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## **IN FOCUS**

### **Biscevic in Prague**

**Photo: RCC role is becoming increasingly important**

## **Accelerate the Pace of Reforms in the Region**

**Southeast European countries need faster reform pace to speed up the EU integration and avoid a danger of stagnation and *status quo*, stressed Biscevic**

Southeast Europe needs faster reform pace in order to speed up the EU integration and avoid dangerous stagnation, said the RCC Secretary General, Hido Biscevic, at a conference on further EU enlargement organized by the incoming Czech EU Presidency and *ANO pro Evropu* non-governmental organization in Prague, reports Fena.

The RCC reports that the discussions focused on the progress made by the Southeast European countries on their way towards full European integration.

In his opening address, the EU Commissioner for Enlargement, Olli Rehn, noted a significant advancement in this process, but pointed out that this trend must be persistent and sustained. Secretary General Biscevic stressed that the countries of Southeast Europe, especially in the post Yugoslav area, are at a decisive crossroads.

“This crossroads requires accelerated reform pace to speed up EU integration and avoid a danger of stagnation and *status quo* which could be detrimental to the region’s future. The role of the RCC is becoming increasingly important as it presumes bringing together the support of key international institutions and organizations with the efforts of the countries of the region,” says RCC Secretary General.

The event was opened by the Czech Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs, Alexandr Vondra, and moderated by the First Czech Deputy Foreign Minister, Tomáš Pojar.

The Croatian State Secretary for European Integration, Davor Božinović; the Serbian Assistant Foreign Minister, Milica Delević; and the EU Council Secretariat General’s Director of Western Balkans/Central European Task Force, Stefan Lehne, were also among the panelists.