**Conference notes IRRI-KIIB**

Summary - Q & A session of the conference   
chaired by Karel De Gucht, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Belgium.   
  
 ***"Dynamics of Pakistan's Foreign Policy in the new World Order"***   
**H.E. Mr. Shaukat Aziz,**   
Prime Minister of the Islmaic Republic of Pakistan.   
Brussels, 26 January 2005

Summary; this is not an official record of proceedings and specific remarks are not necessarily attributable.

"Pakistan is not seeking to start an arms race with any country, including India, whether nuclear or conventional", Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz told IRRI-KIIB. For durable peace between the states and prosperity in South Asia a solution on the Kashmir dispute is vital.

Aziz warned that an arms race would be neither economically sustainable nor morally tenable. It would be destructive to the entire region. "Pakistan and India need to invest in the tools of development, not in the tools of destruction", he said.

During the question and answer session, he added that power politics, the relative strength of nations or regions, have to be leveraged to solve disputes.

Pakistan and India have agreed to put Kashmir on the agenda for a basis of discussion. Pakistan's approach is engaging in dialogue and looking for an equitable solution in a spirit of trust between two nations.

Aziz pointed out that regional structure for peace and development can be developed through bilateral engagements and through multilateral agreements or regional economic cooperation movements. He gave examples, such as SAARC (South Asia region) and the ECO (Economic Cooperation Organisation, established by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey) which promotes trade, investment, economic and cultural exchanges between the countries of Central Asia. He also referred to Pakistan's request to be admitted into the Shanghai Cooperation Group.

Aziz's basic philosophy is that a mutual economic linkage with countries helps promoting political and diplomatic relations. The Prime Minister noted that Pakistan proposed an energy corridor to India (gas pipeline from Turkmenistan, Iran, Qatar to India). Once created, this project will improve the climate to address different issues, he said. Aziz will attend the next SAARC-Summit meeting with the conviction that "those linkages have to be the cornerstone" to tighter economic and political relations. He called for the need to share more and to exchange more expertise with SAARC-countries.

Further information:

- on SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation: [SAARC](http://www.saarc-sec.org/main.php)  
- on ECO: Economic Cooperation Organisation: [ECO](http://www.ecosecretariat.org/)  
- on the gas pipeline: see [news article](http://www.infopak.gov.pk/news/appnews/appnews2005/app_jan28_2005.htm#2) from Associated Press Pakistan

- news articles:

\* Arms race threatens economy, says Aziz [< http://www.geo.tv/main\_files/pakistan.aspx?id=61799>](http://www.geo.tv/main_files/pakistan.aspx?id=61799)   
GEO - World  
  
\* Pakistan not seeking arms race <[http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&amp;storyID=661475](http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&storyID=661475)>  
Reuters - UK  
  
\* No peace without Kashmir solution, says Aziz <<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story_27-1-2005_pg7_6>>  
Daily Times - Pakistan