

ABSTRACT

This report provides general information on the international conference "Southeastern Europe: Moving Forward," which took place in Ottawa on January 23 and 24, 2003, and on its main organizer, the Canadian Forum on Southeastern Europe (CFSEE) at Carleton University. It focuses on the proceedings of the conference, offering summaries of 27 presentations. This section is followed by policy recommendations emerging from the discussions, organized along several key areas of interest for both Canada and the countries of Southeastern Europe. In the appendixes are biographies of 27 participants, the conference program and available texts of comments made by 7 representatives of governments and the European Union.

A separate volume contains the academic papers. is part of the Centre for European Studies (CES) at Carleton University. CFSEE was founded by the Centre for European Studies in March 2002 with the following goals:

- To improve understanding within Canada of the changing situation in the countries of Southeastern Europe, particularly Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, FYR Macedonia, Romania and Serbia-Montenegro. Following a decade of political and economic turmoil, all of these countries have entered or are poised to embark on new stages of stabilization and reconstruction. On various timetables, they are deepening their relations with countries of Western Europe and North America, and aspire to be integrated into the European Union, as well as NATO.
- To create a network of Canadian expertise relating to Southeastern Europe (SEE). The changing situation in SEE has brought the need of a redefinition of Canadian foreign policy and has created new opportunities for cooperation between Canada and the countries in the area. CFSEE strives to bring together Canadian and SEE specialists from a broad variety of backgrounds: government officials, NGO representatives, international organization representatives, academics and private sector representatives.
- To serve interested students at Carleton University and other Canadian universities by involving them directly in the Forum's various initiatives and by providing access to resources necessary for further study of the region.
- To organize a series of public events in Ottawa, involving academics, policy-makers, embassy personnel, practitioners, students, and civil society. CFSEE events will aim to address key issues in SEE and to recommend possible ways of further promotion of Canadian interests and values in that region as well as to lay the grounds of mutually beneficial partnerships in the political, academic and economic fields.
- To develop partnerships with academic institutions in each country of the region in order to facilitate communication, cooperation and joint projects.
- To encourage research initiatives relating to the region.