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Population and population density

At the beginning of 2007 the EU-27 recorded a population of more than 495 million persons. Candidate and potential candidate countries had together a population representing nearly a fifth of the EU-27 population. Turkey was the largest candidate country in terms of inhabitants, with a population of nearly 70 million inhabitants in 2007, which represents about 14% of the total EU-27 population. Among the potential candidate countries, Serbia shows the highest number of inhabitants, almost 7.5 million in 2007.

In all candidate and potential candidate countries, except Kosovo, population density is lower than the EU-27 average of 114.8 inhabitants per km² (2006 value). Kosovo registers the highest population density, with 195.3 inhabitants per km² in 2007, a concentration about 1.7 times higher than the EU-27 average. Montenegro has by far the lowest population density reaching less than half the density in the EU-27. Note that these figures do not provide any information on how concentrated the population in urban areas is, or whether it is widely spread across more rural land.

In general the share of women in the total population is rather balanced for the EU-27 (51.2%) and in all candidate and potential candidate countries with values between 49.5% in Kosovo and 51.8% in Croatia. Only in Croatia and Serbia the proportion of women is higher than the EU-27 average. Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Montenegro recorded a proportion of women lower than the EU-27 average but still above 50%. In contrast, there are fewer women than men in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey,

Figure 1.1: Share of women in the total population, 2007, % of total

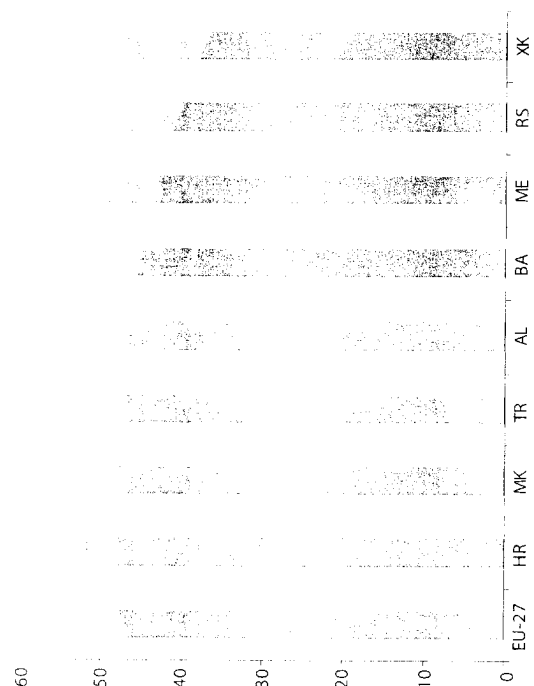


Table 1.1: Population and population density

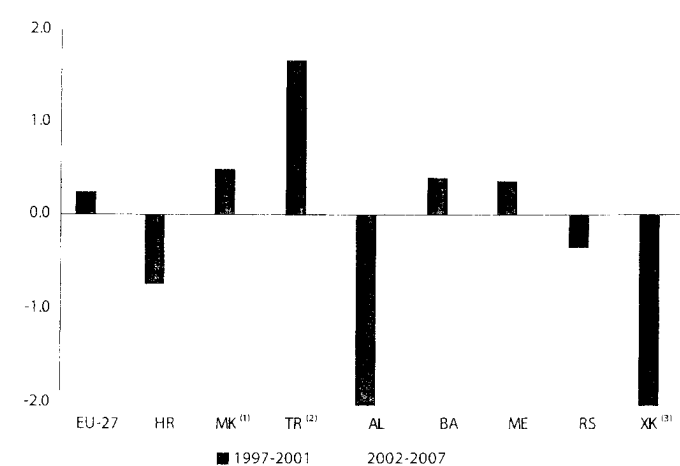
	Total population, 1 st January (thousands)												Population density (inhabitants per km ²)											
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		
EU-27	478 102	480 383	481 076	482 188	482 958	484 541	486 520	488 632	490 898	492 965	495 090													
Croatia	4 572	4 501	4 554	4 442	4 437	4 445	4 443	4 442	4 444	4 443	4 441													
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ⁽¹⁾	1 991	2 002	2 013	2 022	2 031	2 039	2 024	2 030	2 035	2 039	2 042													
Turkey ⁽²⁾	63 485	64 642	65 787	66 889	67 896	68 838	69 770	70 692	71 610	72 520	69 689													
Albania	3 324	3 354	3 373	3 058	3 063	3 084	3 103	3 120	3 135	3 149	3 153													
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3 727	3 550	3 689	3 753	3 790	3 813	3 830	3 837	3 843	3 843	3 844													
Montenegro	606	608	610	612	615	617	619	621	623	624	625													
Serbia	7 610	7 583	7 553	7 528	7 505	7 502	7 491	7 470	7 456	7 425	7 382													
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	2 169					1 985	2 016	2 041	2 070	2 100	2 127													
EU-27	110.9	111.9	112.1	112.2	112.5	112.8	113.3	113.9	114.3	114.8														
Croatia	80.8	79.5	80.5	78.6	78.5	78.6	78.5	78.5	78.5	78.5	78.5													
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	77.4	77.9	78.3	78.6	79.0	79.3	78.7	78.9	79.2	79.3	79.4													
Turkey	81.0	82.5	84.0	85.4	86.6	87.9	89.0	90.2	91.4	88.9	90.1													
Albania	115.6	116.7	117.3	106.4	106.6	107.3	107.9	108.5	109.0	109.5	109.7													
Bosnia and Herzegovina	72.8	69.3	72.0	73.3	74.0	74.5	74.8	74.9	75.0	75.0	75.1													
Montenegro	43.9	44.0	44.2	44.4	44.5	44.7	44.8	45.0	45.1	45.1	45.2													
Serbia	98.2	97.9	97.5	97.2	96.9	96.8	96.7	96.4	96.2	95.8	95.3													
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	199.2					182.3	185.2	187.5	190.1	192.9	195.3													

⁽¹⁾ Data as given in 2003, ⁽²⁾ Data as given in 2002.

Population growth

Due to a steady increase since 1997, the EU-27 population in 2007 was 3.6% higher than in 1997. Population growth was also recorded every year in Montenegro and every year except one in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina. This showed an increase of the population in Montenegro (3.2%), Bosnia and Herzegovina (3.1%) and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2.5%) since 1997. Although showing moderate growth rates each year from 2000 until 2007, Albania could not compensate the slump of -9.3% from 1999 to 2000. In contrast, Serbia recorded small population falls each year since 1997 amounting to a reduction of the total population by 3.2% between 1997 and 2007. Together with Croatia, Albania and Kosovo, Serbia formed the group of countries registering a decrease of the population since 1997, which was in the case of Serbia and Croatia due to a decrease in both five-year periods shown in Figure 1.2. However, the comparison with the previous year shows that in 2007 the population grew or remained stable in all territories, except Serbia, where the population declined by 0.6%. Note that the development of the Turkish population cannot be precisely analysed since the population census conducted in 2007 (break in series in 2007) may lead to some significant data revision for previous years.

Figure 1.2: Population, average annual growth rates (%)



(1) 2003-2006 instead of 2002-2006 in order to take into account a break in the series in 2000; (2) 2002-2006 instead of 2002-2007; (3) 1997-2003 instead of 1997-2001.

Table 1.2: Population growth (% change compared with the previous year)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4
Croatia	1.8	-1.6	1.2	-2.8	0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.0	0.1	-0.0	-0.1
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ⁽¹⁾	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2
Turkey ⁽²⁾	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.1
Albania	1.3	0.9	0.6	-9.3	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-3.4	-4.8	3.9	1.7	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
Montenegro	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2
Serbia	-0.2	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.0	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.3

(1) Break in series in 2000; (2) Break in series in 2007

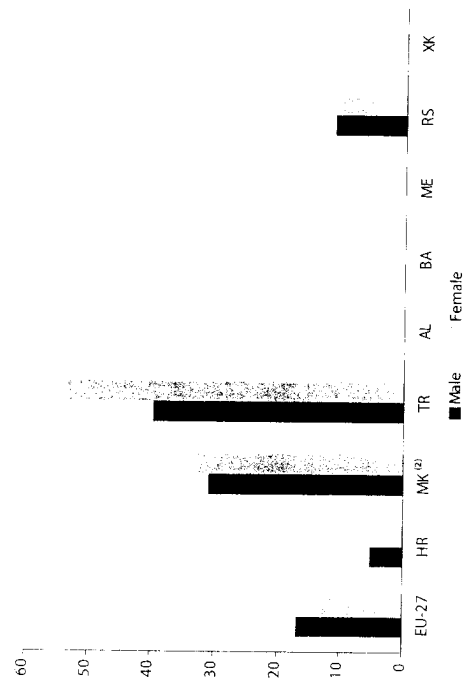
Early school leavers

Education and training policies are central to the Lisbon objective of creating a dynamic and competitive knowledge based economy. As part of its objectives for 2010, the EU has made tackling the problem of early school leavers one of its priorities.

While the number of early school leavers in the EU-27 has been reduced, in 2007 there remained 14.8% of young persons aged between 18 and 24 who had not completed upper secondary education and who were not engaged in any education or training. Within the candidate and potential candidate countries for which information is available, the highest share of young persons who had not completed upper secondary education and who were not engaged in any education or training was accounted for by Turkey (48%), followed by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (32% in 2002, the only information available), Serbia (11%) and Croatia (4%). In general, figures show a downward trend, except for increases in Croatia in 2006, Turkey in 2004 and Serbia in 2006 (0.3, 1.6 and 1.2 percentage points respectively).

The proportion of men who had not completed upper secondary education was higher than that for women in the EU-27. This was also the case in Croatia where the proportion of men was twice that for women and in Serbia where the proportion of men was slightly higher than that for women. The opposite applied to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with the proportion of women slightly higher than that for men (in 2002) and to Turkey with the proportion of around 15 percentage points higher for women than for men.

Figure 2.1: Proportion of the population aged 18-24 having not completed upper secondary education (currently not in any education or training), 2007 (%)



(1) Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99, not available. (2) 2002

Table 2.1: Proportion of the population aged 18-24 having not completed upper secondary education (currently not in any education or training) (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	17.6	17.3	17.1	16.6	15.9	15.5	15.2	14.8
Croatia			8.3	8.4	6.2	4.8	5.1	3.9
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia								
Turkey	58.8	57.3	54.8	53.0	54.6	51.3	50.0	47.8
Albania								
Bosnia and Herzegovina								
Montenegro								
Serbia					11.5	11.4	12.6	10.7
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99								

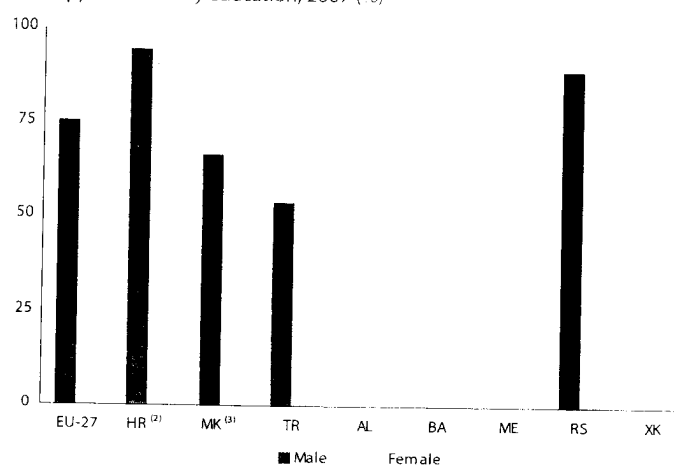
Completion of upper secondary education

Another Lisbon objective for 2010 is to increase to 85% the proportion of the population aged 20-24 who has completed at least an upper secondary education.

In 2007, more than three quarters of the population aged 20-24 had completed at least upper secondary education in the EU-27. This was also the case for Croatia and Serbia, with 95% and 89% respectively. The proportion in Turkey accounted only for about 47%, reflecting the lowest percentage among the countries for which data is available. Percentages have grown from 2001 onwards in every country for which information is available. Although there is a clear constant upward trend in the proportions registered in the EU-27 as well as in Croatia, Turkey and Serbia, the trends themselves fluctuate.

The proportion of population aged 20-24 having completed at least upper secondary education differs depending on the gender of the population considered. In 2007, this share was higher for women than for men in the EU-27 (80.8% and 75.4% respectively) and in Croatia (96.1% and 94.7% respectively, data referring to 2002). The opposite phenomenon occurs in every other country for which data is available, the difference being considerable in Turkey (53.9% for men and 40.3% for women, the largest difference between the genders with 13.6 percentage points), rather small in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (66.6% and 64.1% respectively) and barely significant

Figure 2.2: Proportion of the population aged 20-24 having completed at least upper secondary education, 2007 (%) ⁽¹⁾



(1) Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99, not available. (2) Annual average of quarterly data. (3) 2002 instead of 2007.

Table 2.2: Proportion of the population aged 20-24 having completed at least upper secondary education (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	76.6	76.6	76.7	76.9	77.2	77.5	77.9	78.1
Croatia	:	:	90.6	91.0	93.5	93.8	94.7	95.4
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	:	:	65.4	:	:	:	:	:
Turkey	38.9	40.4	42.8	44.9	41.8	43.9	44.6	46.5
Albania	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Bosnia and Herzegovina	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Montenegro	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Serbia	:	:	:	:	88.1	89.0	86.8	89.0
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Education stages are defined in the ISCED as follows:

- Between 2001 and 2007, there was an increase in the number of students that attended first and second stages of tertiary education in the EU-27 as well as in candidate and potential candidate countries for which data is available (both for 2001 and 2007). The number of pupils in primary education increased in Turkey and Montenegro in the period observed. In contrast, the EU-27 and all other countries for which data is available recorded a decrease in the number of pupils in primary education. Note that this analysis cannot be complete as in case of all countries there is no data available for all ISCED levels.

ISCED under 1995 and 2000 refer to academic years 1994-2000, 2000/2001, etc. (2) ISCED 5: schooling enrolled students on ISCED 5A: second degree and masters (3) ISCED 0-1-2-3-5: public education only. (4) ISCED 1 to 3 refer to the first three years of the school years ISCED 4 for 2001 data refer to post secondary education that consists of two school years; ISCED 5 for 2001 data refer to tertiary education that consists of four school years (bachelors, engineers, university masters, etc.). ISCED 0-1-2-3-5 all data for education relate to the school year 1995/1996, ..., 2005/2006; ISCED 5 for 2001, enrolment on post graduate education (masters degree) is shown for 2001/2002 school year. (5) ISCED 4-5

Wages and salaries and the equality of income distribution

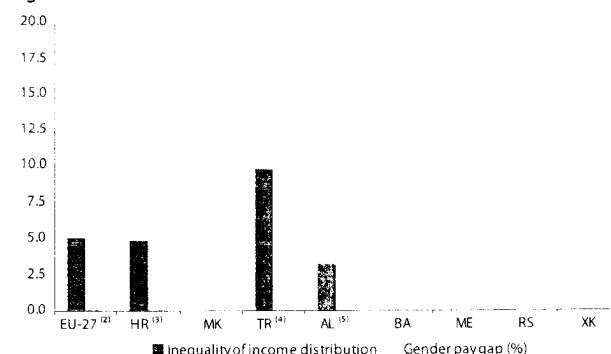
Average nominal wages and salaries are a means to measure the evolution of wages and salaries over longer periods. They include all incomes and remuneration received by employees for their work. To measure the real value of remuneration, wages and salaries are deflated using the consumer price index, so that the effects of changes in price levels are also considered. Looking at time series, nominal wages and salaries increased in all countries: they tripled in Serbia and almost doubled in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. In the latest year for which data are available, the highest average nominal wages and salaries are recorded in Croatia accounting for at least 100% more than in any other country. The indices based on 2000 show that the EU-27 and all countries could increase their purchase power, with Serbia and Kosovo at a higher rate than the EU-27.

The gender pay gap is defined as the difference between average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees and female paid employees, expressed in percentage. Average hourly earnings are found to be particularly low in sectors that have a high propensity to employ on a part-time basis (for example, retail trade, hotels and restaurants, and certain business services, such as cleaning services). These sectors are also often characterised by a relatively high proportion of female employment. The gender pay gap registered for the EU-25 in 2005 is higher than in all candidate and potential candidate countries for which data is available.

The inequality of income distribution is defined by the ratio of total income received by the 20% of the population with the highest income (top quintile)

quintile had 5 times more income than the poorest. In Turkey the relation is twice as much as in the EU-27 while the income distribution is close or lower than the EU-27 average in Croatia and Albania with values nearly 5 and a little more than 3 respectively.

Figure 3.1: Income distribution, 2007



(1) The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99, not available; inequality of income distribution: ratio of top quintile to lowest quintile; gender pay gap: as a percentage of average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees; (2) 2005 data; inequality of income distribution: EU-25 data, Eurostat estimate; (3) inequality of income distribution: 2004 data calculated according to Eurostat document "Methodology of calculation of common cross-sectional EU indicators"; gender pay gap: 2005

received by the 20% of the population with the highest income (top quintile)

Forecast document: Methodology of calculation of common cross-national EU indicators, gender, pay, job, 2009

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27											
Croatia ⁽¹⁾	527.0	578.6	600.4	637.0	676.4	723.9	742.9	798.4	844.2	905.7	
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	161.3	153.8	159.4	167.9	173.2	185.0	193.0	200.4	205.5	220.9	
Turkey						258.5	290.3	297.9	355.0		
Albania											
Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁽²⁾		150.3	175.4	190.2	208.6	228.0	247.5	258.2	275.1		
Montenegro							173.9	195.3	213.1	246.0	338.0
Serbia			169.7	76.5	145.4	218.5	255.3	283.2	307.7	377.2	484.4
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99											
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	90.2	92.8	96.1	100.0	104.8	108.9	112.8	116.8	120.0	123.6	128.2
Croatia ⁽¹⁾	87.3	92.4	98.4	100.0	99.2	103.2	106.1	112.2	113.4	116.6	120.4
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	93.3	96.8	100.3	100.0	98.1	103.0	106.7	111.4	113.6	114.1	112.5
Turkey											
Albania											
Bosnia and Herzegovina											
Montenegro	100.2	106.2	99.9	100.0	91.6	109.7	119.3	130.9	139.7	156.4	179.9
Serbia	116.7	115.5	94.2	100.0	118.4	154.9	176.5	196.1	209.5	233.3	266.1
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99											

Source: Eurostat, 2008. (1) The price index for consumer prices in the industrial sector is used. The active population and total population data testing services are calculated from Eurostat data. (2) The inflation rate is used to calculate the real wages and salaries.

Source: Eurostat, 2008. (1) The price index for consumer prices in the industrial sector is used. The active population and total population data testing services are calculated from Eurostat data. (2) The inflation rate is used to calculate the real wages and salaries.

In the last year for which data are available the proportion of the population living in jobless households showed similar values in the EU-27 for children and adults with 9.4% and 9.3% respectively. For children aged 0-17 years this value was close to the EU-27 in Croatia and Serbia, but more than three times higher in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This country also showed the largest percentage for persons aged 18-59 years living in jobless households. Comparing 2002 data with the latest available year the EU-27 and Croatia showed a decrease and Serbia an increase for both groups of persons.

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	Children aged 0-17 (as a proportion of all children aged 0-17)	Persons aged 18-59 (as a proportion of all persons aged 18-59)		
	2002	2007	2002	2007
EU-27	10.0	9.4	10.3	9.3
Croatia ⁽¹⁾	10.3	8.7	14.0	12.5
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ⁽²⁾	29.4	29.4	23.8	24.7
Turkey	:	:	:	:
Albania	:	:	:	:
Bosnia and Herzegovina	:	:	:	:
Montenegro	:	:	:	:
Serbia ⁽³⁾	9.3	11.4	10.9	14.4
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	:	:	:	:

	Children aged 0-17 (as a proportion of all children aged 0-17)		Persons aged 18-59 (as a proportion of all persons aged 18-59)	
	2002	2007	2002	2007
EU-27	10.0	9.4	10.3	9.3
Croatia ⁽¹⁾	10.3	8.7	14.0	12.5
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ⁽²⁾	29.4	29.4	23.8	24.7
Turkey	:	:	:	:
Albania	:	:	:	:
Bosnia and Herzegovina	:	:	:	:
Montenegro	:	:	:	:
Serbia ⁽³⁾	9.3	11.4	10.9	14.4
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	:	:	:	:

(1) 2006 data; provisional value. (2) Children aged 0-17: 2004 instead of 2002 and 2006 instead of 2007; persons aged 18-59: 2003 instead of 2002 and 2006 instead of 2007. (3) 2004 instead of 2002 and 2006 instead of 2007

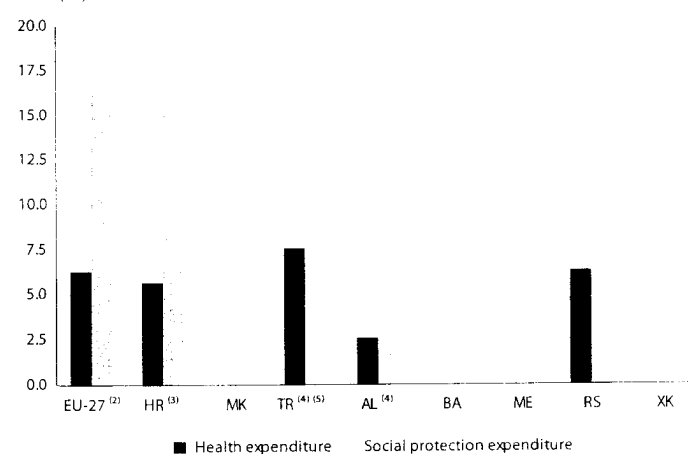
Total household consumption expenditure can be broken down according to COICOP. At its first level, COICOP identifies 12 categories of consumption expenditure. The make-up of household expenditure in the EU-27 has shifted gradually from basic to less basic needs, for example, from products such as food, clothing and housing, towards the consumption of items for transport, leisure, recreation and health.

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Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels accounted for the largest percentages in the EU-27 (21.6%), Croatia (30.0%) and Turkey (27.2%) while holding the second position in all other countries where food and non-alcoholic beverages held the first position. For the last comparable year there is a significant difference between the proportion of total expenditure accounted for by food and non-alcoholic beverages in the EU-27 (12.7%) and the corresponding figures for the candidate and the potential candidate countries, where expenditure was between two times (Croatia, Turkey and Serbia) or more than four times (Albania) the EU-27 value.

Social protection expenditure as a proportion of GDP registered a rate of about 19% in the EU-27, which was slightly higher than the Croatian expenditure ratio of around 17% or the Serbian expenditure ratio of 15%, and a little less than double the share accounted for in Albania. On the other hand, health expenditure, including the part financed by government, ranged between 2.6% in Albania and 7.6% in Turkey and was rather close to the EU-27 value of 6.4% in all countries except Albania.

Entity	Health expenditure	Social protection expenditure
EU-27 ⁽²⁾	6.1	15.8
HR ⁽³⁾	5.5	15.0
MK	0.0	0.0
TR ^{(4) (5)}	7.5	0.0
AL ⁽⁴⁾	2.6	0.0
BA	0.0	0.0
ME	0.0	0.0
RS	6.3	0.0
XK	0.0	0.0



(1) The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo under UNSC 1244/99; not available. (2) 2004 data. (3) 2003 data. (4) 2005 data. (5) For health, including investment.

Table 3.3: Breakdown of household expenditure, 2007 (%)

	EU-27 ⁽¹⁾	HR	MK	TR ⁽²⁾	AL ⁽³⁾	BA ⁽⁴⁾	ME	RS ⁽⁵⁾	XK ⁽⁵⁾
Total household expenditure (billion EUR)	1	18.0	3.1	295.7	0.4	9.6	0.1	18.0	1.4
Food and non-alcoholic beverages (COICOP 01)	12.7	25.5	41.3	24.8	56.4	31.7	42.5	28.9	39.0
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco (COICOP 02)	3.5	3.1	4.4	4.1	4.9	6.2	4.0	5.4	4.0
Clothing and footwear (COICOP 03)	5.7	6.4	7.5	5.9	4.6	4.7	7.9	4.9	6.0
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (COICOP 04)	21.6	30.0	10.9	27.2	7.9	14.7	12.5	24.3	31.0
Furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house (COICOP 05)	6.3	4.4	5.6	6.2	2.1	6.9	4.9	5.1	3.0
Health (COICOP 06)	3.4	2.1	3.3	2.2	2.6	4.3	3.1	3.1	2.0
Transport (COICOP 07)	13.7	9.3	9.2	13.1	4.5	8.8	8.7	10.4	6.0
Communication (COICOP 08)	2.7	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.1	2.8	5.7	4.0	2.0
Recreation and culture (COICOP 09)	9.5	5.0	3.6	2.2	1.2	4.6	3.0	5.1	1.0
Education (COICOP 10)	1.0	0.7	1.3	2.1	3.1	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.0
Restaurants and hotels (COICOP 11)	8.9	2.6	4.9	4.2	7.4	1.9	2.7	2.0	2.0
Personal care (COICOP 12.1)	2.4	3.3	4.1	4.0	6.8	3.9	3.4	2.3	3.0

(1) EU-27 = EU-27 data based on Household Budget Surveys. (2) 2005 data based on LSMS for all COICOP except for COICOP 06: 2006 data, which includes personal care items. (3) total household expenditure per month without food and non-alcoholic beverages. (4) household expenditure share for utilities without rent. (5) 2006 data: total household expenditure; source: Household Budget Survey in R&H, 2004. The estimation of the total population that comes from the survey is the total adult population used in the demography domain. (5) 2006 data.

Labour force

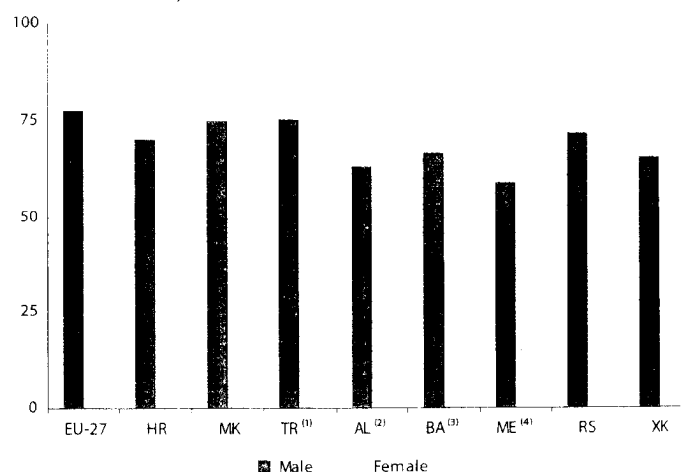
4

Employment rates and activity rates by gender

Male activity rates are higher than female activity rates, as traditionally men worked while women were more likely to stay at home taking care of the house, children and other dependants. Since 1997 there has been a larger increase of female than male employment rates in the EU-27 showing a rise of 6.9 and 2.5 percentage points respectively. Although with fluctuating rates all countries followed this general trend with the exception of Turkey and Albania, both recording a falling trend for male and female.

The gender gap shows higher employment rates for men in all countries and for all years available. In 2007, all countries accounted for a higher gender gap than the EU-27 with its 14.2 percentage points ranging from 14.4 percentage points in Croatia to 44.1 in Turkey. In line with the EU-27, all countries except Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina could reduce the gender gap for the last observable two-year period. A comparison of the data for the first and last year for which data are available shows that the gender gap could be reduced in the EU-27 and all countries except Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo.

Figure 4.2: Economic activity rates – proportion of the population aged 15-64 that is economically active, 2007 (%)



(1) 2007 results were re-calculated using the Address Based Population Registration System (ABPRS) results; (2) 2006 data; (3) Source: Labour Force Survey; (4) Age group refers to 15+

Table 4.2: Employment rates by gender

	Male employment rate: proportion of the male population aged 15-64 in employment (%)										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	70.0	70.3	70.7	70.8	70.9	70.3	70.3	70.4	70.8	71.6	72.5
Croatia ⁽¹⁾	63.6	61.7	59.0	57.4	59.0	60.5	60.3	61.8	61.7	62.0	64.4
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		49.8	49.4	49.7	50.6	48.6	45.6	44.4	45.4	48.3	48.8
Turkey	74.8	74.3	72.7	71.7	69.3	66.9	65.9	67.9	68.2	68.0	67.9
Albania ⁽²⁾			69.0	66.0	64.0	63.9	62.6	61.2	60.0	58.8	
Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁽³⁾										46.1	48.7
Montenegro ⁽⁴⁾	47.4	48.8	47.3	46.2	45.6	46.6	44.5	46.5	42.4	41.0	48.0
Serbia	66.8	66.3	67.1	68.2	68.6	67.1	67.0	63.1	61.2	59.2	60.0
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99					31.1	39.4	42.8	46.4	45.8	46.1	40.1
	Female employment rate: proportion of the female population aged 15-64 in employment (%)										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	51.4	52.0	53.0	53.7	54.3	54.4	54.9	55.5	56.3	57.3	58.3
Croatia ⁽¹⁾	50.9	49.4	47.8	45.5	44.9	46.7	46.7	47.8	48.6	49.4	50.0
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		29.3	30.9	30.9	34.5	32.0	31.3	28.9	30.1	30.7	32.3
Turkey	28.0	28.5	28.9	26.2	26.3	26.6	25.2	24.3	23.7	23.8	23.8
Albania ⁽²⁾			42.3	44.1	39.6	39.7	39.1	38.9	38.8	38.1	
Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁽³⁾										24.0	25.0
Montenegro ⁽⁴⁾	29.3	29.1	31.4	30.6	29.0	29.0	28.1	28.8	27.6	29.0	37.0
Serbia	49.1	50.3	49.8	50.4	50.8	50.0	48.7	44.0	40.8	40.6	43.0
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99					8.1	8.8	8.3	9.9	11.7	11.8	12.7

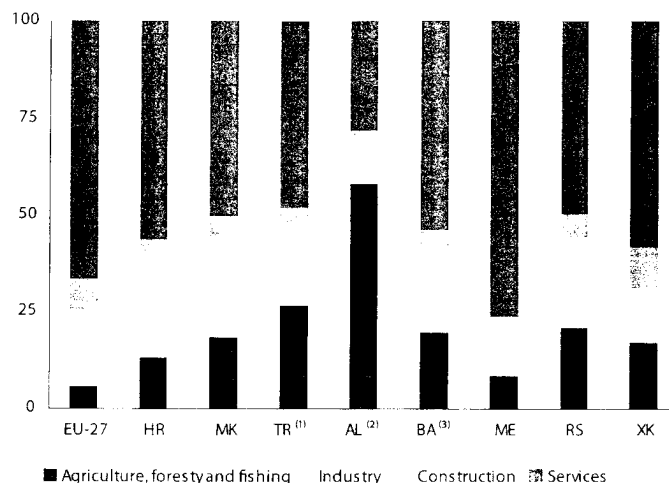
(1) Data to 2001, second half of the year; (2) Break in series starting with 2001 due to the change of data source; (3) Source for 2006: Labour Force Survey; (4) Age group refers to 15+

Number of persons employed and employment by sector

The information on the level of total employment provides the number of persons in employment (employees and self-employed). Over the period 2000 to 2007, the average annual growth rate in the EU-27 was 1.2%. Lower rates were observed from 2002 to 2004, and it was just below the average in 2001. However, in 2005, 2006 and 2007 the growth rate of employed people was around 2.0%, the highest growth rates of the entire period. In the candidate and potential candidate countries, the largest contraction in the workforce between 2000 and 2007 was recorded in Albania and Serbia (both reaching an average annual growth rate of -2.2% in the period observed), while Bosnia and Herzegovina (for the period 2005-2007), Montenegro and Croatia were the only territories reporting a net increase in employment levels (with average annual growth rates of 8.2%, 2.6% and 0.4% respectively).

The distribution of employment among different economic sectors shows great disparity between the EU-27 and the majority of the other territories. In 2007, the service sector accounted for the largest shares in total employment (around 50 and more per cent) in the EU-27 and all candidate and potential candidate countries except Albania. A particularly high share, above the EU-27 level (67%), was recorded in Montenegro with more than three quarters of total employment. On the other hand the countries with the smallest shares in services recorded the highest shares for agriculture, at least three times the EU-27 share of around 6%. These were Turkey with 26%, Serbia with 21% and Bosnia and Herzegovina with 20%.

Figure 4.4: Breakdown of employment, 2007 (% of total)



(1) 2007 results were re-calculated using the Address Based Population Registration System (ABPRS) results. (2) 2006 instead of 2007. (3) 2005 instead of 2007; in 2005, yearly average, the number of persons employed in legal entities are collected through a regular monthly survey (RAD 1).

Table 4.4: Total number of persons in employment (thousands)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	-	-	-	202 019	204 315	204 396	205 586	206 610	210 830	214 954	219 129
Croatia (1)	1 587	1 547	1 478	1 570	1 478	1 521	1 538	1 583	1 573	1 586	1 614
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2)	-	-	-	-	599	561	545	523	545	570	590
Turkey (3)	21 204	21 779	22 050	21 582	21 525	21 354	21 146	21 790	22 046	22 330	21 189
Albania (4)	1 107	1 085	1 065	1 068	920	920	926	931	932	935	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina (5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	727	811	850
Montenegro (6)	179	180	185	182	177	178	168	187	179	178	217
Serbia	3 137	3 139	3 103	3 094	3 106	3 000	2 919	2 931	2 733	2 631	2 656
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(1) Refers to 2006, number of employed persons during the second half of the year. (2) Total employment includes NACE Sections A to Q. (3) 2000 to 2004: estimates. (4) Break in series starting with 2001 due to the change of data source. (5) Based on 2006 Labour Force Survey; for 2005: yearly average; monthly survey (RAD 1). (6) Since 2004 a new methodology is used, which is harmonised with the EU requirements.

Unemployment rates

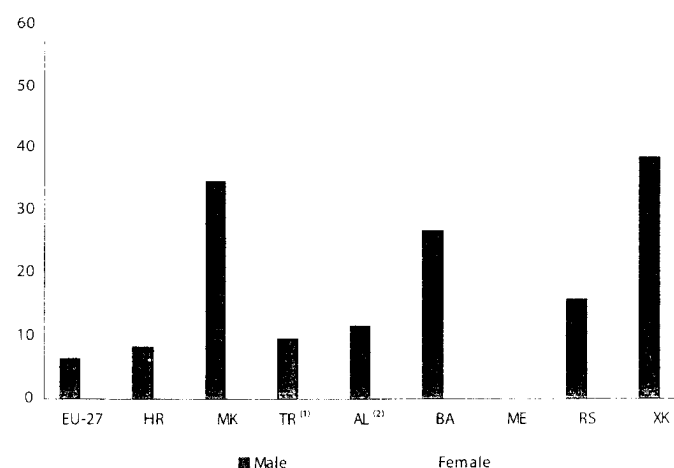
Unemployment rates measure those persons aged 15 to 74 who are not in employment but are actively seeking work. In other words, the unemployment rate is the proportion of unemployed persons relative to all the persons who are in the labour force (employed or seeking employment). While unemployment rates give an overall picture of the failure to match supply and demand in the labour market, labour market policies are increasingly focusing on indicators such as ratios for those moving from long-term unemployment or inactivity into employment, or those moving from temporary into permanent employment, and those moving from low paid into higher paid employment.

The EU-27 unemployment rate was 7.1% in 2007. After rising between 2001 and 2003, this level is now the lowest since 2000. In all candidate and potential candidate countries, unemployment rates were higher than the EU-27 average, with the highest values of almost 44% in Kosovo, 35% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 29% in Bosnia and Herzegovina followed by Montenegro with a 19% rate (having experienced a significant reduction of 10.3 percentage points since 2006) and Serbia with a 18% rate. The lowest values were recorded in Turkey and Croatia, both with unemployment rates slightly lower than 10%.

The female unemployment rate is higher than the male unemployment rate in the EU-27 (by 1.2 percentage points), and it is also higher in all candidate and potential candidate countries for which information is available. Only the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey register gender gaps (1.0 and 0.5 percentage points respectively) that are smaller than in the EU-27. The gender gap is particularly high in Kosovo, where female unemployment surpasses male unemployment by 16.7 percentage points, as well as in Bosnia

and Herzegovina, Serbia and Albania, with differences of 6.2, 5.2 and 5.0 percentage points respectively. Croatia shows a gender gap moderately higher than the EU-27, with 2.8 percentage points.

Figure 4.5: Unemployment rates, 2007 (%)



(1) 2007 results were re-calculated using the Address-based Population Registration System (ABPRS) results; (2) 2006 data; administrative data; unemployment refers to registered unemployment

Table 4.5: Unemployment rate - proportion of the labour force aged 15-74 in unemployment (%)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	-	-	-	8.7	8.5	8.9	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.2	7.1
Croatia ⁽¹⁾	10.0	11.7	14.5	17.0	16.3	14.7	14.1	13.6	12.6	11.1	9.6
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	-	34.5	32.4	32.2	30.5	31.9	36.7	37.2	37.3	36.0	35.0
Turkey	6.8	6.9	7.7	6.5	8.4	10.3	10.5	10.3	10.3	9.9	9.9
Albania ⁽²⁾	-	-	18.4	16.8	16.4	15.8	15.0	14.4	14.1	13.8	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁽³⁾	-	-	39.4	39.7	40.0	41.1	41.6	41.8	43.9	31.1	29.0
Montenegro	21.8	18.5	19.3	19.3	21.2	20.7	22.7	27.7	30.3	29.6	19.3
Serbia	13.3	14.0	14.5	13.3	13.3	14.5	16.0	18.7	21.1	21.0	18.3
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	-	-	-	-	57.1	55.0	49.7	39.7	41.4	44.9	43.6

(1) Excludes persons aged 15 and 74 in the year; (2) Administrative data; unemployment refers to registered unemployment; (3) Source since 2006: Labour Force Survey; from 1999 to 2005, the unemployment rate is not calculated using the survey data; the number of unemployed people is taken from the Bureau for Employment; from 2005 onwards, the figure includes data from Berko District

Long-term and youth unemployment

Long-term unemployment is defined as the proportion of the labour force that has been unemployed for 12 months or more. It is one of the most persistent social issues facing industrialised economies. More than half of the unemployed in the EU-27 were unemployed for a year or more in 2007.

In 2007, long-term unemployment rates in all countries for which data are available except Turkey were higher than the EU-27 rate of 3.7%. Female workers are particularly prone to long-term unemployment. Their long-term unemployment rates tend to be higher than male rates in the EU-27 and in all candidate and potential candidate countries. The proportions of male and female rates are in all countries relatively small except in Kosovo and Serbia where they are 1.8 and 1.5 respectively between male and female.

The youth unemployment rate is defined as the proportion of young persons aged 15 to 24 who are unemployed. In the EU-27, the youth unemployment rate was 15.3% in 2007. The rates in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo were at least three times the EU-27 rate showing values of 58%, 44% and 70% respectively. The closest rates to the EU-27 level were observed in two of the three candidate countries namely Croatia and Turkey with 24% and 20%.

Table 4.6: Long-term unemployment rate - proportion of the labour force aged 15-74 that has been unemployed for more than 12 months, 2007 (%)

	Total	Male	Female
EU-27	3.7	3.5	4.0
Croatia	6.7	5.8	7.7
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	31.1	30.5	32.1
Turkey	3.5	3.2	4.6
Albania	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁽¹⁾	28.4	26.7	30.8
Montenegro	-	-	-
Serbia	17.0	13.9	21.0
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	41.1	31.5	56.5

(1) Source: Labour Force Survey 2006; data refers to unemployed for 24-59 months.

Table 4.7: Youth unemployment rate - proportion of the labour force aged less than 25 that is unemployed (%)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	-	-	-	17.4	17.3	17.9	18.0	18.4	18.3	17.1	15.3
Croatia ⁽¹⁾	28.5	31.0	39.2	43.1	41.7	34.4	35.8	33.8	32.0	28.8	24.0
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	-	70.9	62.9	59.9	56.1	58.4	65.7	64.8	62.6	59.8	57.7
Turkey	14.3	14.2	15.0	13.1	16.2	19.2	20.5	19.7	19.3	18.7	19.6
Albania ⁽²⁾	-	-	-	-	-	26.8	-	-	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Montenegro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Serbia	46.7	50.6	53.2	50.2	46.4	45.3	44.8	48.1	47.7	47.8	43.7
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	-	-	-	-	80.0	77.7	74.9	66.5	70.5	75.5	70.0

(1) Source: Eurostat; the year 1997 is based on the Living Conditions Survey of 1998 and the Living Standards Measurement Study of 2002.

GDP

Gross domestic product (GDP) is the central aggregate of national accounts (as defined in ESA95). The candidate and potential candidate countries together accounted for the equivalent of 4.3% of EU-27 in 2006 (2005 data for Albania). If 2007 values — available for Croatia, Turkey and Bosnia and Herzegovina — and 2006 values for other countries are combined and compared to EU-27 GDP for 2007, this figure rises to 4.6%.

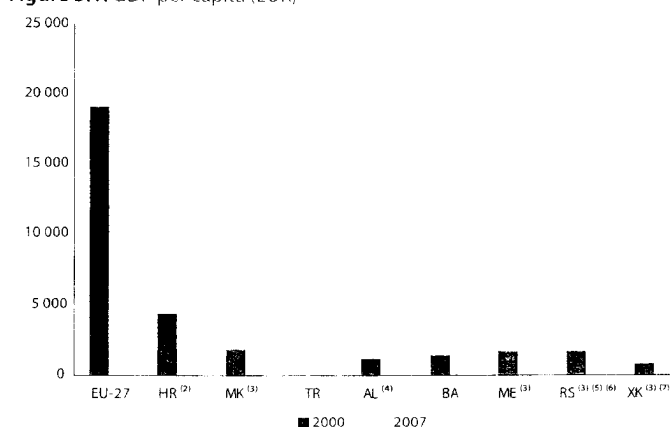
GDP growth in constant prices was considerably higher in most of the candidate and potential candidate countries than in EU-27 during the observable periods. On average, EU-27 growth was 2.3% over this seven-year period, less than half the growth recorded in Turkey (5.3%), Albania (6.0%, 2000 to 2005), Bosnia and Herzegovina (5.9%, 2004 to 2007) and Serbia (5.2%). Growth has been volatile in many candidate and potential candidate countries over this period, but in the latest year for which data are shown, all recorded substantially higher values than EU-27; these ranged from 8.6% in Montenegro (2006) to 4.0% in Macedonia (2006), which was still significantly higher than the 3.1% recorded for EU-27 (2006).

Croatia had the highest GDP per capita amongst the candidate and potential candidate countries in 2007, with EUR 8 445 per inhabitant, which was just over 33% of the EU-27 level. The next country in the ranking was Turkey, with EUR 6 804 per inhabitant, corresponding to 80% of Croatia's value, followed by Montenegro (EUR 3 443 in 2006) and Serbia (EUR 3 273 in 2006). Except for Kosovo, which recorded the lowest GDP per head of EUR 1 520 (2006), the remaining countries had comparable values, ranging between EUR 2 100 and EUR 2 880 per inhabitant.

Over the period 2000 to 2007 (or the nearest years with available data) all candidate or potential candidate countries, apart from Macedonia (with 30%

until 2006), recorded a much higher percentage growth in GDP per head than EU-27, which recorded 30% growth over the period. Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro (2000 to 2006) almost doubled GDP per head over the period. The lowest percentage growth in GDP was recorded for Albania, with over 60% (2000 to 2005).

Figure 5.1: GDP per capita (EUR)⁽¹⁾



(1) Except for EU27, values have been calculated using the GDP in euro and population as of 1st January. (2) Based on quarterly values. (3) 2006 instead of 2007. (4) 2005 instead of 2007, 2005, provisional value. (5) 2001 instead of 2000. (6) Excluding Kosovo and Metohia. (7) 2003 instead of 2000.

Table 5.1: GDP

	GDP (million EUR)										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	7 791 427	8 162 141	8 583 432	9 202 025	9 579 832	9 941 617	10 108 367	10 602 725	11 062 220	11 672 735	12 339 731
Croatia ⁽¹⁾	17 789	19 272	18 677	19 955	22 138	24 448	26 216	28 677	31 263	34 221	37 497
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ⁽²⁾	3 310	3 193	3 448	3 893	3 839	4 001	4 105	4 325	4 676	5 081	
Turkey		242 787	233 424	289 446	219 816	243 570	269 322	314 304	387 655	419 013	480 281
Albania ⁽³⁾		2 419	3 209	3 945	4 541	4 705	5 048	5 883	6 582		
Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁽⁴⁾				5 477	5 930	6 559	7 416	8 071	8 655	9 777	11 065
Montenegro ⁽⁵⁾				1 066	1 295	1 360	1 510	1 670	1 815	2 149	
Serbia ^{(2) (3) (6)}					13 186	16 812	18 009	19 724	21 077	24 255	
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99 ^{(7) (8)}					1 624	1 735	1 797	3 007	3 068	3 192	
	GDP growth - based on constant price national currency series (%)										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	2.7	3.0	3.0	3.9	2.0	1.2	1.3	2.5	2.0	3.1	
Croatia ⁽¹⁾	6.8	2.5	-0.9	2.9	4.4	5.6	5.3	4.3	4.3	4.8	5.6
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ⁽²⁾	1.4	3.4	4.3	4.5	-4.5	0.9	2.8	4.1	4.1	4.0	
Turkey			-3.4	6.8	-5.7	6.2	5.3	9.4	8.4	6.9	4.5
Albania ⁽³⁾	-10.8	9.0	13.5	6.7	7.9	4.2	5.8	5.7	5.8		
Bosnia and Herzegovina								6.3	3.9	6.7	6.8
Montenegro ⁽⁹⁾					1.1	1.9	2.5	4.4	4.2	8.6	
Serbia ^{(2) (3) (6)}				4.5	4.8	4.2	2.5	8.4	6.2	5.7	7.5
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99 ⁽⁸⁾						1.2	3.1				

(1) 2005-2006: data based on quarterly values. (2) 2006: estimated value. (3) 2005: provisional value. (4) 2000-2002: the value of non-observed economic activities is not included. (5) 2000 and 2001: estimated values. (6) Excluding Kosovo and Metohia. (7) Source: IMF. (8) 2001: budget; 2002 and 2003: provisional values. (9) 2000-2003: estimated values.

Final consumption expenditure and breakdown of GDP

The proportion of GDP accounted for by final consumption expenditure in the EU-27 remained basically stable, at between just under 78% and just over 79%, during the period 1996 to 2006. The share of final consumption expenditure in GDP tended to be higher in most candidate and potential candidate countries than the EU-27, with the exception of Croatia, where it remained slightly below EU levels from 2004 onwards. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo all recorded values for final consumption expenditure of over 100% in 2006.

In 2007, the breakdown of GDP shows that only Montenegro, with a value of 27% and Kosovo with 21% recorded a higher proportion of final consumption expenditure by general government than EU-27 (20%). Albania (2005 data) recorded the lowest figure of 11%. On the other hand, final consumption expenditure by households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) accounted for a lower share of GDP in EU-27 (57%) than in candidate and potential candidate countries, with the exception of Croatia, which recorded a value of 56%. Kosovo reported the highest figure of 91%.

Investment, as measured by gross capital formation, accounted for about 22% of the EU-27's GDP in 2007.

Macedonia and Turkey recorded similar values, while Albania showed the highest proportion (38%, data for 2005) followed by Croatia and Serbia, both with 33%. Gross capital formation varied considerably over longer periods in all countries showing the largest differences between the highest and lowest share in GDP in Serbia and Kosovo with 28 and 17 percentage points, respectively.

Table 5.2: Breakdown of GDP, 2007 (% share of GDP)

	Final consumption expenditure: households and NPISH	Final consumption expenditure: general government	Gross capital formation	Imports of goods & services	Exports of goods & services
EU-27	57.3	20.4	21.8	39.8	40.2
Croatia ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	55.8	20.1	32.7	56.3	47.7
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	78.2	18.5	21.9	66.8	48.1
Turkey	70.8	12.6	21.6	27.1	22.0
Albania ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	76.2	10.8	37.6	47.3	22.8
Bosnia and Herzegovina	82.8	18.4	27.9	62.0	32.9
Montenegro ⁽⁵⁾	77.2	27.0	25.5	79.1	49.4
Serbia ⁽⁶⁾	70.4	17.0	32.6	50.8	30.7
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99 ⁽⁷⁾	90.6	21.0	25.0	45.5	8.9

(1) Based on quarterly values. (2) Final consumption expenditure: households and NPISH; without NPISH. (3) 2005 data. (4) Provisional value. (5) The sum of GDP aggregates according to the expenditure approach is not equal to 100 due to rounding problems. (6) Excluding Kosovo and Metohia. (7) Source: IMF, 2004 forecast.

Table 5.3: Final consumption expenditure, as a proportion of GDP (%)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	78.2	78.0	78.3	78.5	78.7	78.9	79.2	78.9	79.1	78.6	77.7
Croatia ⁽¹⁾	88.2	85.5	85.4	84.9	82.1	81.9	79.7	78.3	77.4	76.1	75.9
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	92.6	92.6	90.3	92.6	94.8	99.5	97.0	98.9	96.5	96.7	96.7
Turkey	76.7	80.7	82.2	80.8	80.8	83.5	83.2	83.5	82.9	83.5	83.5
Albania ⁽²⁾	107.5	102.4	92.7	86.0	80.9	86.0	86.1	89.2	87.0	87.0	87.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	118.3	120.1	116.6	101.2	99.4	99.8	104.2	87.4	87.4	87.4	87.4
Montenegro ⁽³⁾	94.8	98.5	96.3	97.3	103.5	103.5	98.9	90.5	87.9	87.4	87.4
Serbia ⁽⁴⁾	163.1	151.6	147.5	109.7	111.9	111.5	111.5	111.5	111.5	111.5	111.5
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	163.1	151.6	147.5	109.7	111.9	111.5	111.5	111.5	111.5	111.5	111.5

(1) Based on quarterly values; without NPISH. (2) 2005, provisional value. (3) 2000, 2001, estimated value. (4) From 1999 onwards, excluding Kosovo and Metohia. 2006, estimated value.

Table 5.4: Gross capital formation as a proportion of GDP (%)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	19.8	20.7	20.8	21.3	20.5	19.6	19.6	19.9	20.2	21.1	21.8
Croatia ⁽¹⁾	27.5	24.0	23.0	20.2	23.9	29.1	31.1	30.6	31.0	32.8	32.7
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	21.0	22.3	19.7	22.3	19.1	20.6	20.0	21.9	20.8	21.9	
Turkey		22.1	19.1	20.8	15.1	17.6	17.6	19.4	20.0	22.1	21.6
Albania ⁽²⁾	16.9	21.4	23.7	34.2	39.7	38.7	38.7	33.2	37.6		
Bosnia and Herzegovina								28.6	27.0	23.9	27.9
Montenegro ⁽³⁾				22.4	23.4	18.7	15.4	16.6	17.7	25.5	
Serbia ⁽⁴⁾	12.1	9.1	10.3	8.4	16.0	17.2	22.6	36.3	32.2	32.6	
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99 ⁽⁵⁾					40.7	34.5	29.3	23.3	23.5	25.0	

(1) 2007 data is based on quarterly values (1/2005: provisional values (1/2000-2005: revised data which are only available in euros); (4) from 1999 onwards, excluding Kosovo and Metohia (1/2002-2006: provisional values).

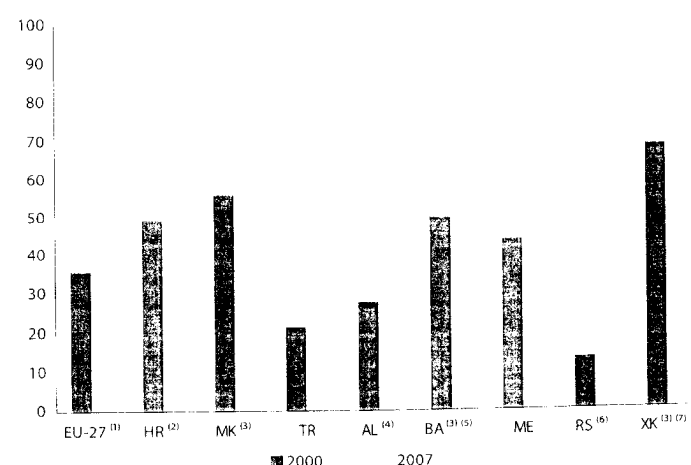
External trade relative to GDP

External trade statistics can be used to indicate how open an economy is, that is, the extent to which an economy satisfies its own consumption or relies on imports, and also the attractiveness of each economy's goods and services for export. The average (simple arithmetic mean) of imports and exports of goods and services as a proportion of GDP is one measure of trade integration: the higher the indicator, the more integrated an economy within the international economy. Relatively small territories (in terms of land area and population) will tend to display higher levels of trade integration than larger territories, simply because they produce a limited number of goods and services and because of their close geographical proximity to neighbouring territories.

During the period 2000 to 2006, each of the candidate and potential candidate countries reported a trade deficit every year (apart from Turkey in 2001 and 2002), while in the EU-27 a surplus for goods and services was recorded for each year. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia (in particular since 2001) and Kosovo were particularly reliant upon imports.

In 2007, the average of imports and exports relative to GDP registered a value of 40% for the EU-27. Lower levels were reported in Albania (35% in 2005), Kosovo (27% in 2006) and Turkey (24%). On the other hand, according to the latest data available, substantially higher values were recorded for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (57% in 2006) and Montenegro (64%) while Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (data for 2006) also showed values above 50%.

Figure 5.2: Average of exports and imports, relative to GDP (%)



(1) Including intra-EU trade; (2) Based on quarterly values; (3) 2006 data; (4) 2005 data; (5) 2006 data; (6) 2006 data; (7) 2006 data.

(5) From 1999 onwards, excluding Kosovo and Metohia; (7) 2006 instead of 2007.

Table 5.5: External trade

	Exports of goods and services, relative to GDP (%)										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27 ⁽¹⁾	32.0	32.3	32.5	36.1	36.2	35.4	34.7	36.0	37.4	39.7	40.2
Croatia ⁽²⁾	41.1	39.6	40.9	47.1	48.4	45.3	47.1	47.5	47.1	47.9	47.7
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	37.3	41.2	42.2	48.6	42.7	38.0	37.9	41.1	45.5	48.1	47.7
Turkey		21.3	19.4	20.1	27.4	25.2	23.0	23.6	21.9	22.7	22.0
Albania ⁽³⁾	9.7	10.8	15.8	17.9	18.4	19.6	20.4	22.0	22.8		
Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁽⁴⁾								29.4	30.7	36.6	
Montenegro ⁽⁵⁾				36.8	38.4	35.4	30.6	42.0	43.6	49.4	
Serbia ^{(6) (7)}	17.3	21.2	11.1	10.5	21.7	19.9	20.6	23.8	27.7	30.7	
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99 ⁽⁸⁾					16.6	12.5	10.4	7.1	7.0	8.9	
	Imports of goods and services, relative to GDP (%)										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27 ⁽¹⁾	30.1	30.9	31.7	35.8	35.4	33.9	33.4	34.8	36.7	39.4	39.8
Croatia ⁽²⁾	56.8	49.2	49.3	52.3	54.5	56.4	57.9	56.4	55.5	56.8	56.3
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	50.8	56.1	52.2	63.5	56.6	58.2	54.8	61.9	62.8	66.8	
Turkey		20.2	19.3	23.1	23.3	23.6	24.0	26.2	25.4	27.6	27.1
Albania ⁽³⁾	34.2	34.6	32.2	38.1	39.0	44.3	45.1	44.4	47.3		
Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁽⁴⁾								70.7	69.6	66.4	
Montenegro ⁽⁵⁾				51.1	62.0	59.9	47.0	58.1	61.1	79.1	
Serbia ^{(6) (9)}	24.3	28.9	17.8	16.3	41.3	40.7	42.2	50.8	47.8	50.8	
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99 ⁽⁸⁾					120.4	98.6	87.1	40.1	42.5	45.5	

⁽¹⁾ Including imports EU trade; ⁽²⁾ 2005 and 2006, based on quarterly values; ⁽³⁾ 2005, provisional value; ⁽⁴⁾ 2004 and 2005, estimated values; ⁽⁵⁾ 2000-2003, estimated values; ⁽⁶⁾ from 1999 onwards, excluding Kosovo and Metohia; ⁽⁷⁾ 1997-2004, delivery to the other republic data included; ⁽⁸⁾ 2004, forecast, 2002 and 2003, provisional values; ⁽⁹⁾ 1997-2004, purchase from the other republic data included.

Breakdown of gross value added by sector

Table 5.6: Breakdown of gross value added (% of total)

	Agriculture, forestry and fishing										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.8
Croatia ⁽¹⁾	9.3	9.4	9.6	8.8	9.0	8.7	7.0	7.5	7.3	7.1	6.8
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	12.8	13.2	12.9	12.0	11.8	12.4	13.4	13.2	12.8	12.6	
Turkey		12.9	10.7	10.8	9.4	11.4	11.1	10.7	10.6	9.4	8.7
Albania ⁽²⁾	31.6	28.8	25.8	25.5	23.6	23.4	23.5	22.3	20.7		
Bosnia and Herzegovina				11.8	11.5	10.8	9.7	10.5	10.3	10.2	9.5
Montenegro ⁽³⁾				12.4	11.9	12.2	11.6	10.9	10.4	10.1	
Serbia ⁽⁴⁾	16.0	15.4	18.8	19.8	19.8	14.8	13.1	13.7	11.9	11.2	
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99											
	Industry										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	23.3	23.1	22.5	22.4	21.7	21.1	20.5	20.4	20.2	20.2	20.1
Croatia ⁽¹⁾	25.9	25.0	24.6	24.7	24.3	23.0	22.8	23.4	23.8	23.5	23.3
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	28.4	27.1	26.5	26.9	26.1	24.2	24.4	22.7	23.1	23.5	
Turkey		27.7	25.4	24.6	23.8	23.2	23.5	23.0	23.0	22.9	22.2
Albania ⁽²⁾	8.8	7.4	7.3	7.8	7.3	6.9	8.7	10.0	9.7		
Bosnia and Herzegovina				20.3	20.0	18.7	19.2	19.4	19.3	19.2	19.6
Montenegro ⁽³⁾				19.2	20.7	20.0	19.2	18.7	17.1	16.0	
Serbia ⁽⁴⁾	22.9	22.6	23.2	25.8	24.4	23.7	22.5	23.5	23.2	24.1	
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99											

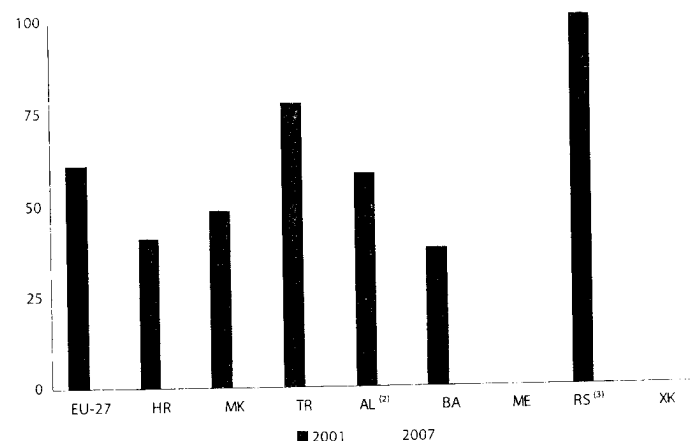
⁽¹⁾ 2004 and 2005, based on quarterly values; ⁽²⁾ 2005, provisional values; ⁽³⁾ 2000-2003, without Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (FISIM); source for 2004: Statistical Yearbook 2006; 2000-2003, estimated values; ⁽⁴⁾ 1997-2004, delivery to the other republic data included.

General government deficit and debt

The EU-27's deficit relative to GDP has been decreasing progressively since 2003 and stood at 0.9% in 2007. In candidate countries, the general government budget balance has improved gradually in the most recent years for which information is available; in particular, Turkey has reduced the deficit of 10.9% in 2002 to only 1.2% in 2007. Information is less complete for potential candidate countries. Albania recorded a substantial reduction in its government deficit from 7.0% of GDP in 2001 to 3.3% in 2006, while Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina recorded a surplus on this measure for all years for which data are available.

In 2007 general government debt relative to GDP fell just within the Maastricht threshold (60%) for the EU-27 by 1 percentage point. In 2007 general government debt as a percentage of GDP was lower than the 60% threshold in all candidate countries, Croatia recording 38%, Macedonia 26% and Turkey 39%, a sharp reduction from the 78% seen in 2001. Of the potential candidate countries, this information is not available for Montenegro and Kosovo. In Albania, government debt was slightly below the Maastricht threshold in 2001 and 2007, while in Bosnia and Herzegovina it halved from 38% in 2001 to 18% in 2007, and in Serbia fell from just over 100% in 2001 to only 29% in 2007.

Figure 6.1: General government debt relative to GDP (%) ⁽¹⁾



(1) Montenegro and Kosovo/UNSCR 1244/99, not available. (2) 2006 instead of 2007. (3) Based on GDP estimated by the Ministry of Finance.

Table 6.1: General government deficit/surplus

	General government deficit /surplus (million EUR)										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	-205 312	-152 752	-81 724	57 326	-134 965	-247 362	-311 823	-301 767	-271 223	-167 750	-109 474
Croatia			-1 333	-1 496	-1 436	-1 007	-1 183	-1 237	-1 243	-830	-598
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ⁽¹⁾								17	11	-28	35
Turkey				-10 402	-53 456	-24 841	-24 080	-14 019	-2 349	-592	-5 954
Albania	-261	-285	-289	-302	-315	-287	-247	-298	-227	-239	
Bosnia and Herzegovina							52	130	210	282	142
Montenegro											
Serbia									163	-375	-576
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99						107	40	52	34		
	General government deficit /surplus relative to GDP (%)										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	-2.6	-1.9	-1.0	0.6	-1.4	-2.5	-3.1	-2.8	-2.5	-1.4	-0.9
Croatia ⁽²⁾			-7.1	-7.5	-6.8	-4.9	-6.2	-4.8	-4.0	-3.0	-2.6
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia			0.3	2.3	-2.5	-0.5	0.1	0.4	0.2	-0.5	0.6
Turkey				-10.9	-24.5	-10.2	-9.0	-4.5	-0.6	-0.1	-1.2
Albania ⁽³⁾	-12.7	-11.8	-9.0	-7.6	-6.9	-6.1	-4.9	-5.1	-3.4	-3.3	
Bosnia and Herzegovina							0.7	1.6	2.4	2.9	1.3
Montenegro											
Serbia									0.8	-1.5	-1.9
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99 ⁽⁴⁾						8.4	2.2	2.7			

Estimated values: (2) GFS 1986 basis. Privatisation revenues are excluded and reclassified to the financing of the balance. (3) 2004, estimated value. (4) GDP data from IMF.

General government and gross foreign debt

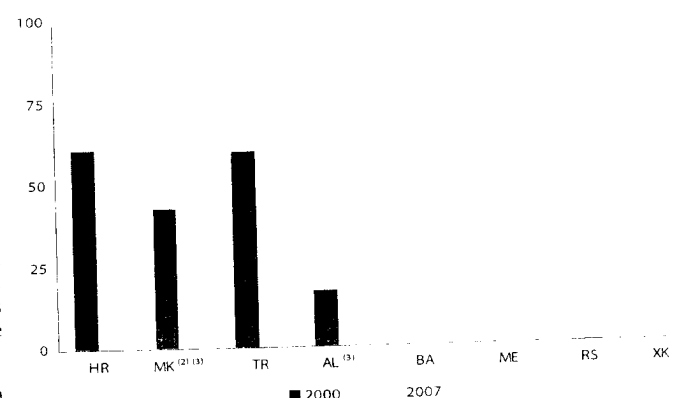
Since general government debt relative to GDP depends on GDP growth in current terms, it has to be borne in mind that, even with a growing debt in absolute terms, the debt ratio may decrease or increase at only a moderate pace.

Between 2000 and 2007, EU-27 general government debt rose by 27% overall, an average of 3.5% per annum compared with GDP growth of 4.3% per annum over the same period. Amongst the candidate countries, an upward trend was seen for Croatia (7.8% per annum compared with GDP growth of 9.4% per annum) during the same period, whilst government debt was reduced in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (-4.4% on average in comparison with 4.5% growth in GDP between 2000 and 2006). Turkey saw a reduction in general government debt of just over 8% between 2005 and 2007, changing the upward trend seen since 2000. Of the potential candidate countries, this information is not available for Montenegro and Kosovo. Over the observable period Albania saw an average growth rate of over 9% per annum in general government debt, Bosnia and Herzegovina showed a very stable picture, and Serbia saw a sharp reduction of 36% in this measure. In 2006 or 2007, all countries for which data are available and the EU-27 as a whole showed values below the Maastricht threshold of 60% for general government debt relative to GDP.

Gross foreign debt of the whole economy covers both short- and long-term debt but excludes equity investment and money market instruments. Albania reported by far the lowest ratio (17% in 2000 and 2006) of foreign debt to GDP

among the candidate and potential candidate countries for which information is available. On the other hand, Croatia reported a growth in this measure from 60% in 2000 to almost 90% in 2007, while the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia saw a modest rise from 43% to 50% (data for 2006) and Turkey a sharp reduction from 60% to 38%.

Figure 6.2: Gross foreign debt of the whole economy relative to GDP (%)⁽¹⁾



(1) Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo/UNSCR 1244/99, not available. (2) Gross foreign debt data do not include short-term trade credits. (3) 2006 instead of 2007.

Table 6.2: General government debt (million EUR)

	General government debt (million EUR)										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	5 325 152	5 422 790	5 644 602	5 693 875	5 842 146	5 998 014	6 242 210	6 589 624	6 929 263	7 151 307	7 240 784
Croatia			6 156	8 018	9 003	9 706	10 614	12 106	13 727	13 905	14 155
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia			1 105	1 866	1 873	1 716	1 599	1 583	1 849	1 674	1 430
Turkey				41 137	169 035	179 396	180 661	186 371	202 389	193 190	185 607
Albania	1 157	1 452	1 723	2 374	2 656	3 007	3 106	3 431	3 636	4 069	
Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁽¹⁾				2 074	2 260	2 193	2 052	2 062	2 218	2 081	2 024
Montenegro											
Serbia					13 401	11 684	11 581	10 513	10 581	8 465	8 587
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99											
	General government debt, relative to GDP (%)										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27	68.5	66.6	65.9	61.9	61.0	60.3	61.8	62.1	62.6	61.3	58.7
Croatia			33.0	40.1	41.3	39.8	40.4	42.2	44.0	40.9	38.1
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia			32.0	48.1	48.8	43.0	39.1	36.6	39.5	33.1	25.8
Turkey				42.9	77.6	73.7	67.3	59.2	52.3	46.1	38.8
Albania	49.8	53.5	53.7	60.2	58.5	63.9	61.5	58.3	55.3	59.7	
Bosnia and Herzegovina				37.9	38.1	33.4	27.7	25.5	25.6	21.3	18.3
Montenegro											
Serbia ⁽²⁾					101.6	69.5	64.3	53.3	50.1	33.2	28.7
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99											

Source: Eurostat. External debt of the general government debt. (2) 2007. Based on GDP estimated by the Ministry of Finance.

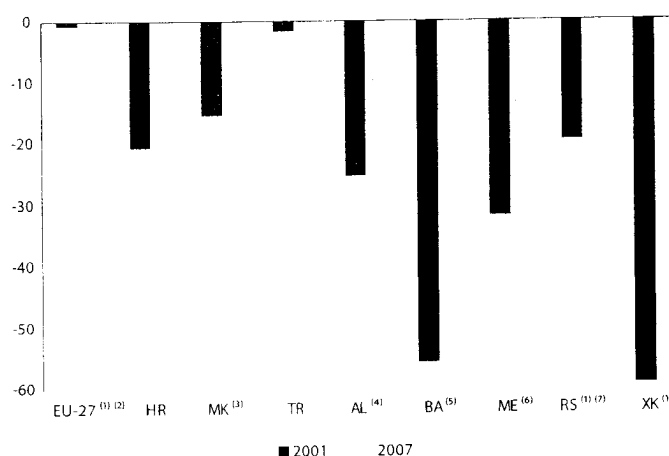
Balance of payments and the current account

The balance of payments summarises the economic transactions of a territory with the rest of the world. The standard components of the balance of payments are:

- The current account, which refers to trade in goods and services, income (compensation of employees, investment income), and current transfers;
- The capital and financial account, which refers to capital transfers and the acquisition/disposal of non-produced, non-financial assets, and financial assets and liabilities.

The current account for EU-27 and all candidate and potential candidate countries was in deficit in 2007, but the magnitude of these deficits varied considerably. The EU-27's deficit relative to GDP fell by 0.11 percentage points from 0.78% in 2001 to 0.66% in 2007. However, current account deficits as a percentage of GDP in candidate and potential candidate countries in 2007 ranged from 7% in Turkey to just under 40% in Montenegro, with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo (data for 2006) also recording values over 35%. In most countries, this percentage had increased since 2001, but reductions were seen in Albania (almost 3 percentage points), Bosnia and Herzegovina (nearly 20 percentage points) and most notably in Kosovo (a fall of almost 25 percentage points).

Figure 6.3: Current account balance relative to GDP (%)



(1) 2006 instead of 2007. (2) EU-25 data. (3) 2006 instead of 2007, estimated value. For 2001, the values in euros are calculated using the annual average exchange rate whereas for 2006 the values in euros are calculated on the basis of the current exchange rate. (4) 2005 instead of 2007. (5) For 2001, the value of non-observed economic activities is not included in the GDP. (6) 2002 instead of 2001. (7) Excluding Kosovo and Metohia

Table 6.3: Balance of payments, 2007 (million EUR)

	Current account	Capital account	Financial account	Net errors and omissions
EU-27 ⁽¹⁾	-96 250	-13 072	:	:
Croatia	-2 696	-134	3 680	-984
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	-45	-1	39	7
Turkey	-25 401	0	25 538	-138
Albania ^{(1) (2)}	-471	143	208	119
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-817	234	376	207
Montenegro	-531	-14	552	-6
Serbia	-3 157	683	2 735	-261
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99	-389	3	18	368

(1) 2006 instead of 2007. (2) Financial account includes the Use of Loans and Credit of IMF

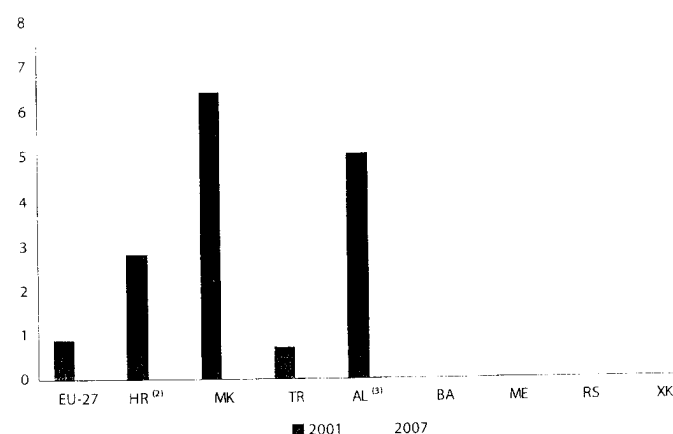
Foreign direct investment (FDI)

Inward foreign direct investment (FDI) is investment made by foreigners in enterprises resident in the reporting economy. Outward FDI (or FDI abroad) is investment by resident entities in enterprises abroad. Both inward and outward FDI are the net result of investment and disinvestment. For FDI statistics, the Balance of Payments sign convention is not applied. This means that both inward and outward FDI are published with a positive sign. A negative sign for flows indicates disinvestment in both cases.

Whereas EU-27 is a net investor, all candidate and potential candidate countries are structurally net receivers of FDI. Also, levels of outward FDI made by the candidate and potential candidate countries were relatively low in comparison with the levels of inward investment. The latter variable experienced a drop in most countries in 2002, after which an upward trend was generally observed until 2007, growing particularly strongly between 2006 and 2007 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro (with rates of 162%, 86%, 69% and 56% respectively). Only in Macedonia did inward investment fall between 2006 and 2007, from EUR 345 to EUR 239 million.

Except for Serbia, information on the average of FDI inflows and outflows relative to GDP is available. In EU-27 between 2001 and 2007 this value rose from 0.9% to 1.8% (2001 data refers to EU-25 only). A rise was also recorded in Croatia (between 2001 and 2006), Turkey and Montenegro (both between 2001 and 2007), with growths of 32%, 110% and 286% respectively. However, this ratio fell by 100% in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia between 2001 and 2007 and by 37% in Albania between 2001 and 2005. It should be mentioned that these figures correspond to value, not to volume, and ignore the development of stock prices.

Figure 6.4: Average of FDI inflows and outflows relative to GDP (%)¹



(1) Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo/UNSCR 1244/99, not available; (2) 2006 instead of 2007; (3) 2005 instead of 2007.

Table 6.4: Foreign direct investment (million EUR)

	Outward FDI										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27 ⁽¹⁾					306 140	133 897	135 711	136 388	135 656	183 048	
Croatia			58	5	210	607	106	279	192	175	180
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ⁽²⁾	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	1
Turkey	221	327	605	942	555	185	441	627	855	736	1 537
Albania ⁽³⁾	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	7
Montenegro						0	5	2	12	178	483
Serbia											
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99								0	0	4	4
	Inward FDI										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EU-27					145 867	126 567	123 541	53 072	94 820	134 881	
Croatia			1 363	1 141	1 467	1 138	1 762	950	1 468	2 745	3 597
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ⁽²⁾	51	134	83	233	500	112	100	261	77	345	239
Turkey	710	838	735	1 063	3 743	1 198	1 548	2 239	8 063	15 920	16 202
Albania ⁽³⁾	42	40	39	157	231	141	157	267	209	250	466
Bosnia and Herzegovina		60	166	159	133	282	338	567	478	564	1 478
Montenegro						76	44	53	393	644	1 008
Serbia											
Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99								19	80	250	422

⁽¹⁾ From 2004 onwards (2001/2006/2007) the values in million are calculated using the annual average exchange rate, whereas from 2003 the values in euro are calculated on the basis of the current exchange rate at the time of the investment. ⁽²⁾ From 2004 onwards (2001/2006/2007) the values in million are calculated using the annual average exchange rate, whereas from 2003 the values in euro are calculated on the basis of the current exchange rate at the time of the investment. ⁽³⁾ From 2004 onwards (2001/2006/2007) the values in million are calculated using the annual average exchange rate, whereas from 2003 the values in euro are calculated on the basis of the current exchange rate at the time of the investment.

La croisière des Balkans Histoire, cultures et civilisations au fil de l'A



Le Courrier des Balkans

Le portail francophone des Balkans

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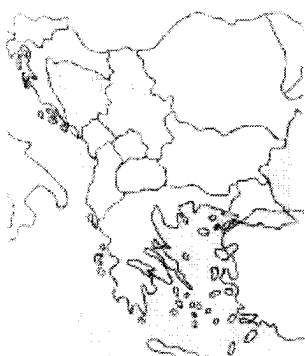
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Traduit par Persa Aligrudić

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Après l'échec du traité constitutionnel en 2005 et les attermoissements des 27 à panne. Cinq ans après la dernière vague d'intégration, l'heure n'est plus à qui avaient placés de grands espoirs dans le sommet de Thessalonique engagés dans une marche vers l'UE, il apparaît plus que nécessaire de organisant un « Thessalonique II », comme le suggère le professeur Jovan T

Par Jovan Teokarević



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Six ans après le sommet de Thessalonique, qui a réuni en juin 2003 les plus hauts occidentaux, il serait temps d'envisager un « Thessalonique II ». Le principal message c avaient une réelle perspective d'adhésion à l'UE et que « la carte de l'Europe ne serait c

Entre temps, les Balkans occidentaux ont réalisé des progrès, menant des réformes

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TURN Cultural Association

- Du 27 mars 2009 au 29 juin 2009
Festival Lille 3000 : A L'Est du nouveau...
Lille (59000)
Lille 3000

Forums

rapprochement avec l'UE. Mais sitôt les premières difficultés apparues, un blocage momentanée ne se transforme en une crise ouverte, il faudrait reprendre et compléter non seulement en raison des progrès de « l'eupéanisation » des Balkans occidentaux, « le vieux continent » et le reste du monde.

La voie est de plus en plus longue et incertaine

Les politiciens et les citoyens des Balkans occidentaux sont de plus en plus convaincus que la voie est incertaine, et qu'il serait aujourd'hui essentiel d'avoir une vision réaliste et stratégique d'une directrice doit être redéfinie en concertation avec l'UE.

Tel devrait être l'objectif premier d'un nouveau sommet, qui réunirait les chefs d'État d'une part et les chefs de gouvernement d'autre part. Un tel sommet ne serait pas suffisant car en sortant d'une telle réunion, il ne serait pas possible de convoquer un sommet au plus haut niveau ne serait pas suffisant car en sortant d'une telle réunion, il ne serait pas possible de convoquer un sommet au plus haut niveau ne serait pas suffisant car en sortant d'une telle réunion, il ne serait pas possible de convoquer un sommet au plus haut niveau.

Mais le tableau n'est pas totalement noir, et les relations qu'entretiennent les responsables des Balkans occidentaux avec l'UE semblent aller dans le bon sens. À ce propos, le Forum UE-Balkans occidentaux semble rencontrer régulièrement entre les ministres des Affaires étrangères et de l'Intérieur, ce qui est incontournable.

De plus, il faut ajouter à ces rapports annuels, les très nombreux documents et textes qui sont produits en vue de l'intégration. Ils constituent une base solide, et ont pu être utilisés lors de la préparation de la réunion de Thessalonique. Ils ont également servi à la correction, à l'ajustement et à l'innovation des politiques mises en œuvre.

Aussi, il faut le souligner, lors des rencontres multilatérales et bilatérales qui ont eu lieu ces dernières années, constamment rappeler qu'elle n'a jamais renoncé aux promesses de Thessalonique. Elle a cessé de se renforcer à l'instar des nombreux programmes qu'elle a commandité. Pour ces initiatives européennes. Sans l'aide de l'UE, les travaux menés par les Balkans auraient été très difficiles.

Un enthousiasme européen toujours plus fort

Grâce à tous ces efforts, nos pays ont aujourd'hui atteint un certain degré d'eupéanisation. « plus stable et plus prospère » qu'elle ne l'était il y a six ans. Les gouvernements ont compris que, dans le temps, les citoyens balkaniques se montrent toujours plus enthousiastes. De sorte que la région est devenue constructive et a imposé une collaboration accrue.

Si l'on regarde en arrière, on s'aperçoit qu'après avoir dépassé les premières difficultés du processus de l'UE, s'est érigé comme un outil incontournable pour l'intégration. Quant au Conseil de l'Europe, le défunt Pacte de stabilité pour l'Europe du Sud-Est. Ces dispositifs ont permis de plus en plus dans le paysage européen, et cela par le truchement de programmes divers, tels que la police ou encore l'éducation et la recherche.

La réussite des réformes entreprises par nos pays n'a d'ailleurs pas tardé à être récompensée par l'UE. Ce qui signifie aussi, et ce n'est pas rien, une plus grande aide financière.

Voyez plutôt, à l'époque du Sommet de Thessalonique, seule la demande d'adhésion des pays des Balkans occidentaux est devenue officiellement candidats et ont presque achevé les négociations préalables à l'ouverture des portes des Accords de stabilisation et d'association (ASA). Par ailleurs, récemment, le Monténégro et l'Albanie ont eux aussi été invités aux processus d'intégration.

Si l'on compare la situation actuelle avec celle d'il y a une dizaine d'années, il n'est pas difficile de constater que la situation est très différente. Si l'on compare leurs résultats à ceux obtenus par les pays du Partenariat oriental (G8+2).

Voilà pourquoi il faut continuer le travail, tel que les pays des Balkans ont pris l'habitude de le faire, et désormais, l'importance est de ne pas s'en détourner.

Poursuite du processus de Zagreb

Pourtant, six ans après ce cycle de collaboration, il apparaît nécessaire de redonner un nouvel élan à la coopération. Et il ne fait aucun doute que ce nouvel élan passera par un dialogue au plus haut niveau. Cette coopération est soutenue non seulement dans les Balkans, mais aussi par les experts et les associations.

Deux manières alors d'envisager cette nouvelle réunion au sommet. La méthode la plus simple est de reprendre le processus de Zagreb, mais le ministre italien des Affaires étrangères, Franco Frattini, a préféré accorder une place aux États-Unis.

Quelles seraient les raisons d'une grande réunion à l'échelle européenne ? Elle permettrait de renforcer l'intégration de l'UE. On a en effet le sentiment que « l'UE, actuellement, n'est pas prête pour une telle réunion ».



Une réunion lors du sommet de Thessalonique

nous aimerions », pour reprendre les propos du Président serbe Boris Tadić. Dans l'élargissement », cinq ans après la dernière vague d'adhésion. Il ne faut pas perdre d'apparus après le sommet de Thessalonique.

Le premier est la crise économique structurelle touchant les pays membres, liée à la crise financière et économique. Le recours au protectionnisme économique a pris de l'élargissement à court terme constitue une autre des conséquences de la crise instrumentalisée par les hommes politiques des États membres.

Le deuxième facteur est la crise institutionnelle couplée à la crise d'identité qui secoue en 2005, il s'agit maintenant de savoir si son héritier, le Traité de Lisbonne, sera ratifié concernant également les Balkans occidentaux, car sans les réformes institutionnelles dans le cas de la Croatie...

Des conditions plus rigoureuses

Le troisième facteur - bien qu'il ne soit pas officiel - est le niveau d'exigence plus rigoureux à travers un rappel explicite à tous les critères des traités de Copenhague et de Lisbonne. considérablement modifié par rapport à celui qu'il était avant 2004. On disait alors : « Vous que maintenant, on dit : « Vous entrerez non pas quand vous serez prêts pour nous, mai

Les rapports se sont ensuite détériorés de manière très inquiétante entre les États des en février 2008 en est la cause principale. En plus des relations bilatérales qui se sont c gros efforts après les conflits des années 1990, se trouve depuis sérieusement mise à m

Et les contentieux entre pays des Balkans et membres de l'UE sont nombreux : la Croatie bloquent l'avancement du processus d'intégration de la Serbie pour manque de collabora à cause du nom du pays. Et ces conflits ont des répercussions sur l'ensemble des pays c

Si Croatie et Albanie ont rejoint l'Otan en avril 2009, on craint que la Grèce ne bloque Serbie entre Russie et Otan risque également de freiner l'adhésion des Balkans occiden de la région à l'UE.

Nouveaux mécanismes

Il existe suffisamment de raisons pour qu'un sommet « Thessalonique II » ait lieu. Il y fa serait important de réaffirmer et de consolider la perspective européenne pour les Ba appliquant un plan réaliste d'action. Deuxièmement, il faudrait mettre sur pied de nou impliquent plus les citoyens, la libéralisation des visas est un exemple. Troisièmement pourraient se consolider par de plus grands engagements réciproques. Dix ans après l s'attendre à ce que tous les pays de notre région aient au moins le statut officiel de cand

Pour éviter que les populations ne se lassent de la longueur du chemin à faire avar implication des pays candidats aux programmes de l'UE. Société et dirigeants des l'assentiment de l'opinion publique.

Pour que le sommet de « Thessalonique II » réussisse, le plus important est de parvenir cela, un débat doit être ouvert avec les gouvernements, le secteur non gouvernementa nécessaire avec l'UE, ainsi qu'à l'intérieur de l'UE, car il s'agit d'un sommet qui détermine

La question « quand » faut-il organiser le sommet est aussi importante que « pourquoi » l'année en cours est hors de propos. Il faut au préalable que le traité de Lisbonne soit rat entraver les discussions. C'est pourquoi 2010 convient mieux, mais il faudrait alors que tenir un « Thessalonique II » serait une proposition trop ambitieuse, qui s'avérerait c

suffisamment de raisons pour qu'un tel sommet - comme « Thessalonique I » en 2003 - soit organisé dans les Balkans occidentaux à l'Union européenne.

Réagir à cet article

PRÊT POUR DE NOUVELLES DÉCOUVERTES



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subjects into small courses. This is why we must not take into consideration only the few institutions which are functioning properly, but the system as a whole (...)", said Ljubisa Rajic.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Judge: ICTY will Work until 2013

The realistic deadline for the finalization of the work of the Hague Tribunal is year 2013, said ICTY Judge Christoph Flugge in an interview for German weekly paper *Der Spiegel*, agencies reported on Monday.

Flugge said that one of the largest cases in the Tribunal was the trial of the former leader of Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, who was arrested and extradited to ICTY almost a year ago. Flugge said that around 30 months will be needed for the trial.

Prior to this moment, it was stated numerous times that all proceedings would be finalized in 2010. Flugge called this unrealistic. He explained that after his sentencing, Karadzic can use all legal means, like, for example, an appeal. This is why the trial could end as late as 2013.

Flugge said that ICTY could finalize the last dozen cases by 2013.

Serb Charged with Terrorism in Mitrovica Court

International Judge of the District Court in Kosovska Mitrovica Klaus Jung confirmed that one Serb was charged with terrorism, attempted murder and inciting racial, religious and ethnic hatred, agencies reported on Monday.

According to the indictment, Predrag Djordjevic (31) from Uzice was arrested on June 14 last year after he fired a weapon in front of the police station in the southern, Albanian part of Kosovska Mitrovica, wounding one police officer. Prior to the wounding of the officer, the suspect placed a Serbian flag on the mosque in that part of the city.

The suspect has been in custody in Kosovska Mitrovica for a year. The trial is scheduled to begin in August.

Emergency Flood Defense on Danube River

Danube river height near the village of Bogojevo in the western part of Backa in Vojvodina increased on Monday to 708 centimeters, and because of this, emergency flood defense has been declared, Predrag Maric, head of the Emergency Situation Department in the Ministry of Internal Affairs said, *Tanjug* reported.

"Emergency flood defense was introduced because Danube river height rose over 700 cm, however, the situation is not dramatic", Maric said.

In Serbia 21 People Diagnosed with New Flu

The number of people who are diagnosed with the new flu rose to 21 in Serbia, which is six more than on Friday, when the last report from

the Batut Institute for Public Health was published, electronic media reported.

Amongst those diagnosed with the flu are three participants of the Universiade. Last week, one athlete from Australia was diagnosed, while in the meantime another two Universiade participants became infected. The other two athletes are from Argentine and Uganda.

Batut institute said that 18 individuals infected with the new virus entered Serbia already carrying the disease which they contracted abroad. These are individuals who arrived from Argentina, Canada, USA, Great Britain and Australia.

Out of the 21 infected, the remaining three individuals contracted the virus in Serbia.

Epidemiologists said that no one contracted the new flu at the Universiade itself. Athletes who contracted the virus are currently in the infectious disease ward in the Military Medical Academy in Belgrade.

Lapovo Workers Announce They Will Stop Blocking Railroads

Workers employed in the Lapovo-based company Prvi Maj in Central Serbia announced that they will no longer block the railroad tracks between Belgrade and Nis as a sign of protest for unpaid earnings, agencies reported on Monday.

Representatives of workers announced this after the company owner promised them he would sign an agreement on settling outstanding dues and stopping the strike.

Workers are asking for the payment of salaries, contributions for pension insurance, creation of a social program for 150 out of the total of 258 employees and restarting of production.

During the last few days, company debtors settled previous debts amounting to nine million dinars in total. Around 60 workers who sued their employer have already been paid part of their claims for which they have enforceable court decisions.

Vecernje Novosti: Government to ban workers to block roads: The Government reached an agreement that unhappy workers in the future should not be allowed to protest by blocking and closing the most important roads in the country, Belgrade-based *Vecernje Novosti* daily wrote on Tuesday.

The daily also wrote that the Government's suggestion would be carried out by the Ministry of Interior.

Due to recent blockade of railway near Lapovo and train delay via Serbia, the state would have to compensate damage worth millions caused to foreign partners. In addition to that, large material damages had been made by numerous blockade of highways and important roads during the strikes of workers in other parts of Serbia.

Vecernje Novosti also wrote that the biggest problem is Belgrade, where the strikers voice their unhappiness in the very centre of the city, in front of the Serbian Government building, causing traffic collapse that way.

From: VIP

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The sanctions apply to the electronic media, too, which release the information in the informative program. In that case, they will have to pay the fine amounting to the value of advertising space sold in one week.

Apart from media, the owners and editors could be fined for violating the presumption of innocence tenet by fines ranging from 200,000 to two million Dinars.

The law, for the first time, establishes the initial capital stock necessary for starting a daily. The law envisages that the initial capital for a daily should be at least 50,000 Euros for those publishing only one newspaper and 100,000 Euros for those publishing several daily newspapers.

The initial capital for weeklies and other periodicals is 10,000 Euros, and the initial capital for those publishing several such magazines is 50,000 Euros.

If the initial capital stock is reduced below these amounts, the founder of the newspaper has 30-day deadline to stop the work. Those who violate the law, i.e. do not stop publishing newspapers within one month, will be fined by the amount from one million to 20 million Dinars.

If the founder's bank account has been blocked more than 90 days in the previous year, they will have to suspend the publishing.

The registry with entries on founders and owners of media will be kept by the Serbian Business Registers Agency
NUNS supports the law, UNS against it: Two largest journalists' associations have opposite reactions to the draft amendments to the law on public information. While the Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia (NUNS) supported the law by explaining it would introduce order and accountability in the media work, the Journalists' Association of Serbia (UNS) assessed that the law would threaten the media freedom and critical opinion.

The UNS secretary general Nino Brajovic said that the proposed amendments were "irresistibly reminiscent of" the law made in the end of the 1990s, which served Milosevic's regime to viciously settle scores with independent media. He added that strict regulations, which were non-existent for much bigger enterprises, were being introduced so as to shut down media outlets.

The president of UNS Nadezda Gace did not agree with Brajovic that the amendments to the law resembled the Milosevic's former law, which served him for putting down the media.

"These amendments can on no account be compared to the notorious law from the times of Slobodan Milosevic, because they simply do not have common grounds. Are the fines bigger – yes, they are, but they should be higher. The freedom of media implies accountability of the media, and it means one should write correctly, using verified information, morally and ethically", Gace said.

Press: Information bill does not have majority support: The *Press* newspaper writes on Monday that, apart from the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO) and the Socialists, who have already said that they will not support the government's information bill, the League of Social Democrats of Vojvodina (LSV), the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (SVM; VMSZ in Hungarian), the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), MPs from Bosniak parties, and independent MP Vladan Batic will not support the bill, either.

The bill has only 93 "sure votes," while 113 opposition MPs are against it, there are 20 abstentions (SPS-PUPS-JS), and 24 "undecided," *Press* writes.

As a result, the DS is now saying that it will try to make "some amendments" to the controversial bill in the parliament.

DS spokesperson Jelena Trivan says that, after criticism by the professional public, this party is prepared to amend the public information bill in the parliament.

Tadic: War Criminals Must Face ICTY

Because of Srebrenica victims and all other innocent victims, those that committed war crimes must be made to face the Hague Tribunal (ICTY), President Boris Tadic said on Saturday on the occasion of the

14th anniversary of the mass murder of Bosniaks at Srebrenica, electronic media reported, quoting the presidential press office.

"Paying respects to the Srebrenica victims, we pay our respects to all innocent victims everywhere," Tadic said, adding that Serbia is making every effort to capture Ratko Mladic and complete cooperation with the Tribunal.

Prime Minister Mirko Cvetkovic, in his turn, said that no crime committed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia in the past must ever be forgotten, electronic media reported, quoting the government's press office.

"It is our debt to the victims to bring perpetrators of crimes to justice. We know the names of the victims and it is the job for the juridical bodies in both Serbia and the neighboring countries to find and prosecute the criminals," Cvetkovic said.

Potocari crime anniversary commemorated: The 14th anniversary of the Srebrenica crime was commemorated at Potocari outside Srebrenica with the burial of 534 identified Srebrenica Bosniaks.

On July 11, 1995, the Army of the (B-H Serb) Republika Srpska, commanded by Ratko Mladic, committed a crime of genocide by killing more than 8,000 Bosniaks at Srebrenica.

So far, 3,749 people have been identified and buried at the Memorial Center at Potocari.

The commemoration was attended by more than 30,000 people, including B-H Presidency members Haris Silajdzic (Bosniak) and Zeljko Komsic (Croat), as well as representatives of the B-H Federation and the international community, including High Representative Valentine Inzcko. The Republika Srpska's delegation comprised the prime minister's envoy Miladin Dragicevic and Minister for Refugee Affairs Omer Brankovic.

The B-H Federation has declared July 11 as a day of mourning, but this is not the case on all of B-H territory. The parliament failed to carry a motion for declaring July 11 as Remembrance Day on B-H territory, because Serb members voted against putting the item on the agenda.

Silajdzic said on Saturday that Bosnia-Herzegovina wants good neighborly relations with Serbia, but that "this is not possible unless Serbia admits to crimes committed by a previous regime and unless Mladic is captured."

SDU moves for declaration on Srebrenica. The Social Democratic Union (SDU), which is part of the governing coalition and has one seat in the parliament, has moved for passing a declaration on Srebrenica, which calls for the government to undertake all measures to protect the rights of the victims.

The proposed declaration calls for banning the glorification, denial, or obliteration of the genocide and obligating the state to expose and punish all attempts at an ideological justification of the crime.

So far, Rasim Ljajic's Sandzak Democratic Party (SDP) has pledged support for the declaration.

NGOs call for declaring July 11 as Remembrance Day: A group of 100 nongovernmental organization has asked President Boris Tadic to declare July 11 as Remembrance Day for the Srebrenica genocide, electronic media reported on Friday.

NGO representatives said that Serbia has an obligation to mark this day because the International Court of Justice in The Hague ruled in early 2007 that Serbia was accountable for doing nothing in July 1995 to prevent the crime of genocide against the Muslims of Srebrenica or punish the perpetrators.

The Women in Black NGO held a rally in central Belgrade on Saturday evening, dubbed, "Lest We Forget the Srebrenica Genocide," while members of the rightist organizations Dignity (Obraz) and 1389 Serbian National Movement (SNP) staged a counter-rally. The two groups were separated by a police cordon.

About 30 members of Dignity and the 1389 SNP sported t-shirts and posters with pictures of war crimes indictees Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic. They carried banners proclaiming: "We Are

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Not Giving Up Mladic, We Will Give You Tadic Instead," "Black Witches, Get Out of Serbia," and "Kosovo Is Serbia."

Montenegro passes declaration condemning Srebrenica crime: The Montenegrin parliament passed a declaration on Thursday condemning the Srebrenica crime, thereby embracing the European Parliament's Srebrenica Declaration and the proclamation of July 11 as Remembrance Day for the victims of the crime, Belgrade press writes on Saturday.

Anniversary of Bratunac crimes commemorated: The 17th anniversary of the death of several thousand Serbs killed in operations by Muslim forces was commemorated in Srebrenica and Bratunac on Sunday, electronic media reported.

At the commemoration ceremony at the Military Cemetery in Bratunac, attended by several thousand people, Bishop Vasilije of Zvornik and Tuzla unveiled and consecrated a central memorial cross and held a memorial service for the 3,267 Serbs killed in 1992 and 1993.

Representatives of the government, organizations, and associations from the Republika Srpska, as well as the Serbian Progressive Party (SNP) and the Serbian Radical Party (SRS) from Serbia, laid wreaths at the central memorial cross.

Flowers were laid and candles lit in the localities of Biljaca, Sase, Zalazje, and Zagoni, where 69 Serbs were killed and 70 others were wounded on July 12, 1992, while 19 more are still listed as missing. Among those that laid flowers at the Zalazje memorial were delegations of the National Assembly and government of the Republika Srpska.

Solana: Serbia Irreversibly Advances Towards EU

The road towards European Union membership status would be a long and complicated process, but Serbia irreversibly advanced towards the future, shared together with EU, the EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana said, *Beta* news agency reported on Sunday.

Solana would visit Belgrade on Monday, where he would meet with Serbian President Boris Tadic, Prime Minister Mirko Cvetkovic, deputy Prime Minister Ivica Dacic, Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic and Minister for Kosovo Goran Bogdanovic.

On the eve of his arrival to Belgrade, Solana said in an interview given to *Beta* news agency that Serbia must maintain a high level of cooperation with The Hague Tribunal, which was emphasized by this court's Prosecutor Serge Brammertz in his last report. He stressed his belief that the solution for unblocking of Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) could soon be found.

The High Representative said that European perspective was a right way for Serbia and that "there is no way back from that road". He stressed his hopes that visas for traveling to EU member countries would soon be abolished, and that the citizens could then see the real results of European perspective.

Solana reiterated that he supported the integration of western Balkans in the EU. He said that the ambition of large majority of Europeans was "safe, stable, advanced Europe that lives in peace, which would include western Balkans in its ranks".

One of the issues at Solana's meeting with Serbian officials in Belgrade would also be the deployment of EU mission - EULEX in Kosovo. The High Representative said that the level of cooperation between Belgrade and EULEX was good, and that this cooperation should be continued and strengthened.

He emphasized the need for pragmatism, since that would, without doubt, be useful for Serbian community in Kosovo.

Solana would arrive in Serbia as a part of Balkan tour. After Belgrade, he would travel to Skopje, then Pristina and then to Podgorica.

He emphasized that his message to the region would be that western Balkans would be of vital importance for EU.

Since 1999, Solana was visiting Belgrade on several occasions, and this visit should be a parting one, considering that he

would soon leave the office of High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy in EU.

State Leadership Visits Southern Serbia after Attack on Gendarmerie

Serbian President Boris Tadic, Interior Minister Ivica Dacic and Defense Minister Dragan Sutanovac visited the Ground Safety Zone on Friday, one day after the patrol of Gendarmerie was attacked by a rocket launcher and two members of this unit were injured.

Tadic said to citizens of Bujanovac and Presevo that Serbian police and army would do everything to protect the lives and preserve the stability of the whole region and emphasized that the "situation in that area was stable in spite of occasional incidents", news agencies reported.

Tadic emphasized that the attack on the members of Gendarmerie was explicitly a terrorist act, but he also said that Serbia would not reply on this provocation with excessive force.

He said that the terrorist acts were very dangerous for the stability of the region. He announced that he, or Serbian representative in the UN, would speak about the terrorist attack and its possible consequences for the region at the next session of UN Security Council.

Tadic added that presidents of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja municipalities would also have to take a part of responsibility for the situation in southern Serbia, as well as the international community that had the responsibility for safety situation in Kosovo.

Ground Safety Zone was also visited by Chief-of-Staff of Army of Serbia Milivoje Miletic, head of Security Information Agency (BIA) Sasa Vukadinovic and director of police Milorad Veljovic.

Sutanovac talks with commander of NATO Southern Command: Serbian Defense Minister Sutanovac talked with the commander of NATO Southern Command Mark Fitzgerald about the terrorist attack on the Gendarmerie members in the Ground Safety Zone near Lucane, news agencies reported.

Defense Ministry announced that Sutanovac asked for KFOR's aid in investigation of attack on Gendarmerie.

EU officials condemned the attack on Serbian police in Bujanovac area, *Beta* news agency reported.

Tadic: Serbia Must Become Indispensable to EU

It is only after a full integration of the Western Balkans, with Serbia at its center, that the European Union will become an area of true security, stability, and prosperity for its members, President Boris Tadic said on Friday, as quoted by electronic media.

"Although the European Union is debating about the pace of integrating Western Balkan countries because of the global economic crisis, among other things, we are doing everything in our power for Serbia's journey toward full EU membership to continue," Tadic said at a session of the European Integration Council.

He stressed that one should refrain from speculating about timeframes for the EU integration process, adding that the only thing to do is to work for organizing society and the state in keeping with contemporary European standards.

He reiterated that Serbia is doing everything in its power to trace the remaining two fugitive war crimes indictees, Ratko Mladic and Goran Hadzic, and so complete cooperation with the Hague Tribunal (ICTY), which is a precondition for continuing the integration process.

He further said that the latest report by ICTY Chief Prosecutor Serge Brammertz on Serbia's cooperation with the Tribunal was "the most favorable to date." Tadic expects this to be an added stimulus to the EU countries to unblock the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with Serbia.

"It is up to Serbia to become indispensable to Europe," Tadic said.

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He expressed special pleasure about the prospective abolition of visas for the people of Serbia, adding that this is the result of coordinated team work in the government, with strong political support from Brussels.

The session of the European Integration Council was chaired by Prime Minister Mirko Cvetkovic.

The European Integration Council is the highest body in charge of issuing strategic guidelines and creating a national consensus on Serbia's membership in the European Union.

The body comprises representatives of the executive and legislative governments, minorities, and individuals from national institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and labor unions.

ICTY to Clear up Most Cases by 2011, Appeals by 2013

The Hague Tribunal (ICTY) should be completing most cases by 2011 and appeals by 2013, they say at the ICTY.

"Along with his latest report to the UN Security Council, the Tribunal's President Patrick Robinson submitted also a new draft plan of action for the Tribunal, which suggests that most cases will not be cleared up before 2011 and the appeals, not before 2013," ICTY press spokesperson Nerma Jelacic told *Radio Free Europe*, as quoted by the *Tanjug* news agency.

Jelacic said that the Tribunal expects the UN Security Council's continued support for successfully completing work and all trials. She added that eight trials are in progress before this court at the moment with more than 20 defendants.

Sutanovac: Crisis Slows Down Army Reforms

The world economic crisis endangered the defense and security system in Serbia, because the modernization and reforms could not be implemented without the proper funds, Serbian Defense Minister Dragan Sutanovac said, *Tanjug* news agency reported on Sunday.

"Besides, we are the only army in Europe that was unfortunate to fight with NATO in 1999. We did not 'recover' as much as necessary since then... I cannot hide that we have problems", Sutanovac said in an interview given to *Tanjug* news agency.

In spite of this situation, Sutanovac said that the battle readiness of Army of Serbia was jeopardized. The Minister said that the operative ability of the army was at the high level, but "not enviable", because Serbia did not renew the armament and military equipment for many years.

According to him, the last, but still modern, airplanes were bought in 1988.

Sutanovac emphasized that the significant annual achievement of the Ministry, among other things, was a "record increase" in export and military equipment of 400 million USD, which was the largest recorded export in the past 18 years.

KOSOVO

Serbs from Strpce Municipality without Humanitarian Electricity Too

Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK) turned off the so-called humanitarian electricity supply for Serbs in Strpce municipality in the night between Saturday and Sunday, which was used from midnight to 7 a.m., news agencies reported.

Serbs in Strpce municipality had the humanitarian electricity supply only for 15 days, since they failed to reach the agreement with KEK about the means of payment and write-off of the old debt.

KEK representatives demanded the signing of the collective and individual contracts with Serbs about payment of electricity bills and the authority over transformer station in Strpce.

Serbs were ready to pay a lump sum of 26 Euros per household for the previous two months, but not to sign the collective and individual contracts with KEK. KEK's demand to take control over transformation station in Strpce was also not accepted, and they

claimed that KEK did not give any guarantees that the old debts would be blocked, news agencies reported.

Serbian Minister for Kosovo Goran Bogdanovic promised the maximum aid from Serbia and emphasized that the problem should be finally solved by autumn, Belgrade-based electronic media reported.

"People want to pay their bills and we now negotiate in which way and to whom, since Serbs do not wish to pay the electricity bills to the so-called Kosovo state", Bogdanovic said and added that the talks with KEK managers were in progress so that model would be found that would be suitable for both sides.

Italy Arrests Kosovo War Crimes Suspect

Muharem Gashi, one of the leaders of the terrorist Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) indicted by Serbia for war crimes committed against civilians in Kosovo in 1999, has been arrested in Italy, electronic media reported on Saturday.

Serbia has sent an extradition request to the Italian authorities and is sure that Gashi will be extradited, War Crimes Prosecution spokesman Bruno Vekaric said on Sunday.

"The investigation of Gashi and two others has been ongoing for some time now. He is accused of killing two Serbs and torturing three others in Kosovo's Berkovac. We expect that he will appear before our War Crimes Trial Chamber in line with the law," Vekaric said, as quoted by the *Serbian Broadcasting Corporation RTS*.

According to him, Serbia has issued about 160 warrants for the arrest of former UCK members suspected of crimes against Serb civilians.

So far, two Kosovo Albanians, former UCK members, have been taken before the War Crimes Trial Chamber in Belgrade on warrants issued by Serbia for war crimes in Kosovo, Vekaric said, as quoted by the same source.

Bulgaria Opens Embassy in Kosovo

Bulgaria decided to raise the level of its Liaison Office in Pristina to the level of the Embassy, Bulgarian Foreign Ministry announced, Belgrade-based electronic media reported during the weekend.

Head of the Office Ivo Ivanov would take the office of Ambassador, and the goal of this move was further strengthening of the relations with Kosovo, it was said in the announcement. Bulgaria recognized Kosovo independence last year, several days after proclamation of independence in Pristina.

Discovery of Mass Grave Site near Gnjilane

EULEX and Kosovo police found the remains of eight unidentified people buried near Gnjilane on Friday, in the crop fields of Kmetovce village, Belgrade-based news agencies reported.

Kosovo police spokesman Arber Beka said that these people were probably killed during the war in 1998 and 1999. He added that the search for possible larger number of bodies would continue, news agencies reported.

Dominican Republic Recognizes Kosovo

Dominican Republic recognized Kosovo independence, Kosovo Foreign Ministry reported on Saturday, Belgrade-based news agency reported.

The announcement said that Dominican Republic congratulated the authorities and people of Kosovo on their achievements and formation of institutions that enabled the people to live in a sovereign and internationally recognized country.

Dominican Republic is the 62nd country that recognized independent Kosovo.



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**Javier SOLANA,
EU High Representative for the CFSP,
to visit Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo
and Montenegro**

from Monday, 13 to Wednesday, 15 July 2009

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), will visit Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo and Montenegro from Monday, 13 to Wednesday, 15 July 2009.

On Monday, 13 July, in Belgrade, the High Representative will meet President Boris TADIC, Prime Minister Mirko CVETKOVIC, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Ivica DACIC, Foreign Minister Vuk JEREMIC and the Minister for Kosovo-Metohija, Goran BOGDANOVIC.

On Tuesday, 14 July, in Skopje, the High Representative will meet Prime Minister Nikola GRUEVSKI, DUI party leader Ali AHMETI and opposition leader Branko CRVENKOVSKI.

On Tuesday, 14 July, in Pristina, Mr Javier SOLANA will meet President Fatmir SEJDIU and Prime Minister Hashim THACI. He will also visit the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), the largest civilian mission ever launched under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

On Wednesday, 15 July, in Kotor, Mr Javier SOLANA will meet Prime Minister Milo DJUKANOVIC, Speaker of Parliament Ranko KRIVOKAPIC and Foreign Minister Milan ROCEN.

The trip will provide an opportunity to discuss the latest local developments as well as regional issues and relations with the European Union.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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**DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**




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15.07.2009
Commission proposes visa free travel for citizens from the Western Balkans



The European Commission's long standing commitment to visa free travel for the people of the Western Balkans was confirmed today with the adoption of a proposal for granting visa free travel to the citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Today's proposal enables the citizens of these three countries to travel to the Schengen countries* with the new biometric passports. The Commission's proposal needs to be approved by the Council after having consulted the European Parliament. The Commission remains committed to visa liberalisation for the citizens of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina too. However these countries have not yet fulfilled the conditions to be included in today's proposal. If the pace of reforms is maintained and if all the conditions are fulfilled, the Commission could envisage making a new proposal including these countries by mid-2010.

When presenting the Commission's proposal Vice President of the Commission in charge of Justice, Freedom and Security Jacques Barrot said: "Our proposal brings truly good news to the people of the Western Balkans, in particular to the citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, of Montenegro and Serbia. I know how much visa free travel means to them. Today's proposal is the result of intensive and hard work for the authorities and the people of these countries in meeting the conditions. I congratulate them for this achievement".

Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn added "It is our goal, and our firm conviction, that Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina will follow suit soon. The roadmap is still valid, and it is still perfectly doable if the authorities of the countries put their full will into delivering now. If this progress continues apace, I believe both countries will soon catch up with their neighbours. If all the conditions are fulfilled, the Commission could envisage making a new proposal, which would include them, by mid-2010."

Granting visa free travel is a cornerstone of the EU's integration policy for the Western Balkans. Facilitating people to people contacts enhances business opportunities and gives the possibility for the people of the region to get to know the EU better. However, visa free travel is only possible if the necessary security requirements are met. This is why the Commission launched a dialogue on visa liberalisation with the Western Balkans countries. On the basis of roadmaps presented by the Commission, the countries have made important progress in improving passport security, in strengthening border controls, in reinforcing the institutional framework to fight organised crime and corruption, as well as in external relations and fundamental rights.

The Commission has been thoroughly monitoring their preparations. The conditions are the same for every country. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia met the necessary conditions. For Serbia and Montenegro the entry into force of the visa waiver will depend on fulfilment of all remaining open benchmarks of their respective roadmaps by the date of adoption of this proposal by the Council. Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina still need to continue their efforts to get a positive recommendation from the Commission.

In Albania and in Bosnia and Herzegovina shortcomings still exist in the institutional framework to fight against organised crime and corruption, in addressing weaknesses in the procedure for delivering passports, and in the areas of border and migration management.

Residents of Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244/99) will not yet benefit from visa liberalisation either. The technical requirements for visa liberalisation have not yet been met on the territory of Kosovo. The Commission in this regard will continue to work closely with both the Serbian and Kosovo authorities and explore options for addressing the visa issue in the future.

* all EU Member States except the UK and Ireland; as well as Switzerland, Norway and Iceland

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MAZZI-ZISSIS Sabina**From:** EuroparlPress**Sent:** 02 September 2009 16:38**Subject:** Olli Rehn s'explique sur la levée d'obligation de visas pour certains pays des Balkans

➔ Press release - Communiqué de presse - 02.09.2009

Olli Rehn s'explique sur la levée d'obligation de visas pour certains pays des Balkans

Institutions

Le commissaire Olli Rehn a été interpellé par les députés de la commission des affaires étrangères sur les raisons qui ont conduit la Commission européenne à lever l'obligation de visas pour trois pays des Balkans, mais en la maintenant pour la Bosnie-Herzégovine et l'Albanie. Le commissaire a également indiqué qu'il n'y aurait pas de procédure accélérée pour l'adhésion de l'Islande.

A quelques semaines de l'adoption par la Commission européenne de son nouvel état des lieux de l'élargissement, le 14 octobre prochain, Olli Rehn est revenu sur la récente décision de la Commission de lever partiellement l'obligation de visas Schengen pour trois pays des Balkans occidentaux.

"Octroyer un régime sans visas ne relève pas seulement d'une décision politique mais découle du respect ou non de certains critères", a déclaré le commissaire.

La Commission européenne a adopté le 15 juillet dernier une proposition visant exempter de visas les ressortissants de l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine, du Monténégro et de la Serbie. Munis de nouveaux passeports biométriques, les citoyens de ces trois pays pourront se rendre librement dans l'espace Schengen à partir du 1er janvier 2010.

Le commissaire a annoncé aux députés que l'exécutif communautaire pourrait reconsidérer la situation de la Bosnie et de l'Albanie à la mi-2010, en fonction des progrès effectués par ces pays en matière de contrôle aux frontières, de lutte contre la criminalité organisée et d'introduction de passeports biométriques.

Les coordinateurs des principaux groupes politiques du Parlement ont souligné le risque potentiel d'instabilité régional que crée cette décision de la Commission. Les Serbes et les Croates de Bosnie qui possèdent la double nationalité pourront par exemple se rendre librement dans l'UE.

Croatie et Serbie

"Si la Croatie remplit les critères en matière judiciaire, de coopération avec le Tribunal pénal international pour l'ex-Yougoslavie (TPIY), de réforme des chantiers navals et si la question de la frontière avec la Slovénie est réglée, nous pourrions alors envisager de conclure les négociations au premier semestre 2010", a indiqué le commissaire.

Hannes Swoboda (S&D, AT), rapporteur du Parlement pour la Croatie, a demandé au commissaire s'il participait toujours à la résolution du conflit frontalier. Ce dernier lui a répondu

que "la Commission a fait son travail, c'est maintenant aux dirigeants des deux pays de combler les différences qui existent encore".

Sur la Serbie, le commissaire a indiqué que "la coopération avec le TPIY s'est beaucoup améliorée récemment. Cette amélioration pourrait être de nature à débloquer l'accord intérimaire dans les prochains temps". L'accord de stabilisation et d'association entre l'UE et la Serbie signé le 29 avril 2008 ne pourra entrer en vigueur que si Belgrade coopère pleinement avec le TPIY, selon le compromis intervenu entre les ministres des affaires étrangères européens.

Pas de procédure accélérée pour l'Islande

"Même si l'Islande est membre de l'Espace économique européen et de l'espace Schengen, ce qui représente les deux tiers de l'acquis communautaire, il n'est pas prévu de procédure accélérée pour ce pays, qui se situe entre les kilomètres 35 et 40 sur les 42,195 que compte un marathon", a déclaré le commissaire en réponse aux questions d'Ignacio Salafranca (PPE, ES) et de Charles Tannock (ECR, UK).

The English version will be published [here](#) soon.

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