

REGIONAL PROGRES IN ANTICORRUPTION FIGHTS

- ☒ Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index shows that all of the Southeast European countries have made progress in Fighting Corruption over the past year. On the Scale from 0 to 10 where zero indicating high levels of perceived corruption and ten indicating low levels of perceived corruption could be seen that several countries from the region achieved significant results. Macedonia, for instance, moved from 105th in 2006 to 84th, with 3.3 points. Albania climbed from 111th last year to 105th, with 2.9 points. Bosnia and Herzegovina shares 84th place with Macedonia, Serbia, which was 90th, last year, moved up to 79th, with 3.4 points this year. And Croatia moved from 69th, place to 64, a spot it shares with Bulgaria. According to Sladjana Taseva, president of Transparency International, the reference index is used by those who want information on a country when deciding on any kind of co-operation. From Transparency international recommend fighting corruption on a broad front which

means strengthening governance institutions, corruption prevention as an integral part of poverty reduction programs, judicial independence, integrity and accountability [[03/10/Setimes]

BALKAN POLITICAL CLUB CONFERENCE IN BULGARIA

- ☒ Bulgaria hosted 10th International Conference of the Balkan Political Club in Sofia. At the Opening on Friday , October 5 , Bulgarian president Georgi Parvanov stresses that through UN and OSCE and with assistance of EU International community make strong impact in regulating conflicts. EU enlargement by the accession of Western Balkan countries and Turkey was among the main topics discussed. Zhelyu Zhelev, a president of the organization and former Bulgarian head of state said that the main objective of the Balkan Political Club now is the accelerated preparation of the Western Balkan countries for their future EU and NATO membership. Macedonian Parliament speaker, Ljubisha Georgievski also attended the conference where he noted that Macedonia has fulfilled all conditions and participates in NATO missions in Afghanistan and Iraq. And that the

country is expecting support from Bulgaria in its NATO accession efforts. [Makfax, 06/10/07]

TWO MULTINATIONAL NATO MILITARY EXERCISES BEGAN IN ALBANIA

- ☒ This month, Albania hosts two multinational NATO military exercises. The exercises started October 5 and will continue until October 30. Besides 7 NATO members, 12 partner countries including Macedonia and Albania are participating. According to its statement for Albanian medias, NATO Military Committee Chairman General Ray Henaul express his contentment with significant progress in reforming the armies, Macedonia, Albania and Croatia have been made. He also added that the Alliance will also carefully assess countries achievements in the economic and political spheres. It was also announced that Henaul will visit Romania to discuss issues related to international co-operation and security, including Romania's participation in NATO missions [Makfax 06/10/07; Setimes 07/10/07]