

THE SEARCH FOR STABILITY IN THE BALKANS

Austrian Parliament
Vienna 7/8 April 2006

AGENDA

7th April

16:00 Registration and welcome at the Budgetsaal, Parliament Building

16.30 INTRODUCTION: Erhard Busek, Lord George Weidenfeld

Keynote speech: President of Serbia, Boris Tadić

17.00 SESSION I – Economic and political stability in the Balkans:
Opportunities and remaining dangers

Chairman: Erhard Busek

Introducers: Lutfi Haziri, Ivan Vejvoda, Stefan Wagstyl

- Serbia's moment of reckoning: beyond the Kosovar and Montenegrin challenges, can Serbia regain a central role in the region?
- Edging towards Kosovo's independence: feasible even without ethnic harmony and economic viability?
- The lessons of international efforts in Bosnia and Macedonia: managing multi-ethnic societies and ready for Europe?
- Balkan economic stability: high-risk region or ripe for investment?

19.30 DINNER AT THE HOFBURG

Host and Keynote Speaker: Heinz Fischer, Federal President of Austria

8th April

9.00 SESSION II – Cooperation in the Black Sea region

Chairman: Lord George Weidenfeld

**Introducers: Mihai-Razvan Ungureanu, Nadia Arbatova
Werner Weidenfeld**

- Across the Balkans and Black Sea: enough common interests to cooperate?
- US, Russia, Europe: competing for influence in the Black Sea region?
- The perspective from Turkey and Greece: positive or divisive influence?
- Energy security: its vital role sufficiently recognised to find solutions?
- A ‘Stability Pact’ for the Black Sea: Can the Balkans offer a useful model?

11:00 SESSION III – Europe as a panacea: is Thessaloniki a paper tiger?

Chairman: Josef Janning

Introducers: Heather Grabbe, Hannes Swoboda, Meglena Kuneva

- The EU’s political will: where in the Region does the enlargement process stop and at what cost?
- Regional cooperation in South-Eastern Europe: EU integration a cohesive or divisive influence?
- The EU: how much political and economic leverage does it have in the Balkans?
- Immigration and criminality: mutual benefit from a concerted EU immigration policy for the Balkans?
- US engagement: still critical if the region is to achieve security and prosperity?

13.00 LUNCH at Parliament

Host: Austrian Foreign Ministry

Speaker: Hans Winkler, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs