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I Foreword

Workshop Purposes, Procedures and Goals

Welcome in the Castle of Reichenau, a training Facility of the Austrian Armed Forces, to the Workshop “Information Management in the Field of Security Policy in the Southeast European Region“

As the Director of the “*Institut für internationale Friedenssicherung (IIFS)*“, a research institute of the Austrian National Defence Academy and as the chairman of the PfP Consortium Working Group “*Crisis Management in the Southeast European Region*“, I am very glad to welcome you here at this workshop. The main focus of the IIFS has changed in the 18-month- period of its existence. Although we started as pure research institute, the emphasis now lies in first line on providing Political Guidance and information Management, both naturally in the field of Security Policy.

This Workshop is part of the activities we are conducting in our PfP Working Group. We consider it one of the main objectives of the Consortium to create networks where questions related to Security Policy will be discussed in a transparent way. This meeting should be understood as an attempt to start one of these networks. It should not be considered as a typical research conference, but as the launch of the project Workshop “*Information Management in the Field of Security Policy in the Southeast European Region*”.

The final results of this workshop will contribute in gaining an objective view tu the different ideas of the parties involved in the crisis scenarios throughout Southeast Europe. We will attempt to reach this goal through an open and honest discussion between experts from the region and interested persons from abroad. The main question in this context will be the one concerning the possible contribution of the academic community to a lasting stabilisation of the whole region. It is obvious that within the Stabilisation Pact the main efforts to calm down the tensions and to stabilise the area are carried out in the field of politics, economy and military. But it may also be noticed that there are only few structured attempts to assist in this stabilisation process on the conceptive and academic level. Naturally we are able to recognise a lot of activities such as seminars and conferences concerning the Southeast European region, but sometimes there are no clear structures discernible behind these efforts.

We will attempt to start a continuous discussion process v should last for a longer period of time and should finally create an academic community which includes experts from the whole region. The results of these meetings should be used also as an input to the educational efforts of our different institutions. In my opinion, the individual procedures which will lead to these results will be:

The identification of the main questions and an assessment of their relevance for the academic community. In order to get the answer to these questions we have to: Identify the questions which the academics will be able to solve, identify the responsible and capable group of persons to work on these questions, identiFv the way to deal with these questions and finally work out possible inputs towards society, politics and the economy.

The participants of the workshop are invited to provide support to the improvement of the network in the field of Security Policy and consequently to help in creating a Strategic Community within the Southeast European Region. All this should not end with the last day of any event of the Working Group, but should become a self-supporting process.

It will be my main objective as chairman of the Working-Group – and in my opinion it also should be one of the main purposes of the PfP-Consortium – to initiate and to support this process to the most possible extent.

Vienna, October 2000
Col Gustav E. GUSTENAU