



Budva Declaration

On Strengthening Regional Co-operation and Co-ordination in the Fight against Organised Crime of South East Europe

18 March 2011 in Budva, Montenegro

We, Ministers of Justice and Ministers of Interior of South East Europe,

agreed:

1. organised crime is endangering stability and security of South East Europe; it is a serious impediment to prosperity and well-being of societies, undermining the rule of law and ongoing democratic and reform processes in the region;
2. the challenges of organised crime cannot successfully be tackled only at the national level and that concrete steps need to be undertaken on the regional level to enhance efforts and comprehensively confront organised crime;
3. the organization of this Regional Conference of the Ministers of Justice and Ministers of Interior has been of value in addressing issues, sharing experiences, as well as identifying forms of further regional co-operation to strengthen the fight against organised crime in the South East Europe Co-operation Process;
4. the Conference acknowledged the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), the commitments agreed in the OSCE Astana Commemorative Declaration Towards a Security Community of 03 December 2010 as well as accepted the conclusions of earlier regional conferences and meetings of governments, including the Regional Conference of Ministers of Interior and Ministers of Justice held in Belgrade on 28-29 September 2009;
5. the bilateral cooperation agreements, including mutual legal assistance and extradition agreements between governments of the region serve as a basis for further co-operation in respect of ensuring they are implemented effectively and that the co-operation between the police in the region increases;

6. a comprehensive regional approach shall be developed to specifically address different forms of co-operation, according to the EU *acquis communautaire* and best practices particularly of the EU member states, in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the fight against organised crime;
7. the main types of organised crime that require comprehensive co-operation are:
 - Illicit production of/and trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors;
 - Terrorism and financing of terrorism
 - Trafficking in human beings;
 - Cyber crime;
 - Illicit trafficking in firearms and munitions;
 - Smuggling of migrants;
 - Money laundering;
 - Smuggling of vehicles/cars;
 - Economic crime;
 - Smuggling of cultural and natural properties;
8. the co-operation necessary to confront these forms of organised crime more efficiently and effectively must be made, inter alia, in the following areas:
 - Improving the exchange of information and policy co-ordination about organized crime in the region by using common methods as well as standards and collaborating in the process of evidence gathering;
 - Improving the use of common investigation and analysis techniques to facilitate common operation against organized crime;
 - Co-operating to identify how the criminal groups take advantage of financial structures;
 - Co-operating in the field of training of the law enforcement personnel who have responsibilities in combating organised crime;
 - Involving relevant international organisations and entities, research and academic institutions, which with their knowledge in the areas of investigating and preventing organised crime, can contribute to the fight against organised crime;
 - Continuing to adopt national legislation and international instruments in order to strengthen the legal capacity in the fight against organised crime.

9. toward enhancing our co-operation that a contact point to be determined in each Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Interior to ensure effective cooperation and qualitative information exchanges in compliance with their national legislation.
10. the following co-operation will be analysed on an annual basis.
11. we, as Ministers of Justice and Ministers of Interior of the South East Europe endorse this Declaration.