AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

- ☒ Turkey and Greece agreed to stop the illegal crossing of the Aegean Sea. Previously, a Turkish-flagged cargo ship carrying 275 illegal immigrants, mainly women and children was towed safely to the Greek shore after it was caught in rough seas of South Western Greece. The Agreement achieved by the two countries will establish a new secure system which will launch a new communication mechanism enabling the coast guards to exchange online information about suspected vessels and persons involved in illegal immigration. Greek security forces arrested approximately 8,000 illegal immigrants in 2005 on the country's eastern land and sea borders. This number increased to 22,000 in 2006 and to 18,000 in the first eight months of this year. The two countries went through a long period of mutual accusation of failing to do enough to stop illegal immigration properly. After the meeting with Merchant

Marine Minister Giorgos Voulgarakis in Athens, Turkey's Coast Guard Commander, Rear Admiral Can Erenoglu said that Turkey is aware that "illegal immigrants influence ties between the two countries as it is also a security issue". [16/11/07,Setimes]

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF KOSOVO DECLARES VICTORY

- ☒ Hashim Thaci's Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) won the November 18 general elections in Kosovo. After an intensive three-week election campaign, around 1.5 million people had an opportunity to vote for the first time in direct elections for members of the Kosovo Assembly. The elections went without major irregularities and incidents. Besides PDK, which won about 35 % of the vote, the Alliance for New Kosovo got 12 %, the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo and the Democratic Alliance of Dardania won 10 percent each, while Veton Durroi's ORA won four percent of the vote. Only those parties who passed the 5 % threshold will gain seat in the new Assembly. Yesterday, Mr. Tachi announced that he will be the Prime Minister of all Kosovo residents and

that the elections were not about Kosovo status. He added that Kosovo will declare independence immediately after December 10. [18/11/07, B92]

### CONFIDENCE VOTE FOR SLOVENIAN GOVERNMENT

- ☒ On Monday, November 19, Slovenian Government faces a confident vote upon the request by Prime Minister Janez Jansa. As national media announced, the prime Minister requested the vote in order to test the power the three-party coalition after the candidate backed by the ruling coalition lost in a presidential election this month when Danilo Tuerk –independent candidate supported by opposition center-left parties was elected as Slovenians president. He clarified the he needs a solid majority and confirmation of real support to government's proposals in parliament. He also blamed the opposition for politically motivated campaign against the government with accusations of violations of human rights and media freedom. [19/11/07, Makfax]