# The Dubrovnik Pledge









Meeting the health needs of vulnerable populations in South East Europe















Health Ministers' Forum: "Health Development Action for South East Europe"

(Dubrovník, Croatia, 31 August - 2 September 2001)

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## The Dubrovnik Pledge:

Meeting the Health Needs of

Vulnerable Populations in South East Europe

## The Dubrovnik Pledge:

## Meeting the Health Needs of Vulnerable Populations in South East Europe

We the Ministers of Health of South East Europe (SEE), gathered here today at the Health Ministers' Forum for Regional Health Development Action in South East Europe recognize the damaging effects on health of recent wars, continuing unrest and conflict, as well as the economic hardships faced by the populations of SEE during their countries' transition to market economies. We accept the challenge to play a key role in strengthening the fundamental human rights of our societies and of vulnerable populations and individuals within them to effective health care, social wellbeing and human development, in line with the principles of the World Health Organization and the Council of Europe.

## Focus on specific strategies

We, the Ministers of Health of: Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and the Federal Secretary for Labour, Health and Social Welfare of Yugoslavia commit ourselves through government action to the following goals.

WE WILL WORK IN PARTNERSHIP with relevant national and international bodies and organizations: to ensure equity, health gain and a better quality of life and health care (including reduced inequalities in its infrastructure and balanced primary and secondary services and public health interventions for the populations of SEE); and to collaborate on issues of common concern, including the harmonization of policies, legislation and information systems, institutional capacity building and networking to build an infrastructure to pursue regional goals and future European integration.

## WE WILL MEET THE HEALTH NEEDS OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN SEE, mobilizing human and financial resources to the extent possible to:

- increase citizens' access to appropriate, affordable and high-quality health care services;
- intensify social cohesion by strengthening community mental health services;
- increase the quality of and regional self-sufficiency in the provision of safe blood and blood products;
- develop integrated emergency health care services that are offered free of charge to the user;
- strengthen the surveillance and control of communicable diseases;
- strengthen institutional capacity and intersectoral collaboration for access to affordable and safe food products; and
- establish regional networks and systems for the collection and exchange of social and health information.

## Plea to international stakeholders

The Health Ministers' Forum for Regional Health Development Action in South East Europe recognizes the need for assistance from international stakeholders to achieve the goals of this Pledge.

WE LOOK TO the Council of Europe and the World Health Organization for strategic guidance in developing mechanisms to coordinate partnership with national and international agencies in the fulfilment of this Pledge and request their support in organizing a first meeting to monitor and evaluate the progress achieved by such partnership.

WE ASK THAT the international community assist, within the framework of the Stability Pact for South East Europe, by providing resources to support the implementation of the above-mentioned urgent action areas for health reconstruction and development. In so doing, we commit ourselves to transparency and dedication in the implementation and reporting of all project activities and their results.

WE REQUEST that the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe and the Council of Europe report to their governing bodies about this Pledge and the progress achieved towards its goals.

## **SIGNATORIES**

Albania	Romania
Hadel	at Brots -
Ms Ruki Kondaj Secretary General of the Ministry of Health for The Minister of Health of Albania	Dr Daniela Bartos Minister of Health of Romania
Bosnia and Herzegovina	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Dr Zelko Misanovic Minister of Health of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina  Dr Milorad Balaban Minister of Health of the Republika Srpska	Professor Petar Milosevski Minister of Health of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Bulgaria  Dr Bojidar Finkov  Minister of Health of Bulgaria	Dr Miodrag Kovac Federal Secretary for Labour, Health and Social Welfare of Yugoslavia
Croatia	For the Secretariat of the Meeting
Dr Ana Stavljenic/Rukavina Minister of Health of Croatia	Mrs Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni Director General for Social Cohesion Council of Europe  Dr Marc Danzon Regional Director for Europe World Health Organization

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## REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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Ref. No 09-8858//

Date: 18.10.2001

TO:

Dr. Marc Danzon Regional Director

World Health Organization Copenhagen, Denmark

Subject:

Notification for the Dubrovnik Pledge

Dear Sir.

Ministry of Health of the Republic of Macedonia within the framework of the Stability Pact for South East Europe, supports the implementation of the Dubrovnik Pledge containing urgent action areas for health reconstruction and development. We commit ourselves to transparency and dedication in the implementation and reporting of all project activities and their results.

Profes

asevski

Yours truly,

Capy to:

Cabinet of Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia Dr. Marija Kisman, WHO Liaison Officer, WHO Liaison Office Skopje, R. Macedonia Ms. Raquel Ragragio, UNDP Representaive, UNDP Office, 8 Dimitric Cupovski, 1000 Skopje, R. Macedonia



## REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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Date: 13.11.2002

# STATEMENT ON CO-OPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA IN THE SOCIAL COHESION INITIATIVE OF THE STABILITY PACT - SOUTH EAST EUROPE HEALTH NETWORK Health Development Action for south-eastern Europe Belgrade, 14-16 November 2002

Slovenia is aware of its responsibility for the stability and economic and social development of South Eastern Europe and has, since the very beginning, actively participated in the provision of assistance to the countries of that region, including activities under the auspices of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. We attach special importance to co-operation in the field of health as one of the essential determinants of social and economic development.

Taking into consideration the priorities agreed in Dubrovnik in 2001 by the countries of South Eastern Europe within the framework of the South East European Health Network in the cooperation with the World Health Organisation and the Council of Europe, Slovenia is prepared to continue its active participation in the coming year, as a donor and partner country, primarily in the "Intensifying Social Cohesion by Strengthening Community Mental Health Services in South East Europe" project.

From 4 to 6 November 2002 Slovenia hosted the First Workshop on Mental Health Policies and Legislation, thus contributing USD 25,000 to the project. The same contribution is in 2003 earmarked for this project.

Since co-operation with individual countries within the SEE Health Network or the WHO Network is well underway under the "Strengthening Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases in SEE" and "Strengthening Food Safety and Nutrition Services in SEE" projects, we are willing to offer expert assistance and exchange professional experience as our in kind contribution within these two projects. Slovene experts could participate in these workshops with their knowledge and experience, as was the case with the harmonisation of legislation and institutional structure with the European Union and in setting up a system for monitoring communicable diseases and the required infrastructure.

Dr. Dušan Keber, M.D.

MINISTER

#### MINISTERUL SĂNĂTĂȚII AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA



### MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

To:

Dr. Marc Danzon, M.D.

Regional Director

Dear Dr. Danzon,

Herewith, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Moldova expresses its sincere gratitude for the invitation to join the South East European Health Network established in the frame of the Stability Pact Initiative for Social Cohesion. We would like to inform you that our Ministry supports the implementation of the Dubrovnik Pledge containing urgent measures for health reconstruction and development and will promote the Stability Pact policy.

The Ministry of Health will highly appreciate the involving of the Republic of Moldova in all the activities of the SEE Health Network, including those we do not take part in.

In the light of the above, please give us the permission to thank you for your kind attention and to address you our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Andrei GHERMAN Minister



#### SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE HEALTH NETWORK

"Health Development Action for south eastern Europe"

#### **Members:**

Albania Bosnia and Herzegovina Bulgaria Croatia Republic of Moldova Romania Serbia and Montenegro The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

#### **Donors and Neighbours:**

France Greece Italy Slovenia Sweden

#### **Organizations:**

Council of Europe Council of Europe Development Bank WHO Regional Office for Europe

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