The establishment of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) in February 2008 ( <u>Joint</u> Declaration on the Establishment of Regional Cooperation Council

) has helped define the "structure" of regional cooperation in SEE. Regional Cooperation Council is functionally linked with the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) and presents its institutional and logistic support, through the activities of the RCC Secretariat and its Secretary General. The Regional Cooperation Council is focused on sectoral, whereas the SEECP focuses on political cooperation in the region.

**RCC** Participants are: 12 SEECP participating States (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Slovenia, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Turkey and Montenegro), "Kosovo\*", EU Troika (EU Council Secretariat, EC, and the country holding the EU Presidency), as well as countries and institutions actively supporting the SEE cooperation process through donations (a total of 46 participating States).

The RCC Secretariat is based in Sarajevo. Its Secretary General is Mr. Goran Svilanovic.

The RCC Secretariat has the EU Liaison Office in Brussels. Its operative body is the RCC Board comprising national coordinators and institutions funded by the RCC Secretariat. The RCC Board meets three times a year.

The main tasks of the RCC are: development of regional cooperation through six priority areas (economic and social development, energy and infrastructure, justice and home affairs, security, building human capital, parliamentary cooperation) and identifying projects being of common interest for the countries of the region and its connection with programmes of the European Commission, particularly those related to the programming of the high-risk component of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) programme, as the main framework for the RCC activities.

RCC internet presentation is accessible at www.rcc.int

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