



in cooperation with

TRANS-EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES ASSOCIATION



organise the conference

## The European Neighbourhood Policy: The Time to Deliver

within the project

### Networking for Citizens and Neighbours: Networking for Europe



of the PHARE Civil Society programme

Sofia, 7 December 2007

The event will gather Bulgarian policy advisers, top civil servants dealing with ENP issues, experts from academia, think tanks and civil society, several representatives of TEPSA member institutes, as well as colleagues from the expert and academic community in the EU and in ENP partner countries. BECSA will publish the conference proceedings on the basis of the speakers' written contributions.

The final design of the conference programme will take account of the specific titles of contributions proposed by speakers and will thus narrow down the focus and sharpen debate on relevant topics.

### ***THEMATIC SCOPE***

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) has already passed its inaugural period. Proposals for its further development from the European Commission, EU member states and ENP partner countries have been circulated and are debated in expert and academic circles. They concern both horizontal aspects of policy and specific issues of its implementation in the East and in the South. They involve a variety of national, supra- and infra-national actors in all countries taking part in the ENP and in "Brussels".

**ACTORS:** (a) **The Commission's views:** responses from the "Strengthening the ENP" policy paper, lessons drawn and further steps planned; (b) **EU member states:** coherence of approaches to the East and the South, "division of labour", potential for new member states' involvement, role of past and forthcoming EU Council presidencies; (c) **ENP partner countries:** can they practice "joint ownership", how, and what will come out of it – more or less societal transformation, more or less integration with the EU? (d) **non-state actors:** Is civil society in EU member states interested in the ENP? Is civil society in ENP partner countries able to influence the ENP?

**TERRITORIAL FOCUS:** (a) **The Black Sea Synergy:** what follows from this policy paper – problems of coordination of existing EU policies and financial instruments; approaches (political vs technocratic) to implementation; preponderance of the EU-BSEC inter-institutional partnership, or else? (Black Sea Forum, GUAM, other formats); (b) **the ENP's Southern dimension:** the dilemma between differentiation and coherence, compatibility of bilateral and multilateral approach, role (if any) for the new EU members in the South; (c) **horizontal issues:** coherence of approaches to the East and the South; sustainability of one ENP; the EU's dilemma between transforming its partners (pursuing milieu goals) and stabilizing them (caring about possession goals); Is the EU transformative power fading away?