

**SECOND TRILATERAL MEETING  
OF THE HEADS OF STATE / GOVERNMENT  
OF BULGARIA, GREECE AND ROMANIA  
(BOROVETZ, 4-5 NOVEMBER 1999)**

**JOINT STATEMENT**

The President of Bulgaria, H.E. Mr. Petar Stoyanov, the President of Romania, H.E. Mr. Emil Constantinescu, and the Prime Minister of Greece, H.E. Mr. Costas Simitis, held their Second Summit Meeting on November 4-5, 1999 in Borovetz, Bulgaria.

Following the First Summit Meeting in Delphi in October 1998, and the regular trilateral meetings of the Foreign Ministers, the last of which was hosted by Bulgaria in May 1999, this Meeting has marked another step towards strengthening the trilateral cooperation to the benefit of the three countries and the region as a whole.

The three leaders reaffirmed their conviction that the future of South Eastern Europe lies in its integration with the European and Euroatlantic political, economic and security structures. In this regard they noted with particular satisfaction the recommendation by the European Commission on October 13, 1999 to the next European Council in Helsinki to decide in favor of starting accession negotiations in the year 2000 with Bulgaria and Romania. The Prime Minister of Greece commended the efforts of Bulgaria and Romania in meeting the criteria to start the accession negotiations and reaffirmed his country's support for such a decision to be taken by the Helsinki Summit.

The Presidents of Bulgaria and Romania and the Prime Minister of Greece welcomed the ongoing NATO enlargement process and the adoption of a Membership Action Plan by the NATO Washington Summit earlier this year. The Prime Minister of Greece reaffirmed the positive stand of his country in favour of the efforts of Bulgaria and Romania to become full members of the Alliance. The Presidents of Bulgaria and Romania stated once again the commitment of their countries to continue actively to

contribute to NATO efforts in securing peace and stability in South Eastern Europe.

The three leaders expressed their common understanding on the importance of accelerated NATO enlargement to include applicant states from the region, which would also bring substantial advantages to the Alliance itself, such as further consolidation of the NATO southern flank and improved capacity for adequate and early prevention and management of possible crisis development in areas of the Western Balkans.

They noted with satisfaction the establishment of the Multinational Peace Force/South Eastern Europe and the official opening of its Headquarters in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, as an important contribution to the confidence building process and regional security.

They also expressed satisfaction with the forthcoming inauguration of the SECI Regional Center for the combating of transborder crime in Bucharest as a concrete project of regional cooperation to promote also the goals of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

The Presidents of Bulgaria and Romania and the Prime Minister of Greece underlined the necessity to achieve long-lasting stability in South Eastern Europe and reaffirmed their support to the Stability Pact. Paying particular attention to the implementation process they noted that the Regional Table and the following Working Tables have laid down the general principles and procedures to reach the proclaimed goals — enhancement of democratic institutions, economic development and fostering of security. The three leaders stressed their conviction that time has come to start the realization of the priorities of the Pact. They expressed the determination of their countries to contribute to the substantiation of the Stability Pact and underlined the necessity of a stronger impetus given by the international financial institutions to ensure the implementation of specific projects.

The three leaders shared the conviction that lasting stability in South Eastern Europe could be achieved through speedy economic recovery and development, including building of a modern infrastructure in the fields of transport, energy and

telecommunications — as part of the Pan—European infrastructure network.

They stressed the need to identify the regional and cross—border priorities that could be included in the list of the Stability Pact Relevant Projects. They shared the view that prior attention should be given to infrastructure projects along the Pan—European transport corridors and the constituent constructions and facilities linking the region with the rest of the continent. The three leaders focused their attention on the Pan—European transport corridors crossing the territories of their countries and especially on Corridor IV, the completion of which requires the construction of a new combined bridge over the Danube between Bulgaria and Romania.

Regarding transport facilitation, the three leaders emphasized the urgency to clean up the debris on the Danube and to fully restore the free navigation on the river which is the Pan—European Transport Corridor VII. They called on the Yugoslav authorities to respect their obligations stemming from the Belgrade Convention of 1948 and to facilitate the international efforts to that end. They called on the European Union to render financial assistance to the Danube Commission for cleaning the fairway of the Danube in the Novi Sad area in order to reopen the free navigation.

The Presidents of Bulgaria and Romania and the Prime Minister of Greece exchanged views on the situation in Kosovo and stated their support to the efforts of the international community to promote peace and stability in the province. They pointed out that the political solution of the Kosovo crisis based on the UNSC Resolution 1244 includes also the military dimension of security. They called on all communities in Kosovo to respect the reached agreements as a necessary prerequisite for the success of the peace process.

The three leaders reaffirmed their common understanding of the necessity to bring enhanced autonomy and self government to Kosovo within the internationally recognized borders of FRY thus preserving its territorial integrity. In this context they stressed that inviolability of borders should be respected as a principle of paramount importance. They shared the view that the preservation of the multiethnic and multicultural character of Kosovo is of utmost importance. The three leaders reiterated that ethnic cleansing should not be followed by ethnic vengeance and

violence and stated that hatred and intolerance among the different ethnic communities in Kosovo should be condemned and contained, as jeopardizing the stabilization of the province.

The Presidents of Bulgaria and Romania and the Prime Minister of Greece commended the achievements within the cooperation of their countries in the fields of internal affairs, public works, transport and environment and expressed their support to the implementation of the reached agreements.

The Presidents of Bulgaria and Romania and the Prime Minister of Greece agreed to continue their trilateral Summit meetings on a regular basis.

The next Summit Meeting will be hosted by Romania in 2000.

Borovetz, November 4, 1999