



Season's Greetings  
and wishes for a  
prosperous 2006

ELIAMEP Times

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2005

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## ELIAMEP's non-paper to protect the Serbian Orthodox Monastic Community's heritage in Kosovo

Discussions for a sustainable solution to Kosovo's status have been picking up speed again. Kosovo will undoubtedly be at the top of the agenda throughout 2006.

In November 2005, ELIAMEP circulated a non-paper for Kosovo entitled: **"Establishing a Serbian Orthodox Monastic Community (SOMC) in Kosovo, as an integral part of a comprehensive "future status" settlement."**

ELIAMEP's non-paper co-authored by Dr. Evangelos Kofos and Prof. Thodoris Couloumbis proposes a common legal space for the Serbian Orthodox monastic community in Kosovo under international protection. Any status-solution ought to address legitimate Serbian concerns while respecting the right to self-determination of Kosovo. Thus, this focused proposal aims at being part of a wider framework that will be able to guarantee sustainable peace and security not only in Kosovo but in the entire Southeast European region.

ELIAMEP's non-paper is outlined in page 2 of this Newsletter. It is based on a paper presented by Dr. Kofos in a conference organized by ELIAMEP in Thessaloniki in March 2005 in the context of the FONSI project "Kosovo: Seeking a Sustainable Status."

It was also presented in Athens on 1st December 2005 at a press conference held by ELIAMEP at the Foreign Press Association of Greece. This conference triggered a significant interest on the part of journalists, policy-makers and members of the diplomatic services of foreign Embassies in Athens.

ELIAMEP has provided numerous platforms for open discussions on Kosovo and has supported initiatives aimed at facilitating a better and more informed understanding between the local actors and the international community for over a decade. Its commitment to furthering regional cooperation and understanding is unfaltering.

It is therefore planning a series of conferences and public discussions on Kosovo for early 2006.

The emphasis will be on the role of the transatlantic partnership and of the Contact Group, the responsibilities of the EU and the UN, and the priorities and concerns of all parties involved.



Serbian Orthodox  
monasteries in Kosovo

## Main ELIAMEP events planned for 2006

January 2006

**The future status of Kosovo:  
Euro-atlantic integration or a  
return to a time of conflict?**

February 2006

**Workshop on Kosovo**

In the context of the Forum on New Security Issues—Shared Interests and Values Between Southeast Europe and the Transatlantic Community (FONSI) funded by the German Marshall Fund of the US

10-16 July 2006

**POLITIS Summer School**

The 2nd Summer School will be organized with the University of Oldenburg and EUI in Viligst, Germany.

Autumn 2006

**Prospects for Security Sector  
Reform in the Middle East**

21-25 June 2006

**Halki International Seminars**

Europe: Mind the Gap

(see page 4 for our call for Papers and Participants)

We have changed and upgraded our website to facilitate access to our papers, event reports, research activities and projects. Our new website constitutes part of ELIAMEP's efforts to encourage a transparent, public dialogue in Greece and a wider access to information on matters of European affairs and Greek foreign policy.

[www.eliamep.gr](http://www.eliamep.gr)

**“The international community should undertake concrete measures to ensure that monuments and religious establishments in Kosovo are sufficiently protected and remain functional in perpetuity.”**

## **Establishing a Serbian Orthodox Monastic Community (SOMC) in Kosovo, as an integral part of a comprehensive “future status” settlement**

By definition, consideration of the future status of Kosovo needs to address medium- and long-term issues.

As we approach the starting line of future status talks, it is of utmost importance to draw up an equitable framework of fundamental requirements. Such a framework would aim to guarantee sustainable peace and security not only in Kosovo but in the entire SE European region. To achieve this, certain legitimate concerns of the Serbs and of the wider Western Balkan region need to be addressed and enshrined into a new international document.

Taking into account the sad experiences of March 2004, ironclad guarantees for the protection and advancement of Serb and other minorities of the Kosovo region are imperative. Other requirements include safeguards against the promotion of irredentism toward neighboring regions, and specific limitations which would insure that Kosovo would not enter into a union with third countries or regions thereof without the consent of the signatories to a future status treaty.

More specifically, on the vital issue of the protection of the Serbian Orthodox historical and religious institutions and sites, the international community should undertake concrete measures to ensure that monuments and religious establishments in Kosovo are sufficiently protected and remain functional in perpetuity.

The proposed Serbian Orthodox Monastic Community (SOMC) of Kosovo should include all monasteries along

with their dependencies and those historical sites to be identified specifically in its Charter. The latter should envisage the creation of a common legal space for the monastic community and its environs under international protection.

Notwithstanding the lack of geographic contiguity, the SOMC will be governed by a singular Charter to be drafted by the SOMC, approved by the Serbian Patriarchate, accepted by the future governing authority of Kosovo, and guaranteed by the international community with special emphasis on engaging the EU's institutional presence. Similar examples of regimes of semi-autonomous and protected religious clusters already exist in Europe and elsewhere.

The SOMC, and the monasteries separately, will enjoy vis-à-vis the future Kosovo governing authority a self-administered status, which should entail the following:

- Placing the monasteries, and SOMC as a whole, under the spiritual authority of the Serbian Patriarchate.

- Insuring that the future governing authority of Kosovo, with appropriate international (EU, NATO, UN) guarantees, will provide for the safety and security of the monasteries as holy places of worship and monuments of the world's cultural heritage.

- Free and unhindered exercise of executive, legislative and judicial jurisdiction according to the holy canons, rules, and customs of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Charter of SOMC.

- Insuring that all organs and functions of the SOMC will be governed by an Internal Regulation to be determined as part of the comprehensive package of future status negotiations.

- Maintenance of free communication among all monasteries and their dependencies.

- Safeguarding against the movement and residence of unauthorized persons within the confines of the monasteries.

- Unhindered entry of individuals, in or out of Kosovo, for purposes of pilgrimage to or residence in the monasteries upon clearance by the SOMC.

- Insuring that all land property, including mobile and immobile assets of the monasteries, will be free of expropriation.

- Recognition by the future Kosovar authority of tax and duty exemptions for the SOMC.

Full observance of the above provisions will be the responsibility and obligation of the future Kosovar governing authority and will be guaranteed by the United Nations, the European Union and NATO.

*Prof. Theodore Couloubis, Director General of ELIAMEP & Dr. Evangelos Kofos, Senior Advisor on Balkan Affairs, ELIAMEP.*

This ELIAMEP non-paper may also be downloaded from our website:

<http://www.eliamep.gr/>

## Greece's relations with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

8 December 2005, Athens

ELIAMEP organised a public discussion on recent developments and future prospects for Greece's relations with the FYROM. The aim was to provide a platform for a substantial open dialogue on a matter that remains at the core of Greece's foreign policy agenda and at the centre of public interest.

Professors Antonis Manitakis, from the Aristoteleion University of Thessaloniki and Christos Yannaras from Panteion University, along with Dr. Evangelos Kofos, Senior Advisor for Balkan Affairs at ELIAMEP, were invited to launch the discussion with their perspectives on bilateral relations as well as on FYROM's EU accession path.

Dr. Kofos focused on the unresolved matter of FYROM's name. Following the Commission's positive recommendation to grant FYROM candidate status, he pressed for both sides to find a mutually acceptable solution within the next twelve months. He called for FYROM to engage its public opinion in a constructive rather than nationalistic approach to the matter arguing that both sides are closer than

ever before to a solution. Now, they need to show a deeper understanding of each other's sensitivities since a negotiated solution will contribute to regional stability.

Prof. Yannaras highlighted the linguistic and cultural stakes for both sides. He noted that importing culture is insufficient to provide content to national identity and stressed Greek public opinion concerns with expansionist claims as regards territorial and cultural sovereignty. At the same time, he underlined that for FYROM the name issue has been raised to a matter of national existence.

Prof. Manitakis emphasized the need to overcome nationalist discourses across the Balkans and to reach a negotiated solution based on the principles of international law and good neighbourly relations.

Comments followed by Mr. Constantinos Hatzidakis, MEP, New Democracy and Mr. Michalis Chryssochoides, MP, PASOK. Both politicians stated the political commitment of the two largest political parties to push forward a mutually acceptable solution. It was

also noted that in spite of the rather emotional way Greek-FYROM relations are approached, the economic and commercial ties between the two countries are extremely strong. Both agreed that further delay would be detrimental and that the wider environment ought to also be considered. This particularly concerns the region's EU accession path as well as developments in Serbia and Montenegro and the status of Kosovo.

Prof. Loukas Tsoukalis coordinated the public discussion that followed with many questions from the large audience that participated in this event. Undergraduate students, diplomats, journalists, historians and civil society representatives questioned the panel on Greece's Balkan policy and on the priorities of Greek foreign policy. Historical references to the region's history and its implications for current domestic and regional politics were also brought up.

A detailed event report, along with Dr. Kofos' contribution to the discussion (in Greek), are available from our website at:

[http://www.eliamep.gr/eliamep/files/FYROM\\_gr\\_081205.pdf](http://www.eliamep.gr/eliamep/files/FYROM_gr_081205.pdf)

**It is pressing for Greece and FYROM to find a mutually acceptable solution as regards the name. A constructive dialogue that takes into consideration the sensitivities of both sides and that engages public opinion is called for.**

### Latest ELIAMEP Policy Papers

■ **The security environment in the Eastern Mediterranean: The challenges for Greek foreign policy (2005)**

Ian Lesser

■ **Ελληνική μεταναστευτική πολιτική (2005)**

(Greek Migration Policy, in Greek)

Άννα Τριανταφυλλίδου

### Forthcoming ELIAMEP Policy Papers 2006

■ **Greek-Turkish economic cooperation and the prospects for Greek investment in Turkey**

Antonis Kamaras

■ **A changing Turkey**

Ahmet Evim

*All ELIAMEP publications are available from our library free of charge. Please contact Ms. Nancy Pondika at [library@eliamep.gr](mailto:library@eliamep.gr).*

### Latest ELIAMEP Occasional Papers

OP05.04. **European integration and ethnic minority mobilization: A theoretical introduction and literature review** by Dia Anagnostou and Anna Triandafyllidou

OP05.03. **Πρόσφατες εξελίξεις στον τομέα της Ευρωπαϊκής Πολιτικής Ασφάλειας και Άμυνας και στο NATO: Συνέπειες για την Ελλάδα** Ανδρέας Κιντής

### Briefing meetings at ELIAMEP

ELIAMEP staff met with representatives of the **World Bank** on 9 December 2005 to discuss economic developments in the Balkans, the situation in Kosovo and relations between Greece and FYROM.

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## Halki International Seminars 2006

### “Europe: Mind the Gaps”

21-25 June 2006

Funded with the support of the European Commission, DG Education and Culture (Jean Monnet Action)

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

This year's Halki International Seminars will focus on the different gaps of European integration. More specifically it will concentrate on widening and deepening, economic policy and politics, expectations and capabilities. The seminar will also explore “future scenarios for Europe” in smaller working groups.

### Call for Participants

Applications are welcome from policy-makers, journalists, diplomats, and members of parliament who would like to participate in “Europe: Mind the Gap.”

Please complete the Halki Application Form and email to [halki@eliamep.gr](mailto:halki@eliamep.gr) by 15 February 2006.

### Call for Papers

**Papers are invited from researchers** (particularly from post-docs and PhD candidates in an advanced stage of their research) that examine existing or potential ‘gaps’ in the following areas:

- The younger generations and EU integration
- EU integration, social classes and interests
- (Re)connecting citizens with the EU project
- Further enlargement and public opinion in Member States
- Extending Pax Europea and preserving internal coherence

Interested applicants should :

- send a proposal abstract (300 words)
- and fill in the Halki Application Form (can be downloaded from [www.eliamep.gr](http://www.eliamep.gr)) to [halki@eliamep.gr](mailto:halki@eliamep.gr)

Deadline for applications: **15 February 2006**

Selected papers will be presented during the seminar and will be published by ELIAMEP.

The organisers will cover the following costs: seminar participation fee, accommodation and subsistence. No travel expenses will be covered, however there will be a travel grant for some applicants.

Note: This year, exceptionally, the 2006 Halki International Seminars will not be held in Halki. The Seminar venue will soon be announced on ELIAMEP's website