

146. On 10 June 1999, at the EU's initiative, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe was adopted in Cologne. Its main aim is to strengthen the countries of South Eastern Europe "in their efforts to foster peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity in order to achieve stability in the whole region". The Stability Pact is a political declaration of commitment and a framework agreement on international co-operation to develop a shared strategy among all partners for stability and growth in South Eastern Europe. It is not a new international organisation nor does it have any independent financial resources or implementing structures. It is a co-ordinating mechanism which matches requests from the region with offers from participating nations and organisations and co-ordinates political and economic reforms and reconstruction in the region. It seeks to provide a forum to stimulate change in the region.

147. The Stability Pact Partners are:

- **The European Union Member States and the European Commission;**
- **The countries of the region and their neighbours: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, FYR Macedonia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Yugoslavia, Turkey and Moldova;**
- **Non EU-members of the G8: USA, Canada, Japan and Russia;**
- **Other countries: Norway and Switzerland;**
- **International organisations: UN, OSCE, Council of Europe, UNHCR, NATO and OECD;**
- **International financial institutions: World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Investment Bank (EIB) and Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB);**
- **Regional initiatives: Black Sea Economic Co-operation (BSEC), Central European Initiative (CEI), South East European Co-operative Initiative (SECI) and South East Europe Co-operation Process (SEECF).**

HofLords, Select Cttee. on the EU, 20th rep.