



## **Working Table III Meeting**

Sofia, 17 May 2005

### **POLICE FORUM INITIATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**

The Police Forum initiative is giving advice and supporting activities aiming at capacity building through specific police trainings. The activities are fully in line with the conclusions of the London Conference on Organized Crime in SEE (November 2002), the Thessaloniki Declaration on Western Balkans (June 2003), the South East European Cooperation Process (SEEC) Joint Campaign to fight organized crime and corruption (May 2004) and the EU Presidency Statement on Western Balkans (December 2004).

The initiative is contributing to the overall objective of the Stability Pact's activities on Justice and Home Affairs to promote national reforms among the countries of the South Eastern Europe through regional cooperation and closer international links.

Although important reforms have been taken, further reforms and enhanced capacity building efforts are needed in JHA areas, including police training and regional law enforcement cooperation. Progress can be expected only with a clear and firm political commitment from governments, a commitment that is a condition of the internationally – financed technical assistance programmes.

At present, the Police Forum initiative has developed the following projects: Regional Police Training modules for senior police officers, Organized Crime Training Network for operational managers (organized crime units), the Stolen car project, the Antidrug networking and the Border checking points project.

#### Regional Police Training

Police Forum has been the framework of implementation for the specialized police training modules. The experience that Association of European Police Colleges (AEPC) has gained in the EU accession process has been used at the regional level with the SEE countries. The initially planned three-year period for the modules is very close to its end. From the 14 themes agreed within the Working Group (see annex) 12 have been already implemented by AEPC.

For the other two modules:

Finland and the Netherlands agreed to finance the "Forging Documents" module. Portugal and the Netherlands offered trainers and SECI Regional Centre for Combating Transborder Crime has offered to host the module in June.

The module "Maintaining Public Order" could be implemented in the second half of this year at the Regional Gendarmerie School in Bucharest. AEPC and the WT III Secretariat are trying to agree with France and the Netherlands to sponsor it. France, Belgium and the Netherlands have already agreed to make available specialised trainers

#### Organized Crime Training Network for operational managers

The project started at the end of the last year. A group of Local Contact Persons, appointed within each Organized Crime Unit from the SEE countries, has been trained on the details of the project within one week in Vienna.

A Slovenian Project Manager has been appointed and the curricula for the training modules will be developed, taking into consideration the needs expressed by the regional partners. The Members of the OCTN Steering Committee approved the Project Document. The Stability Pact has been affiliated as Member of the Steering Committee. Each of the Donor countries (Norway, Switzerland and United Kingdom) and the Stability Pact has one seat within the committee.

The trainings within OCTN will respect the agreed "roaming principle", having the same "students" three times one week in three different countries of the region. In each week a different OC topic will be addressed. There will be two-three weeks breaks between the one-week modules, when the "students" will be asked to prepare a "homework" study. We agreed that asking the hosting country to provide with local police trainers and/or experts from the organized crime units to speak on specific case studies, for one-two days, would enhance the regional ownership.

The donor group has remained open to other donors.

#### Stolen cars

The Police Forum Working Group has considered that it is a very important subject and it has been treated accordingly in our activities. As follow-up to the last November conference and continuing our efforts to avoid duplications and overlappings, a coordination meeting was organized at the end of January, at the SECI Centre, with Europol and Interpol. The idea of this ad-hoc Working Group has been very appreciated by all the involved parties and we have in mind to extend it to other areas, like drugs.

#### Antidrug networking

This activity initiated under the auspices of the Police Forum has as main objectives the following areas recommended by the SEE partners themselves:

Legislation to be adopted according to the EU acquis. Regional and international support is ready to be provided.

Internal inter-agency cooperation should be developed.

International cooperation through Interpol must be enhanced.

Stability Pact will ensure the complementarities with the European Commission's assistance programs in this area.

#### Border checking points project

The I 24/7 system, developed by Interpol, has been appreciated by specialists as the most reliable system ever developed. Extending it to the borders (main checking points) has been identified as the next priority, on short term, in our fight against OC and terrorism. The idea complements the European Commission's CARDS program to strengthen the Interpol's National Central Bureaus. The Interpol's experts are ready to implement the project as soon as funds would be available.

### Module Training in 2001 and 2002

<b>Module Training</b>	<b>Providing Countries</b>	<b>Place of Implementation</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Financier</b>
Trafficking in Human Beings	United Kingdom The Netherlands	Valbandon, Croatia	19-23 November 2001	Norway
Illegal Immigration	Austria Germany	Valbandon, Croatia	26-30 November 2001	Norway
Trafficking in Drugs	Finland Norway Sweden	Sarajevo, The Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina	8-12 April 2002	Finland
Police Management	Finland Normay Sweden	Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska	15-19 April 2002	Finland
Policing a Multicultural Society	United Kingdom The Netherlands	Sofia, Bulgaria	24-28 June 2002	Norway
Trafficking in Light Weapons & Small Arms	Ireland Northern Ireland	Sofia, Bulgaria	23-27 September 2002	Norway
Dealing with Extreme Phenomena	Austria Germany The Netherlands	Belgrade, Serbia & Montenegro	11-15 November 2002	Germany

### Module Training in 2003

<b>Module Training</b>	<b>Providing Countries</b>	<b>Place of Implementation</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Financier</b>
Methods of Technical Crime Investigation	Finland Sweden	Zagreb, Croatia	5-9 May 2003	Finland
Police Ethics	Austria Germany The Netherlands	Valbandon, Croatia	16-20 June 2003	Norway
Training Methods	Estonia Finland The Netherlands	Valbandon, Croatia	15-19 September 2003	Finland
Financial Crime & Money Laundering	UK The Netherlands	Ohrid, Macedonia	24-28 November 2003	Austria / Finland

### Module Training in 2004

Smuggling Stolen Vehicles	Finland, Germany, Norway	Moldova	3-7 May 2004	Norway
<b>Forging Documents</b>	<b>Portugal, the Netherlands</b>	<b>SECI Centre (Bucharest)</b>	<b>6-10 June</b>	<b>Finland, the Netherlands</b>
<b>Maintaining Public Order</b>	<b>France, Belgium, the Netherlands</b>	<b>Regional Gendarmerie Academy (Bucharest)</b>	<b>To be determined</b>	<b>To be determined (France?, the Netherlands?)</b>