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24/02/2006

**Reconciliation through Education: Presentation of SEE History Workbooks
Brussels, 8 March 2006, 12.30 – 15.00 h**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung,

Throughout the Balkans and many other parts of the world, history has often been (and still is) an instrument of political purposes being shaped according to perceived national needs. This is reflected through history books which are used in schools in the Balkan countries on all levels. It goes without saying that this kind of teaching material strengthens the national prejudices about neighbouring countries and the concept of "our enemies".

A project of the Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in South-Eastern Europe (CDRSEE) recently offered a solution to this misery: In cooperation with teachers and educational experts from all South-Eastern European countries, the Thessaloniki based centre produced four History Teaching Books which train the critical view on one's own history and teaches what the other side considers as the truth.

The EU-Office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, in cooperation with the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, has the pleasure to invite you to the presentation of this ambitious project:

**RECONCILIATION THROUGH EDUCATION:
Presentation of South-Eastern European History Work Books
Wednesday, 8 March 2006, 12.30 -15.00 h
EU-Office of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, 38 Rue du Taciturne, 1000 Brussels.**

The project's initiators and editor will share with us the main idea behind the project as well as its difficulties and challenges, especially in terms of implementation into the national education systems in the Balkan countries. Please find attached the programme and register form (*to be sent back until latest 6 March*).

For any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Sabine Brickenkamp, Tel: 02 / 234 62 96, Email: Sabine.Brickenkamp@fesbrussels.org.

Looking forward to welcoming you to an interesting and fruitful debate, I remain,

With best regards,



Dr. Ernst STETTER
Director
EU Office Friedrich Ebert Stiftung



Programme

POLITICAL FORUM

<p style="text-align: center;">Reconciliation through Education - Presentation of South-Eastern European History Workbooks</p>

**Wednesday, 8 March 2006,
12.30 - 15.00 h**

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung EU-Office, 38 Rue du Taciturne, 1000 Brussels

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| 12.30 h | Registration
Sandwiches and Drinks |
| 13.00 h | Welcome by Stefanie RICKEN , Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung EU-Office

Opening speech
by Dr. Erhard BUSEK , Special Coordinator of Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe |
| 13.20 h | Presentations by
Costa CARRAS , Board of Directors, Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in South Eastern Europe (CDRSEE):
The concept of the Joint History Project: From idea to History Workbooks
Prof. Christina KOLOURI , Series Editor:
Teaching a common history in a divided region
Nenad SEBEK , Executive Director, CDRSEE:
Implementation and problems |
| 14.00 h | Open debate with invited guests (such as representatives of EU institutions, Permanent Representations and Missions to the EU, Brussels based think tanks, NGOs and media) |