



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 3 June 2005 (07.06)  
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from : Working Party on the Western Balkans Region  
dated : 2 June 2005  
to : Coreper

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Subject : Working Party on the Western Balkans Region - updating its mandate

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1. At its meeting at the end of November 1997, Coreper agreed to change the name of the ad hoc Working Party on the former Yugoslavia to the Working Party on the Western Balkans Region (COWEB) and approved its mandate in the latter capacity.
2. At its meetings on 2 and 18 May 2005, the Working Party discussed the desirability of updating its mandate in view of developments in relation to EU policy towards the countries covered, i.e. Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia and Montenegro, including Kosovo pursuant to UNSC Resolution 1244.

3. Agreement was reached on the following within the Working Party:
- The Working Party on the Western Balkans Region would remain in charge of the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP)<sup>1</sup> and its continued development, as it did recently with the Thessaloniki Agenda, and would also cover aspects of EU policy relating to the countries covered by the process, i.e. Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia and Montenegro, including Kosovo pursuant to UNSC Resolution 1244.
  - The Working Party would be duly informed when the main work was done by other Council bodies on questions relating to the Western Balkans which came within their mandates, and it would contribute as required to such proceedings.
  - The Working Party would also be responsible for questions relating to the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, which acts as a complement to the SAP; and it would continue to monitor the activities of other regional cooperation initiatives.
4. The Presidency, supported by the Council Secretariat, would coordinate the proceedings of the Working Party on the Western Balkans Region and those of other working parties dealing with the same countries within the framework of their competences.
5. The Working Party on the Western Balkans Region invites Coreper to confirm the agreement reached on its mandate as set out in paragraph 3 above.

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<sup>1</sup> The SAP and its key components (Community assistance, mechanisms for preparing and monitoring the implementation of stabilisation and association agreements and preferential trade measures) will remain the framework for the European course of the Western Balkan countries all the way to their future accession, as reaffirmed by the Thessaloniki EU–Western Balkans Summit in June 2003.