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**PROJECT ON
ETHNIC
RELATIONS**



The Balkans as a Source of Security and Stability in Europe ***Ninth High-Level Balkan Regional Roundtable on Interethnic Relations***

Athens, Greece
June 15-16, 2007

Agenda

1. Peace and Democracy in the Balkans

- How has peace and democracy in the region been affected by the last decade's major peace settlements in the Balkans? Have all of the settlements been successful? What determines whether a settlement has been successful? How have these peace settlements contributed to the democratization process? Has regional security improved following these peace settlements? What lessons are there to be learned from these processes?
- Does establishment of inclusive multiethnic governance contribute to peacebuilding and democracy? What can majorities and minorities do to secure successful interethnic governance? Is mere political representation enough to accommodate minority interests? What else can or should be done?

2. From Conflict to Cooperation: Strengthening Regional Security

- In terms of dealing with interethnic issues, how have institutional capacities in the Balkans improved in the last decade? Are present institutional capacities sufficient? Are additional regional mechanisms needed? What has been the role of regional actors and outsiders in shaping and preserving regional security? What role do external incentives (EU membership, NATO membership) play in internal decision making processes? What external incentives still exist for those countries that have already become members? What can non EU/NATO-members learn from the experiences of these countries?
- What future does the Balkans have as a source of security and stability in Europe? What are the prospects for the Balkans in terms of European integration? What more can the European Union do to accelerate this process? What should the EU do with countries lacking progress in this process? Should the EU rely on positive reinforcement or enforce penalties on those countries lacking progress in the democratization process? What should the EU do in case its new members regress on these issues?

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