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**Centro Europeo
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**Европейский центр
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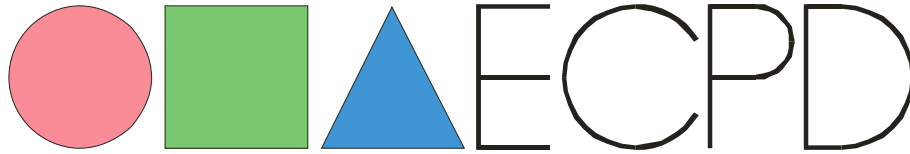
ECPD International Conference
FUTURE OF THE WORLD BETWEEN
GLOBALIZATION AND REGIONALIZATION
(Belgrade, City Hall, 24-25 October, 2015)

CONCLUSIONS

The Eleventh ECPD International Conference, organized by the European Center for Peace and Development (ECPD) of the University for Peace established by the United Nations, an international educational and research institution in East and Central Europe was held in Belgrade, on 24-25 October, 2015. It was preceded by ten annual ECPD international conferences devoted to reconciliation, tolerance and human security in the Balkans. This year's Conference was devoted to the **"Future of the World between Globalization and Regionalization"**. Under this broad topic numerous issues related to globalization and regionalization were discussed.

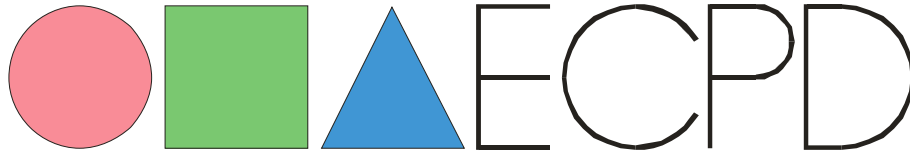
The timing of this Conference coincides with an extremely complex situation in the world: political instability in numerous parts of the globe and unpredictability in the relations between big powers, continuation of the global economic and financial crisis and a threat of a new cold war, the climate change, massive refugee crisis, and growing economic inequality.

The Conference was attended by numerous participants, prominent academics, politicians and diplomats from almost all over the world, many of whom presented their papers or took part in discussions.



On the basis of the views expressed, the **following conclusions were adopted:**

- (1) Globalization offers potential for a richer world and for better welfare. However, at the same time, globalization processes are producing serious negative effects. The gap between the developed North and developing South, as well as between the rich minorities and the poor majorities, nationally and globally, is increasing, and this process can provoke revolts and conflicts in underdeveloped states and regions, with far-reaching consequences (mass migration is the most striking example). To avoid further aggravation of the present negative situation and future threats, a better distribution of the world resources is necessary.
- (2) Transition from the Industrial into the Technological age is characterized by the enormous expansion of communications, world production of sophisticated goods and services, intensification of trade and transportation, among other. These activities should be considered as natural and therefore supported. However, globalization as a natural process should not be imposed or accelerated by political pressures and military interventions.
- (3) The process of intensification and globalization of the economic development reveals two major tendencies: transfer of the center of economic power from the West to Asia with massive production relocation and a change of the old political and international economic order. These tendencies are conducive to international disorder and to avoid this trend, deep reforms, particularly related with the transformation of plutocratic groups (G7, G8, G20) and the establishment of the new global governance is required.
- (4) The “Arab Spring”, which started in 2011, has vanished due to the lack of global efficient institutions, with enormous economic and social consequences, of which the most evident is mass migration. Besides, the latest developments in the Middle East threaten a further escalation.
- (5) The European Union, only economic at the time being, is struggling with the economic and financial crisis, while unprecedented flows of mass migration provoke new problems which may lead the European Union in an unforeseen and undesirable directions.
- (6) The problems facing the European Union are bound to have serious effects on the Balkan countries. The Middle East – West Europe refugee route crosses the Balkan countries with numerous negative effects. A reduced ability of the European Union to support the development of the Balkan economies and delays their recovery and development. Moreover, the preparation of the



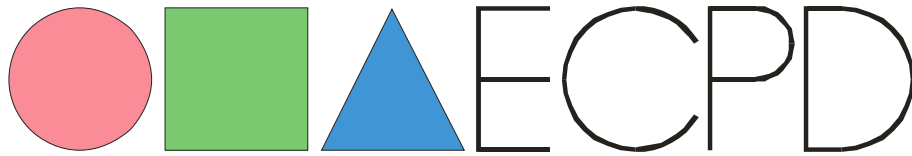
Balkan countries for EU accession has turned out to take more time, than originally expected. Many shortcomings, e.g. in the area of rule of law and democratic governance still have to be overcome.

- (7) The Balkans remains the least developed European region. An inefficient transition and economic privatizations increased the gap between the Region and Western Europe. The GNP of most of the Balkan states in 2014 was not larger than that from 2008!
- (8) To speed up their development, the Balkan states should try to increase their GNP by the rate at least five per cent per year. To do so, they must ensure better management of their national resources (human and material), establish better and more effective private and public sectors, increase R&D&I and endogenous joint activities in the context of a better organized inter-state and regional cooperation. Accession of all Balkan countries to the European Union would considerably help this process.
- (9) Closer, better organized and institutional cooperation among Balkan countries is forcefully recommended. The establishment of joint committees for some specific areas – communication, infrastructure, supply and distribution of energy was also recommended.

There was consensus that the Eleventh ECPD International Conference was very successful. The speakers and the discussants expressed many interesting ideas and recommendations, which will be broadly internationally shared and a basis for further ECPD activities.

However, conferences like this and the ten previous ones require a long time in preparation and for distribution of their outputs. Therefore, the participants **recommended that instead of large annual conferences ECPD should organize several smaller international round tables that would focus on the issues of priority importance for Europe and especially South East Europe.**

It was agreed at the Eleventh Conference that the political and security situation in the Balkans is notably better today than a few years ago. However, the consequences of armed conflicts have not yet been overcome. Relations between ethnic and religious groups, as well among new states are still tense. Besides, the growing gap in the economic development brings new challenges. Therefore, the participants **recommended** that ECPD should intensify its institutional activities for the promotion of peace, development and national reconciliation in the Region.



The European Center for Peace and Development is an international educational and research organization within the broader system of the United Nations Organization. Therefore, its activity should not be limited by frontiers. Its statutory mandate is *“to organize and carry out the corresponding postgraduate studies, research activities and dissemination of knowledge...”*. The participants indicated that the ECPD should expand its network and activities in the Euro-Asian region, while including the Mediterranean and Middle East Region.

For its activities, ECPD depends to a large extent on support and cooperation with academic institutions and national and international organizations. The Eleventh Conference, therefore, recommended expansion and intensification of cooperation with academic, governmental and non-governmental institutions in the elaboration and implementation of its educational programs and research projects.

It is time for action. The present global and local situation requires urgently timely treatment (in social and environmental aspects) before points of no return are reached.

The scientific, academic and intellectual communities at large could advise and anticipate activities to be undertaken in which the parliamentarians and members of the Town Hall councils are unprepared.

Belgrade, October 25, 2015