



**Ohrd Process on Border Security and Management
Fourth Review Meeting, 8-9 November 2006
Podgorica, Republic of Montenegro**

CONCLUSIONS

The list of participants is attached

The opening address from the Chair is also attached

1) In his welcoming remarks, Mr Veselin Velkovic, Director of the Police Directorate of the Republic of Montenegro, highlighted the importance of an adequate balance between controlling the borders and opening them to allow fruitful flows of people and goods. He also insisted on the importance of a regional approach in this precise matter and mentioned that the Ohrid Border Process should continue, given its positive results.

2) After statements from all the national delegations, all the participants officially endorsed the one-year prolongation of the Ohrid Process on Border Security and Management, meaning until the end of 2007.

3) The **country representatives** made presentations, outlining their national priorities for 2006-2007. Although each country is progressing at a different pace in the implementation of the Ohrid Border Process commitments and therefore has different priorities, common areas of work are also emerging, such as:

- Full implementation of the IBM Strategy and Action Plan
- Enhance inter-agency cooperation, especially between the Border Police and Customs Services
- Cross-border cooperation and regional cooperation (signing, ratifying and implementing international agreements)
- Training
- Upgrading of infrastructures and equipment

4) The representative from the **European Commission** (EC) gave information about the CARDS financial contribution to the Western Balkan countries for IBM issues between 2001 and 2006. He then mentioned that the IPA would be working along the same lines as CARDS but with more flexibility. TAIEX funds can also be used by the EC to finance some activities in 2007. In this respect, he asked the countries involved to come up with concrete ideas for these activities, and suggested as examples risk analysis, data protection and cross-border cooperation. He finally informed the participants that the CARDS Regional Programme Team had finished updating the IBM Guidelines, which should be adopted by the EC very soon. He reminded that the Guidelines do not imply that the countries are obliged to update their Strategy on IBM.

The representative from the **OSCE** reminded that cross-border cooperation had been OSCE's main focus for its 2006 activities, and that although cross border cooperation mechanisms were established informally, it was time to develop concrete activities to implement the existing agreements between countries. He also reminded the participants about the importance of best practices and lessons learnt.

The Chair used this opportunity to thank Mr. Jean-Claude Meyer, who has been the OSCE Focal Point since the beginning of the Ohrid Border Process in 2003, for his



constant support to the process, his contribution and his friendly team spirit, as Mr. Meyer will now be working on other files within the OSCE CPC.

The representative from **NATO** reiterated NATO's high political support to the Ohrid Border Process, although for clear reasons, NATO is not as much involved in the process as it used to be. He reminded the participants about the importance for NATO of the fight against organised crime and against all illegal activities in the region that hamper the region's development. NATO could provide advice on the modalities and command structure of 'national military support' to Border and Customs Police thus helping to put in place arrangements for the best use of specialist assets that might normally and properly be maintained with the Defense establishment.

The representative from **DCAF** made a presentation on the programme of activities for 2006-2007 in the area of border management and stressed out the particular importance of cross border cooperation for DCAF, especially in the framework of the Sarajevo Ministerial Declaration adopted in February 2006.

The representative from **UNMIK** insisted on the fact that no matter what the status of Kosovo would be, UNMIK and KPS had to work on the basis of common standards and Guidelines in order not to be isolated in the regional framework.

The **Roadmap for 2006-2007**, distributed to all the countries and partner organisations before the meeting, was adopted. This document will serve to plan priority activities for 2007.

5) During the following discussions, Mr Johann Wagner, the new Focal Point for OSCE, made a suggestion to organise some activities in 2007 on Threat Assessment (TA). He highlighted the importance of having a regional approach in this matter, along the national approach and to develop common indicators in line with EU standards, which would help especially for data protection. All partner organisations reiterated the need for countries to come up with suggestions to organise activities as these organisations only work upon request of supported countries. It was agreed that the Stability Pact Working Table III would gather all proposals made by the countries and the partner organisations in order to draft a working plan for 2007.

6) The representatives from the **Customs Services** who were present made presentations on their work and their cooperation with the other agencies involved in border management, especially with the border police. Participants agreed that Customs officers should be more involved in the Ohrid Border Process activities, and some proposals were made about organising joint trainings, encouraging the signing of MoUs between Customs Services and other agencies and working on the proper division of tasks along green and blue borders to avoid duplication and enhance the exchange of information and cooperation.

The concrete topics that were suggested for organising activities in 2007 were:

- Risk analysis and threats assessment
- Inter-agency cooperation
- Cooperation with neighbouring EU member states in the field of border policing
- Cooperation with FRONTEX
- Need for a follow-up to the CARDS Regional Programme? The countries should come up with suggestions.

MP, Brussels, 29/11/06