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EUROPE  
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“THE ROLE OF POLICING IN SECURING STABILITY AND SECURITY IN SOUTH  
EASTERN EUROPE”

1. As representative of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, I will focus on the role of policing in SEE; AND I will present some lessons learnt, also paying attention to our co-operation with the OSCE.

2. Of course, the police are a part of the security sector as a whole; together with other state organs, such as the public prosecutor, the judiciary and the border services, responsible for domestic security; and together with the armed forces, intelligence and diplomatic services responsible for international security issues. These state services and the ministries of Interior, Justice, Defence and Foreign Affairs share a common responsibility for the security of citizens.

The point is, obviously, that the police are an integral part of the security architecture, and its functions, specific tasks and reform processes are to be managed and reformed together with the security sector as a whole.

First lesson learnt in SEE (and elsewhere) is that police management and police reform should be part of overall security sector management and SSR in general. Democratic overview and governance is of the essence for all parts of the security sector.

Practical Implications: an integrated national strategy is needed, with co-ordinating mechanisms AND with a culture of collegial, cross-sectoral co-operation.

Such a strategy, by definition, should also have a strong international component, with effective co-operation mechanisms. And we have such mechanisms; UN, NATO, EU, OSCE and others in SEE: the SP initiatives, such as the Police Forum and our defence related initiatives.

3. In SEE, in Brussels, in Vienna, and in places like Geneva, experts agree that SSR is a crucial precondition for political and social-economic reform and for progress in general. Politicians are also accepting that SSR is not just another woolly universe of discourse, stuff for seminars and confusion. The EU, last month, has adopted a common policy framework for Security Sector Reform, which will guide the actions of the Union under the three pillars and should also guide the actions of the member states, all in their relations with third countries, in particular in post- conflict situations.

4. Now back to policing in SEE, and back to lessons learnt. Combating organised crime, definitely, is a subject where police, border police, public prosecutors, the judiciary, foreign policy and intelligence operatives AND their international colleagues and associated international mechanisms ALL are and should be involved, and ..... need to co-ordinate there activities.

At the political level the fight against organised Crime in SEE has become a priority in the EU accession process; from the 2002 London Declaration on Fighting organised crime and corruption, through the 2003 Thessaloniki summit declaration, and through numerous ministerial conferences and declarations ever since.



At the operational level we now have a number of instruments:

- The SEE Police Convention, creating a framework for bilateral or SEE – wide follow-up agreements on cross-border police co-operation, bringing that more in line with European practices.
- The SECI Centre for police co-operation on a daily basis; the SP is supporting the centre with the legal expertise of the experts at the SPOC secretariat.
- SEEPAC, a practical network of public prosecutors, to complement the law enforcement mechanism, which is the SECI center.
- SEPCA, the SEE chiefs of Police Association.

Please note; each of these mechanisms is mirroring comparable EU institutions.

5.Lesson Learnt: Regional SEE co-operation and SEE co-operation mechanisms continue to need EU and international support;

- Political Support
- Policy Guidance regarding EU requirements
- Practical and expert support
- Financial support

But: present EU support quite often is weak and ambivalent, as the EU accession logic is country oriented and has difficulty both to Promote and to Reward Regional Co-operation as such.

Also: International support may undermine Regional ownership and leadership, weakening rather than strengthening local ownership.

How to respond to these challenges?

Stability Pact's strategy: We need to build and support coalitions at the level of practitioners to follow-up the political agenda.

- We need to build functional, thematic networks of law enforcement, prosecutors, legislation to combat trafficking in human beings, drugs, weapons, stolen vehicle crime etc.

Because: the political priority requires effective implementation and Results asap &

- Cross-border co-operation is indispensable for effectively combating international organised crime.

6.What about the OSCE Role?

The OSCE should give sufficient attention to the (sub) Regional perspective, and establish OSCE mechanisms to ensure that its field missions operate accordingly and support and participate in relevant regional mechanisms.

The OSCE already is doing so in some cases, such as SEESAC and the OHRID integrated border management process.

The OSCE should increase their involvement and support for such regional co-operation mechanisms as SECI, SEEPAC, SEPCA and the SEE Police convention.

Thank you for your attention.