



9 EAST 66TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10021
TEL.: (212) 744 2506
FAX: (212) 517 6771

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The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and referring to the note No DESA/03/153 concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/110 has the honour to present the following information:

Poland's activity in the framework of the Stability Pact should be viewed in the context of its long-term presence in the Balkans in the scope of the structure designed to restore peace, stability and development, in broad meaning of these terms. Main forms of Poland's activity are:

1. Participation of military contingents in two NATO operations in Kosovo (KFOR) and in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR). About 850 Polish soldiers are serving at the moment in these operations;
2. Participation of 25 soldiers in the NATO forces operating in Macedonia (currently 17 soldiers are participating in a EU *Concordia* military operation in Macedonia);
3. Engagement of 123 police officers as part of the international police force UNMIC;
4. Engagement of police officers in Bosnia and Herzegovina (at the moment 12 police officers are serving within the EU police mission);
5. Participation of 10 custom officers in the international customs police within UNMIC in 2001;
6. Activities of Mr. Marek Nowicki¹ as Ombudsperson in Kosovo (in 2001 Polish Government supported Ombudsperson office with 25 000 USD);
7. Engagement of experts in OSCE missions in the region.

Moreover, Poland contributes to fulfillment of the Pact's objectives by initiating and co-financing projects in which Polish NGOs are taking part. In the years 2000-2001 a whole set of training programmes supporting development of local administration and creation of a civil society in Kosovo, Serbia, Albania, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina was implemented. In the field of social security, decentralization of administration, education, cross-border cooperation and NGO activities several seminars and training courses have been conducted and differed expertise submitted.

In November 2002 the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) decided to participate in financing of four projects of Polish NGOs designed for beneficiary countries of the Stability Pact:

¹ Mr. Nowicki is Polish activist in the field of human rights protection, former member of the European Commission of Human Rights.

- Organisation by the "Know-How Foundation" in December 2002, the conference "Euroregions and cross-border cooperation in New Europe" with participation of local administration representatives, local NGOs staff and civil servants responsible for cross-border cooperation of South East Europe countries;
- Project of the Foundation in Support of Local Democracy ("Cooperation building between local administration and NGOs") - a series of training courses for the local administration and NGOs representatives from several Macedonian administrative units;
- Project of Malopolska Educational Association ("School 'Plus' - Unite") - training of two teams of 25 persons: teachers, school headmasters, parents and local volunteers in creating associations on the basis of parents-teachers-local government cooperation; project is designed for all the Balkan countries;
- Projects of the "Partners" Polska Foundation ("Women in action. How to utilize local institutional potential for the cooperation for the local development") - training courses for 25 female leaders of the NGOs in Kosovo.

Polish financial involvement in the fulfillment of the Stability Pact's goals in the years 2002-2003 comprises also:

- Contribution of 20 000 USD to the programme of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) concerning civilian vocational training for ex-soldiers in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Contribution of 10 000 USD to the programme of the UNHCR concerning aid to Balkan refugees;
- Contribution of 10 000 USD to the Canadian government programme concerning destruction of ammunition for small arms and light weapons in Albania;
- Contribution of 5 000 USD to the UNHCHR fund for field missions in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Signing of the Agreement with the government of FRY according to which the remaining Yugoslav debt to Poland (2 660 000 USD) will be treated as Polish assistance aid within the Stability Pact;
- Credit of 50 000 000 USD granted to FRY for purchasing Polish power generating equipment;
- Training of experts of the federal Bosnian government on control of arms exports conducted by experts from the Polish Ministry of Economy, Labour and Social Policy and MFA.

Additional information:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- In 2001, in the framework of the Stability Pact a group of 30 NGO workers was trained in Poland;
- In 2002, financial support was granted for the programme of vocational training for military officers. The main purpose of the programme was to help ex soldiers, who lost their jobs in the army due to necessary dismissal to return to the labour market.

Serbia and Montenegro (2002)

- Granting of the government preferential credit of 50 000 000 USD to be spent on purchase in Poland of machinery and equipment, especially for the power generating industry sector;
- Reduction of the FRY debt to Poland by 54% (nearly 2.7 million USD, which will be counted as Polish contribution to assistance efforts within the Stability Pact).

Albania

- 250 Albanians have been trained in Poland since 2000, in the framework of the training programme for local administration and local government leaders run on behalf of the Polish MFA by the "Foundation in Support of Local Democracy";
- More that 50 Albanian students are studying in Poland (cost of education and accommodation is covered partly by Polish government);
- "Caritas Polska" continues to support the social welfare centers and the parishes run by Polish priests (social welfare centers in the villages of Bize and Bilaj).

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration. 79.



New York, 1 August 2003

Secretary-General
of the United Nations

New York