

### **BULGARIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS VISITED MACEDONIA**

- ☒ Bulgarian Minister of European Affairs, Gergana Grncharova, visited the Republic of Macedonia upon an invitation of the Deputy PM for European Integration Gabriela Konevska-Trajkovska. Grncarova also met with Parliament President Ljubisha Georgievski, Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski, Foreign Minister Antonio Miloshoski and the Chairman of the Parliament's Committee on European Affairs, Mr. Tito Petkovski. The talks were mainly focused on European perspective of Macedonia and the region and Bulgaria's experience in this field. The talks will focus on European perspective of Macedonia and the region, regional co-operation in Southeastern Europe as well as the possibility of utilization of the Bulgarian experience in Macedonia's preparations for negotiations and utilization of the European funds, conducting negotiations and screening, issue of cross-border cooperation as well as communication with media at the moment of conducting negotiations. At the meeting with her Bulgarian colleague, Macedonian Deputy PM for European Affairs, Konevska - Trajkovska underlined the previous

good cooperation between the two countries and said that The Republic of Macedonia highly assesses the political will and wish of the Republic of Bulgaria to cooperation on issues regarding the European integration especially significant issues, which are on the agenda for 2008. [Makfax, 24/10/07; MIA, 24/10/07]

### **NATO MILITARY EXERCISE IN ALBANIA**

- ☒ Albania hosts three-week NATO military exercises named Co-operative Longbow/Lancer 07. For the exercise that began at an Albania Army base near Tirana on October 7 th the country hosts approximately 1, 100 soldiers from 25 countries, mostly members of NATO and the Partnership for Peace. Participants are from seven NATO member nations -- including Greece, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States -- and 12 PfP nations, including Albania, Austria, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Switzerland. The observers are from Morocco, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Albanian Minister of Defence, Fatmir Mediu. said that this international exercise is considered as very important event in the country that will help trains the Albanian Forces according to international standards and it is a step forward in fulfilling NATO Aspirations.

For Lieutenant General Roland Kather, Commander of the Allied Land Component Command Heidelberg, this exercise is "one building block towards achieving military interoperability, a common and mutual effort undertaken by both Alliance and Partner nations and "In their broadest sense, these exercises are linked to the stability of the Balkan region. They are also a way for us to oversee Albania's bid to join NATO." [Setimes, 25/10/07]

### **THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ADOPTED A REPORT ON SERBIA**

- ☒ In the latest report on Serbia, European Parliament underlined the importance of full cooperation between Serbia and Hague tribunal. According to this Report this cooperation is a prerequisite for signing the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) between the European Union and Serbia. In his statement, European Parliament Reporter for Serbia Jelko Kacin reminded that EU would not be complete until the Balkans had been integrated but in the same time Serbia and neighbouring countries should show that they play constructive and positive role in the region. The complete of cooperation with the Hague tribunal is precondition for signing any agreement with EU, Kacin added. [B92 26/10/07]