

## INTRODUCTION

The international conference "Southeastern Europe: Moving Forward" represented a cooperative effort between the Canadian Forum on Southeastern Europe (CFSEE) and the embassies located in Canada of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, FYR Macedonia, Romania, Serbia-Montenegro and Turkey. Financial support was provided by the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Government of Canada); the European Commission; the Partnerships for Tomorrow Program (Association of Canadian Community Colleges and Canadian International Development Agency); and Carleton University.

The Canadian Forum on Southeastern Europe 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.