

INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION

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Abstract

Modern states have created a society based on freedom, security and justice, respecting relevant international legal texts drawn up for this purpose, such as the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and on Fundamental Freedoms. The current-modern society is characterized by an elation of criminal activities and particularly of organized crime as also and of terrorism which international character, proves that for illegal activities there are no borders.

Modern criminals' businessmen trivialize and corrupt legitimate economies, societies and the state law through transnational criminal markets and by forming international illegal trade alliances.

It is responsibility of all governments for their citizens' benefit, to undertake effective measures in order to combat crime and its causes, with full respect on individuals' fundamental rights, including personal data protection. Recognizing the important role that effective information exchange and close cooperation between the law enforcement agencies play in order to prevent and combat all forms of crime and serious crime, including terrorism, has been promoted the international law enforcement cooperation with the establishment of International and European organizations.

Keywords: Interpol, europol, eurojust, epctf, frontex, selek, law enforcement agencies (leas), international organized crime, terrorism, European Union (EU).

Introduction

Combating of organized crime and terrorism, occupies modern societies with particular intensity in recent years. The latter make hard efforts especially after the terrorist attacks that have taken place in the U.S. in 2001 and in Europe (Madrid 2004, London 2005) in order to enhance at the utmost their internal security.

Organized crime (Korontzis T. 2012 'c'), (Korontzis T. 2012 'd') (Korontzis T. 2012 'g'), (Korontzis T. 2012 'f'), (Korontzis T. 2012 'h'), today given the fact of the financial economic globalization and the increased transnational flows has taken international dimensions.

The increase in international contacts, due to the fact that the distances because of the technology have been reduced, has led to the internationalization of criminal activities which are highly profitable. This led among other initiatives to the signed of the Palermo Convention in December 2000 by approximately of 120 countries. The above convention is referred against transnational organized crime.

The development of international police cooperation is one of the ways that international community uses in order to deal systematically and methodically with organized crime and terrorism. International police cooperation is developing in three fields:

- a. - With the establishment of international organizations by the States, which are used as instruments of effective and immediate cooperation in judicial and police cooperation,
- b.- With the development of common legislative frameworks and security policies and

c. – with the development of bilateral cooperation between States in order to combat more effectively the international border crime.

Particularly European Union (EU), was the place where were grown - implemented, the major policies related to international police cooperation. European organizations were established with main task the effectively prosecution of international organized crime and terrorism at judicial and police cooperation level. This followed the establishment of Interpol, which marked the start of international police cooperation.

Particularly EU develops police cooperation involving all the competent authorities from the Member States (MS), including police, customs, coast guard, border police etc (Law Enforcement Agencies–LEAs), agencies that are specialist in the prevention or detection of the criminal activities as also on their investigation.

For these purposes, European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, may establish measures concerning:

- (a) Collection, storage, processing, analysis and exchange of relevant information;
- (b) Support for staff training as also the cooperation on the personnel exchange, equipment, and forensic search and
- (c) Common investigative techniques in relation to the detection of serious organized crime forms [Article 87 TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, C 83/473, 30-03-2010, p. 83].

The purpose of this summary study is to present the main international and European organizations involved in combating organized crime and terrorism, and more specifically the presentation of the competencies and duties that have been assigned to them. Through this presentation will be determined and the added value they bring to international police cooperation, preventing and combating international criminal activity, especially with their contribution by providing information, analysis and training to national LEAs and their staff. The paper will be completed by citing the conclusions resulting from its development.

International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol)

Interpol is the largest international police organization, within 187 countries cooperate. INTERPOL's Constitution is the main legal document guiding the Organization through the decades of its existence.

The Constitution of the Organization was adopted at the 25th session of the General Assembly (June 1956, Vienna) and came into force on 13 June 1956. Prior to this, a series of less uniform statutes had served as the legal basis of the Organization since its foundation in 1923.

The Constitution outlines INTERPOL's aims and objectives, it establishes the mandate of the Organization and guides the way for effective international police cooperation.

The Constitution is divided into 11 parts that outline the key points of the Organization's aims, activities and structure. The part of "General Provisions" represents the core foundations of the Organization, and gives it a particularly broad mandate.

The aims of the Organization are outlined in Article 2. They are, first, to ensure the widest possible cooperation between all criminal police authorities and, second, to establish and develop institutions in order to suppress ordinary law crimes. The mandate given to the Organization is thus rather general and the scope makes it possible to enlarge the Organization's ways of operating according to the needs of different times and situations.

Article 2 further specifies that the international police cooperation is to be conducted within the "spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights", thus laying out the foundation for the Organization's obligation to respect fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals in the course of its actions.

This is complemented by Article 3 of the Constitution, which is sometimes referred to as "the neutrality clause". This Article states that in order to ensure the widest possible

cooperation between the police authorities of its member States, it is strictly forbidden for organization to undertake any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character.

In particular, Article 3 is most commonly used to ensure the legitimate everyday application of the Constitution.

This provides a legal personality to the Agency by providing it the right to enter into cooperation with other organizations or to decide its own budget, and thus makes possible to facilitate cooperation without external innervation.

Interpol provides support to National Central Offices in the areas of drugs, illegal immigration, organized crime, human trafficking, financial crime, terrorism and high technology.

Interpol structure as defined in article 5 of the Constitution is as follows:

General Assembly;

Executive Committee;

General Secretariat;

National Central Bureaus;

Advisers;

Commission for the Control of Files

National Central Bureaus exist in all states and are manned by officers of the competent national enforcement authorities. The National Central Bureaus support nationwide law enforcement authorities with:

-Ensuring direct communication with the competent authorities.

-Databases operation.

-Searches support of relevant law enforcement authorities.

-Staff training of LEAs.

National Central Offices are connected to the Interpol network I-24/7 Interpol [I = Information, 24 = 24 hours a day, 7 = 7 days a week], which operates on a 24 hour basis in order to register information or to search information facilitating investigations of criminal activities that have taken place (Interpol, 2012).

European Police Office (Europol)

European Police Office (Europol) establishment was agreed in the Treaty of the European Union (February 7, 1992) while the relative arrangements were contained in the Convention of establishing the European Police Office ("Europol Convention") [EU 316/27-11 -1995] Article K.3 of the Treaty for the European Union.

By the Council Decision issued on 6 April 2009 [EU L 121/15-05-2009] which came into force from 01.01.2010, the provisions of the convention which were mentioned above were replaced and Europol under this Decision shall be deemed as the successor of Europol as was established by the Europol Convention.

Objective of Europol according to article 3 of the above mentioned decision is: «to support and strengthen action by the competent authorities of the Member States and their mutual cooperation in preventing and combating organised crime, terrorism and other forms of serious crime affecting two or more Member States».

EUROPOL which has legal personality is based in The Hague, Netherlands. It has a staff of approximately 700 officers who hail from 28 MS of the EU. Europol staff is recruited from different LEAs, including police, customs, border police, coast guard and security services. Also Europol is connected with the national units (article 8 of EU decision).

Within Europol's mandate is organized criminal group according to article 4 of the decision (document with No 6204/2/97 ENFOPOL 35 REV 2 issued by EU decision), terrorism and other serious crime as described in the annex of the decision like drugs trafficking, illegal immigration, human trafficking, money-laundering, crimes related to motor

vehicles, swindling, maritime piracy (Korontzis T. 2012 ‘‘b’’) which affect two or more MS, in a way that requires a joint approach by the MS, given the scope, significance and consequences of criminal acts.

At EUROPOL premises are also posted liaison officers from the 28 MS/EU as well as the liaison officers from other countries or organizations with which Europol has signed cooperation agreements (agreements divided into strategic and operational). Their number is about 145 and are entrusted by the national unit to represent its interests within Europol in accordance with national law of the MS which has separated them and the provisions which are applicable to the administration of Europol (articles 9 and 35 of EC decision).

It should be noted that in order to be simplified the exchange of information and intelligence between the LEAs of EU, the Decision - Frame 2006/960/JHA issued on 18 December 2006 has been adopted [EU L 386/29.12.2006].

With this decision MS ensure that the procedures allow them to respond within 8 hours, in urgent requests for information and data relating to the offenses of paragraph 2 of Article 2 of Decision - 2002/584 Framework / JHA [EU L 190, 18-07-2002], where the requested information and data are held in a database directly accessible to LEAs.

In order EUROPOLs work to be supported, at EUROPOL National Units and at the offices of the liaisons officers exists a secure telecommunications infrastructure along with systems on information elaboration - Chapter II of Council Decision - and in Chapter III the rules on information processing are set out. A high protection in the database under an institutional framework that clearly defines the procedures on keeping, sharing and deleting data, ensure that the information managed by EUROPOL and especially all the procedures followed are in line with the provisions of personal data protection.

The main activity of EUROPOL is the supporting of MS in the collection, analysis and distribution of information relating to crime and to coordinate operations. For this purpose, EUROPOL has over 100 information analysts.

MS which are facing a specific criminal phenomenon that affects two or more EU states may request from EUROPOL to open a focal point (FP) in order to support searches in this field. EUROPOL provides assistance for current operations through two Analytical Work Files [(Serious Organized crime (SOC) – Counter terrorism (CT)] in 23 themes (FP) for illegal activities that are included within the circle of its competencies (Korontzis T. 2012 ‘‘i’’).

Important areas of Europol’s staff activity comprise the participation with a support capacity character in Joint Investigation Teams (JIT) (Korontzis T. 2012 ‘‘a’’) with a scope to provide assistance for all activities and exchanging information with all JIT members without participating in coercive measures.

From the above is clear that EUROPOL is a supported European service offering through specific processes expertise to LEAs without actively participating in operational processes but only to analyze operational information.

The supervisory Authority for Europol as is clear from Council decision is the EU Council. This selects the Director and approves together with the European Parliament its budget.

With under a new legal regime governing the responsibilities, tasks and organization, aimed at assisting the forces of law enforcement by member states to combat specific types of crime.

According to article 5 of the EU decision its tasks are:

1. Europol shall have the following principal tasks:

(a) To collect, store, process, analyze and exchange information and intelligence;

(b) To notify the competent authorities of the Member States without delay via the national unit referred to in Article 8 of information concerning them and of any connections identified between criminal offences;

(c) To aid investigations in the Member States, in particular by forwarding all relevant information to the national units;

(d) To ask the competent authorities of the Member States concerned to initiate, conduct or coordinate investigations and to suggest the setting up of joint investigation teams in specific cases;

(e) To provide intelligence and analytical support to Member States in connection with major international events;

(f) To prepare threat assessments, strategic analyses and general situation reports relating to its objective, including organized crime threat assessments.

2. The tasks referred to in paragraph 1 shall include providing support to Member States in their tasks of gathering and analyzing information from the Internet in order to assist in the identification of criminal activities facilitated by or committed using the Internet.

3. Europol shall have the following additional tasks:

(a) To develop specialist knowledge of the investigative procedures of the competent authorities of the Member States and to provide advice on investigations;

(b) To provide strategic intelligence to assist and promote the efficient and effective use of the resources available at national and Union level for operational activities and the support of such activities.

4. Additionally, in the context of its objective under Article 3, Europol may, in accordance with the staffing and budgetary resources at its disposal and within the limits set by the Management Board, assist Member States through support, advice and research in the following areas:

(a) The training of members of their competent authorities, where appropriate in cooperation with the European Police College;

(b) The organization and equipment of those authorities by facilitating the provision of technical support between the Member States;

(c) crime prevention methods;

(d) Technical and forensic methods and analysis, and investigative procedures.

.....
5. Europol shall also act as the Central Office for combating euro counterfeiting in accordance with Council Decision 2005/511/JHA of 12 July 2005 on protecting the euro against counterfeiting, by designating Europol as the Central Office for combating euro counterfeiting (1). Europol may also encourage the coordination of measures carried out in order to fight euro counterfeiting by the competent authorities of the Member States or in the context of joint investigation teams, where appropriate in liaison with Union entities and third States' bodies. Upon request, Europol may financially support investigations of euro counterfeiting.

European Union Justice Cooperation Unit (Eurojust)

Eurojust was established by the Council Decision of 28 February 2002 regarding establishing Eurojust with a view to reinforcing the fight against serious crime [2002/187/JHA, L 63/27].

The objectives of Eurojust according to article 3 of EU decision are:

1. In the context of investigations and prosecutions, concerning two or more Member States, of criminal behavior referred to in Article 4 in relation to serious crime, particularly when it is organized, the objectives of Eurojust shall be:

(a) to stimulate and improve the coordination, between the competent authorities of the Member States, of investigations and prosecutions in the Member States, taking into account

any request emanating from a competent authority of a Member State and any information provided by anybody competent by virtue of provisions adopted within the framework of the Treaties;

(b) to improve cooperation between the competent authorities of the Member States, in particular by facilitating the execution of international mutual legal assistance and the implementation of extradition requests;

(c) to support otherwise the competent authorities of the Member States in order to render their investigations and prosecutions more effective.

2. In accordance with the rules laid down by this Decision and at the request of a Member State's competent authority, Eurojust may also assist investigations and prosecutions concerning only that Member State and a non-Member State where an agreement establishing cooperation pursuant to Article 27(3) has been concluded with the said State or where in a specific case there is an essential interest in providing such assistance.

3. In accordance with the rules laid down by this Decision and at the request either of a Member State's competent authority or of the Commission, Eurojust may also assist investigations and prosecutions concerning only that Member State and the Community.

Its competences according to article 4 of the above mentioned decision are:

1. The general competence of Eurojust shall cover:

(a) The types of crime and the offences in respect of which Europol is at all times competent to act pursuant to Article 2 of the Europol Convention of 26 July 1995;

(b) The following types of crime:

- Computer crime.
- Fraud and corruption and any criminal offence affecting the European Community's financial interests.

- The laundering of the proceeds of crime.

- Environmental crime.

- Participation in a criminal organization within the meaning of Council Joint Action 98/733/JHA of 21 December 1998 on making it a criminal offence to participate in a criminal organization in the Member States of the European Union (1);

(c) Other offences committed together with the types of crime and the offences referred to in points (a) and (b).

2. For types of offences other than those referred to in paragraph 1, Eurojust may in addition, in accordance with its objectives, assist in investigations and prosecutions at the request of a competent authority of a Member State.

In order to accomplish its objectives, Eurojust shall fulfil its tasks according to article 5:

(a) Through one or more of the national members concerned in accordance with Article 6, or (b) as a College in accordance with Article 7:

(i) When so requested by one or more of the national members concerned by a case dealt with by Eurojust, or

(ii) When the case involves investigations or prosecutions which have repercussions at Union level or which might affect Member States other than those directly concerned, or

(iii) When a general question relating to the achievement of its objectives is involved,

or

(iv) When otherwise provided for in this Decision.

Also when Eurojust fulfills its tasks, Eurojust shall indicate whether is acting through one or more of the national members within the meaning of Article 6 or as a College within the meaning of Article 7.

Also may request the establishment of a JIT (Korontzis T. 2012 'a'), as well as its members to enroll in the JIT. Its role in the establishment and successful activation of JIT is crucial. In this case is provided to Eurojust the capability as reveals from its institutional framework but also from its function to call the national competent authorities to establish JIT

when something like that is judged as necessary. In the last Eurojust provides administrative support and co-ordination meetings held at its premises in The Hague, Netherlands.

MS are able to define its national representative to participate in the JIT and in such a case would not represent the Eurojust but the Member State from which it originates. Eurojust has the opportunity to participate as a collective body in JIT defining in this case the member that will represent its interests something provided in Article 9 & 3 2002/187/JHA of 28 February 2002.

Notable as far as concerns JIT is the fact that Eurojust after signing the memorandum of cooperation with the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) for fraud or other crimes affecting the financial interests of the EU, when one of the two organizations involved in JIT for such offenses shall inform the other institution and suggests to the Member State which established JIT to invite respectively and the other organization (Eurojust 2013, 'a'). Relations between Eurojust and Europol are regulated under the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between them (Eurojust 2013, 'b').

European Police Chiefs Task Force (EPCTF)

The establishment of the Police Chiefs Task Force of the EU known as «Police Chiefs Task Force» was the result of the Tampere Council held on 15-16/10/1999 in order to fill gaps and strengthen the overall structure and functional mechanisms of EU internal security.

More specifically in paragraph 44 of Tampere Council foreseen: «The European Council calls for the establishment of a European Police Chiefs operational Task Force to exchange , in co-operation with Europol , experience, best practices and information on current trends in cross-border crime and contribute to the planning of operative actions» and aims primarily in improving operational cooperation in combating cross-border crime between police forces of the MS through sharing experience and guidance of their leaders and in close cooperation with Europol.

This new structure in the area of EU internal security is informal, namely has been integrated into the existing overall structure of the EU Council, having as result its decisions not to bind MS, but remains in their sole discretion to implement the decisions taken on the basis of national law.

However is noted that the unanimous decisions in matters of operational nature items, provide a distinctive and dynamic impetus to the work of European LEAs to combat organized crime. But different laws and police practices of MS create difficulties in the unanimous decision and the implementation of common measures and actions (Bunyan T. 2006).

European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF)

The European Anti-Fraud Office established by Commission Decision of 28 April 1999 (OLAF), (notified under document number SEC (1999) 802, (1999/352/EC, ECSC, Euratom).

The tasks of OLAF mentioned Office according to article 2 of the above EU decision are:

1. The Office shall exercise the Commission's powers to carry out external administrative investigations for the purpose of strengthening the fight against fraud, corruption and any other illegal activity adversely affecting the Community's financial interests, as well as any other act or activity by operators in breach of Community provisions.

The Office shall be responsible for carrying out internal administrative investigations intended:

(a) to combat fraud, corruption and any other illegal activity adversely affecting the Community's financial interests, (b) to investigate serious facts linked to the performance of professional activities which may constitute a breach of obligations by officials and servants

of the Communities likely to lead to disciplinary and, in appropriate cases, criminal proceedings or an analogous breach of obligations by Members of the institutions and bodies, heads of the bodies or members of staff of the institutions and bodies not subject to the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Communities and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the Communities.

The Office shall exercise the Commission's powers as they are defined in the provisions established in the framework of the Treaties, and subject to the limits and conditions laid down therein.

The Office may be entrusted with investigations in other areas by the Commission or by the other institutions or bodies.

2. The Office shall be responsible for providing the Commission's support in cooperating with the Member States in the area of the fight against fraud.

3. The Office shall be responsible for the activity of developing a concept for the fight against fraud as referred to in paragraph 1.

4. The Office shall be responsible for the preparation of legislative and regulatory initiatives of the Commission with the objective of fraud prevention as referred to in paragraph 1.

5. The Office shall be responsible for any other operational activity of the Commission in relation to the fight against fraud as referred to in paragraph 1, and in particular:

- (a) Developing the necessary infrastructure;
- (b) Ensuring the collection and analysis of information;
- (c) Giving technical support, in particular in the area of training, to the other institutions or bodies as well as to the competent national authorities.

6. The Office shall be in direct contact with the police and judicial authorities.

7. The Office represent the Commission, at service level, in relative forums in fields covered by this Article [See also Regulations 1073/1999 (25/5/1999), 1074/1999 (25/5/1999), 2988/1995 (18/12/1995), 2185/1996 (11/11/1996)].

European agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (FRONTEX)

Community policy in the field of the EU external borders aims at an integrated management ensuring a uniform and high level of control and surveillance, which is a necessary corollary to the free movement of persons within the European Union and a fundamental component of an area of freedom, security and justice. To this end, the establishment of common rules on standards and procedures for the control of external borders is foreseen (Korontzis T. 2013) (Korontzis T. 2011 'e').

Taking into account the experiences of the External Borders Practitioners' Common Unit, acting within the Council, a specialized expert body tasked with improving the coordination of operational cooperation between Member States in the field of external border management should therefore be established in the shape of a European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the Agency) [Regulation (EC) No 2007/2004 of 26 October 2004].

For the purpose of fulfilling its mission and to the extent required for the accomplishment of its tasks, the Agency may cooperate with Europol, the competent authorities of third countries and the international organizations competent in matters covered by this Regulation in the framework of working arrangements concluded in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Treaty.

The Agency should facilitate the operational cooperation between MS and third countries in the framework of the external relations policy of the European Union.

It is based in Warsaw (Poland) [Council Decision 2005/358 (26/4/2005)], and its main task which are operationally defined in Regulation (EC) 2007/2004 of 26 October 2004, Regulation (EC) 863/2007 of 11 July 2007 and Regulation (EC) No 1168/2011 of European Parliament and of Council of 25 October 2011].

It should be noted that the RABITs groups' executives may carry weapons, make arrests, etc. presence of local/s law enforcement officials in contrast to Europol staff who do not have any executive responsibility.

Specifically in Article 5 paragraph 6 of Regulation (EC) 863/2007 states that: «While performing their tasks and exercising their powers, members of the teams shall be authorized to use force, including service weapons, ammunition and equipment, with the consent of the home Member State and the host Member State, in the presence of border guards of the host Member State and in accordance with the national law of the host Member State».

The Agency shall perform the following tasks:

- (a) Coordinate operational cooperation between Member States in the field of management of external borders;
- (b) Assist Member States on training of national border guards, including the establishment of common training standards;
- (c) Carry out risk analyses;
- (d) Follow up on the development of research relevant for the control and surveillance of external borders;
- (e) Assist Member States in circumstances requiring increased technical and operational assistance at external borders;
- (f) Provide Member States with the necessary support in organizing joint return operations.
- g) Providing rapid operational assistance for a limited period to a requesting Member [Rapid

Border Intervention Team (RABIT)] in relation to Regulation (EC) 863/2007, Regulation (EU) 1168/2011 (Korontzis, T. 2013), (Korontzis T. 2012 ''g'').

It should be noted that from its establishment till today the organization has undertaken a number of important actions and initiatives such as:

- Realization of joint European activities in the sea borders.
- Establishment of a European Patrol Network.
- The creation of a central registry regarding the available equipment.
- Development of the Rapid Intervention at the borders.
- Training of border guards - preservation of common training standards.

EUROPOL and FRONTEX have signed an agreement to strengthen cooperation among them in particular through the exchange of strategic and technical information, which does not allow data transfer to identify individuals.

European Police College (CEPOL)

The European Police College was established according to the Council Decision 2005/681/JHA of 20 September 2005 establishing the European Police College (CEPOL) and repealing Decision 2000/820/JHA [L256/63, 1-10-2005].

CEPOL contributes in the training of EU MS senior police officers, particularly as regards the knowledge of the national police systems and structures of other MS, Europol and of the cross-border police cooperation in the EU [Decision 2005/681].

Its tasks according to article 7 of the EU decision are:

- (a) Provide training sessions, based on common standards, for senior police officers;
- (b) Contribute to the preparation of harmonized programmes for the training of middle-ranking police officers, middle ranking police officers in the field and police officers in the field with regard to cross-border cooperation between police forces in Europe, and help

set up appropriate advanced training programmes as well as develop and provide training for trainers;

(c) Provide specialist training for police officers playing a key role in combating cross-border crime, with a particular focus on organized crime;

(d) Disseminate best practice and research findings;

(e) Develop and provide training to prepare police forces of the European Union for participation in non-military crisis management;

(f) Develop and provide training for police authorities from the candidate countries, including training for police officers with a key role;

(g) Facilitate relevant exchanges and secondments of police officers in the context of training;

(h) Develop an electronic network to provide back-up for CEPOL in the performance of its duties, ensuring that the necessary security measures are put in place;

(i) Enable the senior police officers of the Member States to acquire relevant language skills.

Duties of the said College could be exercised by Europol. Thereby is saving valuable human and financial resources and training work can be outsourced to a European agency that has the appropriate experience, expertise and personnel for the implementation of such activities.

Additionally Europol with concentration of the main police activities and activities can become the main and the only police organization concerning European police cooperation. An entity that can be example concerning European political and administrative unification of police activities under one administration with political oversight.

Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC)

In Bucharest on 26 May 1999 was signed the "Agreement concerning cooperation in preventing and combating cross-border crime" with the attached annex "Charter organization and operation of the Regional Center of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (Center SECI) to combat cross-border crime".

MS to these agreement, participating States in SECI center, recognizing the value and progress of cooperation, structures and procedures which have been established and developed between police and customs authorities of the countries in the fight against cross-border crime and desiring strengthen this cooperation, on the one hand between them, on the other hand with other international organizations with further view the safety of their citizens, agreed to transform the «SECI Center» in regional international organizations in Southeastern Europe, with name «Center for Law Enforcement in Southeast Europe (SELEK)».

In the context of this cooperative implementation spirit implementation moves and the new Convention «Convention of the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center», signed on 9 December 2009 in Bucharest, with full respect on individuals fundamental rights, including personal data protection and considering EU *acquis* as and other international agreements in the field of law enforcement.

The establishment of an international organization in the sensitive region of Southeast Europe undoubtedly has special significance because provides the possibility of enhancing cooperation on the one hand, between the Parties through the exchange of information between LEAs (police and customs) on the prevention and combat of all crime forms and serious crime, including terrorism, on the other hand with the European Police Office (Europol).

The purpose of SELEC, in the context of cooperation between the competent authorities, is to provide support to the MS and to improve coordination in preventing and combating crime, including serious and organized crime, where the crime involves or appears to involve an element of cross-border activity.

The new convention foresees the following tasks for SELEK according to article 3:

(a) To support investigations and crime prevention activity in Member States and in accordance with this Convention.

(b) To facilitate the exchange of information and criminal intelligence and requests for operational assistance.

(c) To notify and inform the National Focal points of Member States of connections between suspects, criminals or crimes related to the SELEC mandate.

(d) To collect, collate, analyze, process and disseminate information and criminal intelligence.

(e) To provide strategic analysis and to produce threat assessments related to the SELEK objective.

(f) To establish, operate and maintain a computerized information system.

(g) To act as a depository of good practice in law enforcement method and techniques and to promote the same through multi – national training and conferences for the benefit of the Member States.

(h) To undertake other tasks consistent with the objective of this Convention, following a decision by the Council.

SELEC aspires to continue to be the guardian of good practice in law enforcement and provision of information through multinational meetings and conferences with the participation of MS representatives as also and its partners.

On 7 October 2011 SECI Center become SELEC center, while operational and strategic capacities maintained and transferred to the new SELEC. SELEC inherited operational activities, joint searches, meetings and strategic analysis covering the most sensitive border criminal areas in Southeastern Europe.

During this period, the intensive exchange of information through liaison officers and the communication channels of the Center successfully argued the efforts of MS LEAs.

From operational perspective, SELEC retains flexibility and operational efficiencies, with parallel enhancing of analytical capacity with a wider information system and an adequate level of personal data protection in accordance with European standards. The new agreement replaced SECI provides an international legal personality at the Centre and also establishes and maintain cooperation with other relevant international LEAs.

Member States of SELEC are Albania, Bosnia - Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYROM, Hellas, Hungary, Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey.

Conclusion

Interpol is the only international police organization that promotes police cooperation worldwide and exists for decades. It is the communication bridge between 187 states, which represent different police cultures, practices, laws. It is accepted by dozens of states and helps the utmost efforts of the law enforcement authorities in combating organized crime and in dealing with everyday crime.

Europol is a recent European organization contributes to the promotion of European police cooperation. Its purpose is to support and strengthen action by the MS competent authorities and their mutual cooperation in preventing and combating organized crime, terrorism and other forms of serious crime affecting two or more MS. From 01-01-2010 was improved and was simplified the legal framework governing Europol as an EU agency, in order to respond more effectively to the tasks and to the various modern crimes forms.

Europol has not any executive competence. Despite the important steps taken by the Treaty of Maastricht and beyond in the field of internal security at EU level, MS reserves the right to apply national and constitutional framework in this field. For this reason, tasks and activities of Europol have basic coordination - supporting character.

Eurojust is the European organization for judicial cooperation, aimed at better coordination of MS LEAs in investigations and prosecutions carried out by them. Also promotes closer judicial cooperation by MS. It must be noted that the differences in EU legal cultures are many and strong and Eurojust with its presence and its institutional framework defines its function, contribute to the maximum extent possible grade to coordinate investigations and prosecutions for various forms of organized crime and other forms of crime occupying MS.

An important tool in this case constitute JIT which are composed of magistrates and police officials of different States, aim at coordinating investigations into two or more States for serious crimes. These teams represent a decisive step in the consolidation of police and judicial bodies' activities to combat and to prosecute serious crime.

EPCTF has an informal character in EU internal security system and its decisions are not binding. In any case enables to the MS Police Chiefs the opportunity to exchange views and experiences in major crime and to transfer them within their states. Alongside this team could provide advice to EU institutions on police matters and on international general public interest.

Frontex is the most recent European organization. Although surveillance of external borders is competence of MS, Frontex as a body of the EU facilitate and render more effective the application of existing and future measures regarding the management of external borders and in particular on Schengen Code. This is taking place by MS coordinating activities during the implementation of these measures, thereby contributing to an efficient, high and uniform level of control on persons and surveillance of MS external borders.

Also develops border guards from the European Border Guard Teams in MS for joint operations, pilot projects and rapid interventions and provide the necessary assistance for the development and operation of a European border surveillance system and depending the needs to develop a common information sharing environment, including interoperability system. Further strengthen of organization role is congruous with the Union's objective to develop a policy for the gradual introduction of integrated border management concept.

Also is foreseen cooperation of this organization with other EU institutions and especially with Europol with which has signed an agreement for closer cooperation. Its role is crucial to the internal security system as illegal immigration has momentum growing with great pressure on social, economic and political fabric of States.

The European Anti-Fraud Office is an internal organ of EU, in order to strengthen the fight against fraud, corruption and any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests. A needed service especially now that organized crime is transnational. Competences of the European Police College obviously can be exercised by Europol through its Services.

SELEC promotes effective cooperation in the prosecution of organized crime across Balkans borders. Region located between two continents and is one of the main routes used by modern international crime. Consequently, the establishment and operation is essential for strengthening the cooperation of competent bodies in this region.

International police cooperation is the most basic institution to combat crime globally. The international development of organized crime has led to new forms of cooperation through legal texts at multilateral and bilateral level. Combat of organized crime constitutes a priority for all states while it undermines democracy, civil and social rights and freedoms. In this context, the establishment of international, European and peripheral institutions in order to combat transnational organized crime is the only way to protect people and societies.

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