

PROTOCOL OF COOPERATION ON THE CREATION OF THE REGIONAL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The representatives of the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro along with the Republic of Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) acting on behalf of Kosovo pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, in presence of the European Commission;

Recalling the importance for the Stabilization and Association Process of strengthening regional co-operation and administrative capacity, as pointed out in the "Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans" endorsed by the governments of the region and the Council of Ministers of the European Union in June 2003;

Recalling also that the same document specifically encouraged the creation of a regional mechanism fostering training and education for public administration;

Have agreed as follows:

I - Cooperation objectives

- 1) This Protocol establishes the Regional School of Public Administration (hereafter: ReSPA), aiming at:
 - a) improving regional cooperation in the field of public administration;
 - b) strengthening administrative capacity as required by the European integration process;
 - c) developing human resources in line with the principles of the European Administrative Space.
- 2) Initially ReSPA has the form of a network, as further described in this Protocol.

II – Activities

- 1) The Parties maintain contacts amongst their institutions responsible for public administration training and education, facilitating the sharing of information and experiences through activities including but not limited to:
 - a) Stimulating cooperation between public administration institutions from the region and similar institutions in the European Union, as well as participation in international networks;
 - b) Holding seminars and summer/winter schools for public administration professionals, as well as an annual conference for public administration training and education institutions;
 - c) Acting as a catalyst for trans-national communities of practice, through the implementation of training by mobility schemes allowing public servants to gain experience of different contexts;

- d) Sharing information resources through the publication of a newsletter, the creation of a joint electronic library, and the issuing of other specialised publications such as training materials.
- 2) The Parties also participate in joint projects of mutual interest aiming at direct improvements in the training and education for their public administration. Such activities may include but are not limited to:
- a) Developing methodological guidelines based on good practice for training and education programs, and encouraging innovation by reviewing existing ones;
 - b) Strengthening the research base of training and education for public administration through joint study groups for comparative research on topics of immediate interest;
 - c) Advising on the strengthening of the institutional framework for the management of quality training and education for public administration, including under the auspices of the network;
 - d) Improving the availability and quality of training and education by delivering, in cooperation with national institutions, high quality programmes on issues relevant to the European integration process.

III - Governance structure

- 1) The Steering Committee is responsible for governing ReSPA, according to its Rules of Procedure. Each Party to this Protocol undertakes to establish an effective system for reporting to its government on progress towards the objectives in article I.1), achieved through participation in the Steering Committee.
- 2) Each Party to this Protocol and the European Commission appoints one member of the Steering Committee and one substitute member. In the case of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, each of its two constituent Republics appoints one member, while the respective substitute member is appointed by the State Union.
- 3) The Steering Committee which meets maximum four times per year to review progress and decide on future activities, according to article II.

IV - Technical assistance

- 1) The Parties shall seek support from the European Community for ReSPA through technical assistance, including the funding, in particular on the basis of the CARDS and IPA programmes, for an initial two-year period of its activities and of a Secretariat assisting the Steering Committee in its responsibilities.
- 2) ReSPA coordinates and pursues maximum synergy with other organisations sharing similar objectives, whether financed predominantly by the European Community (e.g. the SIGMA programme) or through other sources (e.g. the NISPAcee network).

V - Final provisions

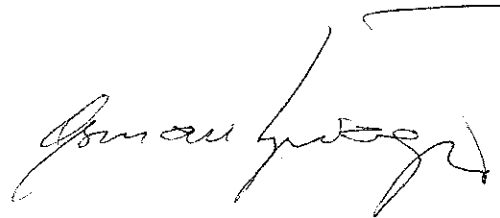
- 1) Within two years from the entry into force of this Protocol, the Parties will consider further institutionalisation of their cooperation, including participation by all Parties in the funding arrangements, initially covered by article IV.1.
- 2) This Protocol enters into force upon signature and remains valid for each Party unless terminated by written three-month advance notice to the other Parties.

Brussels, 2 May 2006

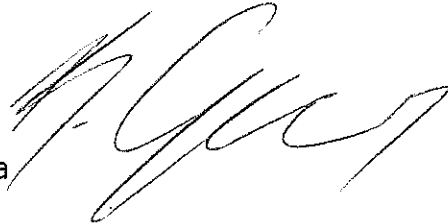
For the Republic of Albania



For Bosnia and Herzegovina



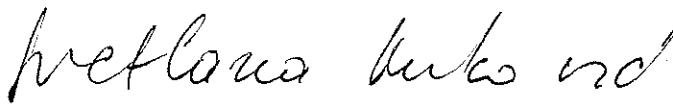
For the Republic of Croatia



For the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia



For the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro



For the Republic of Montenegro



For the Republic of Serbia



For UNMIK acting on behalf of Kosovo
pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244



Republic of Macedonia
Government of the Republic of Macedonia

Brussels, 2 May 2006

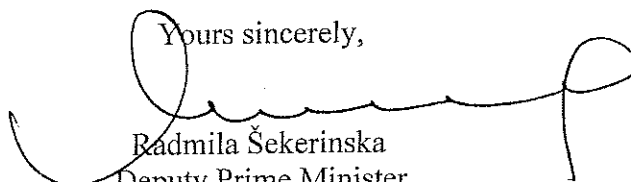
Dear Mr. Topčagić,

Referring to the letter by Mr. Michael Leigh to Ambassador Saško Stefkov dated 12 April 2006, communicating the text of the Protocol for the Creation of the Regional School for Public Administration, I hereby inform you that the text has been accepted by our Government.

However, I declare that the Republic of Macedonia does not accept the denomination used for my country in the Protocol given that the constitutional name of my country is the Republic of Macedonia.

I confirm the acceptance of my Government that this letter shall take place of the signature of the Protocol for the Creation of the Regional School for Public Administration.

Yours sincerely,



Radmila Šekerinska
Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Osman Topčagić
Director, Directorate for European Integration
Council of Ministers, Bosnia and Herzegovina





Republic of Macedonia
Government of the Republic of Macedonia

Brussels, 2 May 2006

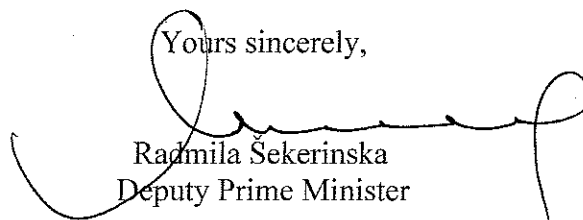
Dear Mr. Rücker,

Referring to the letter by Mr. Michael Leigh to Ambassador Saško Stefkov dated 12 April 2006, communicating the text of the Protocol for the Creation of the Regional School for Public Administration, I hereby inform you that the text has been accepted by our Government.

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I confirm the acceptance of my Government that this letter shall take place of the signature of the Protocol for the Creation of the Regional School for Public Administration.

Yours sincerely,



Radmila Šekerinska
Deputy Prime Minister

DSRSG Dr. Joachim Rücker
Head of UNMIK Pillar IV
Kosovo





Republic of Macedonia
Government of the Republic of Macedonia

Brussels, 2 May 2006

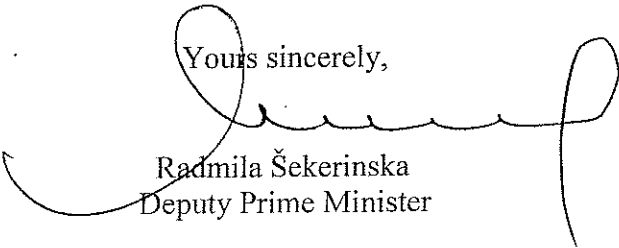
Dear Mr. Gajo,

Referring to the letter by Mr. Michael Leigh to Ambassador Saško Stefkov dated 12 April 2006, communicating the text of the Protocol for the Creation of the Regional School for Public Administration, I hereby inform you that the text has been accepted by our Government.

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Yours sincerely,



Radmila Šekerinska
Deputy Prime Minister

H.E. Albert Gajo
Deputy Minister for European Integration
Government of the Republic of Albania





Republic of Macedonia
Government of the Republic of Macedonia

Brussels, 2 May 2006

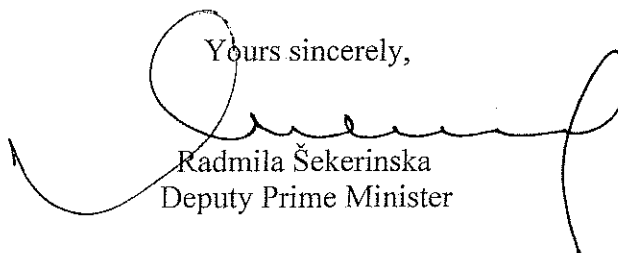
Dear Ms. Ninčić,

Referring to the letter by Mr. Michael Leigh to Ambassador Saško Stefkov dated 12 April 2006, communicating the text of the Protocol for the Creation of the Regional School for Public Administration, I hereby inform you that the text has been accepted by our Government.

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I confirm the acceptance of my Government that this letter shall take place of the signature of the Protocol for the Creation of the Regional School for Public Administration.

Yours sincerely,



Radmila Šekerinska
Deputy Prime Minister

H.E. Roksanda Ninčić
Ambassador
Mission of the Serbia and Montenegro to the EU





Republic of Macedonia
Government of the Republic of Macedonia

Brussels, 2 May 2006

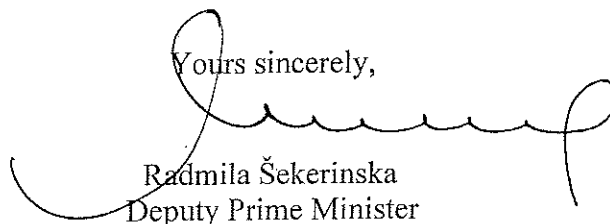
Dear Ms. Grabar-Kitarović,

Referring to the letter by Mr. Michael Leigh to Ambassador Saško Stefkov dated 12 April 2006, communicating the text of the Protocol for the Creation of the Regional School for Public Administration, I hereby inform you that the text has been accepted by our Government.

However, I declare that the Republic of Macedonia does not accept the denomination used for my country in the Protocol given that the constitutional name of my country is the Republic of Macedonia.

I confirm the acceptance of my Government that this letter shall take place of the signature of the Protocol for the Creation of the Regional School for Public Administration.

Yours sincerely,



Radmila Šekerinska
Deputy Prime Minister

H.E. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović
Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration
Republic of Croatia





Republic of Macedonia
Government of the Republic of Macedonia

Brussels, 2 May 2006

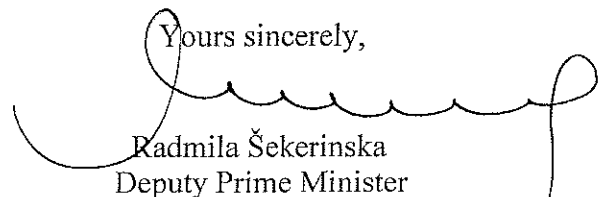
Dear Ms. Vuković,

Referring to the letter by Mr. Michael Leigh to Ambassador Saško Stefkov dated 12 April 2006, communicating the text of the Protocol for the Creation of the Regional School for Public Administration, I hereby inform you that the text has been accepted by our Government.

However, I declare that the Republic of Macedonia does not accept the denomination used for my country in the Protocol given that the constitutional name of my country is the Republic of Macedonia.

I confirm the acceptance of my Government that this letter shall take place of the signature of the Protocol for the Creation of the Regional School for Public Administration.

Yours sincerely,



Radmila Šekerinska
Deputy Prime Minister

Svetlana Vuković
Director of Human Resources Management Authority
Republic of Montenegro





Republic of Macedonia
Government of the Republic of Macedonia

Brussels, 2 May 2006

Dear Mr. Labus,

Referring to the letter by Mr. Michael Leigh to Ambassador Saško Stefkov dated 12 April 2006, communicating the text of the Protocol for the Creation of the Regional School for Public Administration, I hereby inform you that the text has been accepted by our Government.

However, I declare that the Republic of Macedonia does not accept the denomination used for my country in the Protocol given that the constitutional name of my country is the Republic of Macedonia.

I confirm the acceptance of my Government that this letter shall take place of the signature of the Protocol for the Creation of the Regional School for Public Administration.

Yours sincerely,

Radmila Šekerinska
Deputy Prime Minister

H.E. Miroljub Labus
Deputy Prime Minister
Government of the Republic of Serbia



**Regional School for Public Administration (RESPA)
Designated Signatories of the RESPA Protocol and
Confirmations by EC Delegations after consultations with Governments**

For the Republic of Albania	Albert Gajo Deputy Minister for European Integration
For Bosnia and Herzegovina	Osman Topcagic Director Directorate for European Integration Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina
For the Republic of Croatia	Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration
For the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Radmila Sekerinska Deputy Prime Minister
For the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro	Roksanda NINCIC Ambassador Mission of Serbia and Montenegro to the European Union
For the Republic of Montenegro	Svetlana Vukovic Director of Human Resources Management Authority
For the Republic of Serbia	Mirosljub Labus Deputy Prime Minister
For UNMIK acting on behalf of Kosovo pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244	Dr. Joachim Ruecker Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General Head of UNMIK Pillar IV