

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL AART DE GEUS  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE AWARD HANDED  
BY THE OECD INVESTMENT COMPACT FOR SOUTH EAST EUROPE  
TO DR. ERHARD BUSEK, SPECIAL CO-ORDINATOR OF THE STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- Dr. Erhard Busek, an Austrian national, was appointed (by the EU) Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe in 2001 and took office on 01 January 2002. Dr. Busek was previously Vice-Chancellor of Austria from 1991 to 1995 and Special Representative of the Austrian Government for the Enlargement of the European Union from March 2000 to December 2001.
- The Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe was launched in 1999 as the first comprehensive long-term conflict prevention strategy aimed at fostering and strengthening democracy, economic prosperity and security in South East Europe.
- The OECD was given the mandate to manage the Stability Pact's Investment Compact for South East Europe initiative, one of the components of the Pact's Working Table II on Economic Reconstruction, Co-operation and Development. The programme's mission is to improve the investment climate and to encourage private sector development in South East Europe. It has been based within the OECD's Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs since its inception in 2000.

**SPEAKING POINTS**

GENERAL

- Dr. Busek, you had the vision of what Europe represents today way before most people working with the region and worked on building regional relations beyond the Iron Curtain to bring Central and Eastern European countries into a unified Europe. This vision made you uniquely suited to become Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact. Your appointment was an acknowledgment of your vision and long standing commitment as a true European.
- To me, the clearest testimony of your contribution to the region as Special Co-ordinator is the current evolution of the Stability Pact into the Regional Co-operation Council which should help guarantee the sustainability of economic reforms in SEE. A sign of how much the region has evolved over the past 10 years is Romania's adherence to OECD instruments on multinational companies. Serbia is now in turn negotiating adherence to those instruments.
- I am glad to see that the co-operation between the OECD and the organisation in charge of regional co-operation in South East Europe will be perpetuated beyond the Stability Pact and particularly pleased to see that the RCC and the OECD have agreed to collaborate on the next Investment Reform Index 2009 which has proved to be a great benchmarking tool to encourage policy reforms.

## INVESTMENT COMPACT

- The success of the Investment Compact is based to three main factors:
  1. It is a programme that delivers concrete results on the ground ;
  2. It receives constant support from dedicated countries providing leadership and financial resources. Here I would like to mention that I am now particularly pleased to see recipients countries (Bulgaria, Romania) becoming donors to the Investment Compact;
  3. It has always enjoyed your support.
  
- Throughout your tenure, you have provided remarkable and constant support for the Investment Compact. The programme would in particular like to thank you for:
  1. The spirit of co-operation and partnership you helped foster in the daily working relationship between your colleagues of Table II in Brussels, tonight represented by Director Mary O'Mahony and Ms. Aleksandra Rakovic, and the Investment Compact team in Paris.
  2. Your understanding of the role of private sector development in opening economies of the region. You also understand the role of the Investment Compact and how it can work to boost this process. The Investment Compact's contribution would not have been possible without you.
  3. We also wish to thank you for your support in tirelessly building and strengthening the links between the Investment Compact and the private sector, stressing to business the importance and relevance of the Investment Compact's work. Your declarations at recent meetings of the Business Advisory Council for South Eastern Europe in Zagreb and Thessaloniki are but two examples of your support in this domain.
  4. Your chairmanship of the Investment Compact annual Ministerial Conferences has also been of great importance and will be missed. You provided participants with a clear framework for discussions and guaranteed the liveliness of debates.
  5. The important role you have played in fostering the Regional Co-operation Council's and the OECD's intention to co-operate has also been important, and has ensured that the collaboration developed with the Stability Pact is perpetuated and that the work of the Investment Compact remains closely linked to the organisation with the mandate to oversee regional co-operation in South East Europe. We are actually pleased and honoured to have Mr. Biscevic, Secretary-General of the RCC with us tonight.
  6. Finally, your recent comments in the media did not go unnoticed by the Investment Compact team. You notably declared to *SEE.Market* Magazine that the Investment Compact is an "initiative that provides an excellent forum for co-operation on improving the region's attractiveness to foreign investors and that it really complements the Central European Free Trade Agreement". You also wrote in the *Balkan Investigative Reporting Network* that the SEE Investment Committee "has a major role in identifying and implementing key reforms and in improving South East Europe's investment climate". We couldn't have put any of this better.

## CONCLUSION

- One should not forget that the Stability Pact was not an international organisation with financial resources of its own, nor an implementing body. Its sole power was persuasion. It is testimony to your persuasion 'powers' that the organisation you headed achieved so much in so little time with so little resources.
- If today South East Europe is where it is and has achieved so much progress on so many fronts in less than a decade, it is fair to say, and I'm sure everyone gathered here tonight will agree with me, that it is in part due to your commitment and dedication.
- Finally, now that a unified South East Europe region has become a reality and that we enter an area of stronger co-operation, I am pleased to see that the OECD will be able to contribute to this process.
- As a token of our appreciation for everything you had done for the region and the Investment Compact, I am pleased to hand you an 17<sup>th</sup> century map of Eastern Europe, hoping that looking at it in the future will bring back found memories.