

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

- RCC as the successor and continuator of the Stability Pact is a better structured and organized regional institution having well established and clear statutory defined relations with the EU. RCC is the operational structure of the SEECP and the only permanent SEECP organization. RCC has a key strategic role in regional cooperation, in guiding and monitoring it.
- A possible regional solution and tool to enhance law enforcement judges and prosecutors cooperation consist in further building, completing and improving the existing regional networks such as PCC-SEE, SELEC, SEE Prosecutor's Advisory and the Western Balkans Prosecutors' Network. In this respect the European Commission and RCC strategic objectives coincide:
- IPA-MB Sectoral Plan 2011-2013 on Justice Freedom and Security: *'In order to avoid duplication and unnecessary cost, the best use of existing judicial and law enforcement tools and networks has to be considered instead of creating new ones. Functional, thematic cross border networks of law enforcement authorities shall be reinforced to more effectively combat serious crime and prevent terrorism.'*
- At the SEE regional level, RCC, national judicial authorities, regional and international organizations are jointly implementing **two regional strategic instruments** covering **2011 – 2013**:
  - **RCC Strategy and Work Program** endorsed by SEECP Heads of State and Government in June 2010 in Istanbul.
  - **Regional Strategic Document and its Action Plan** endorsed by the SEECP Ministers of Justice and Interior, in March 2011, in Besci.

- The executive body for the 2 strategic instruments is the SGRS ; composition - representatives of the national judicial and home affairs ministries from SEEC countries, regional and international organizations
- Under the RCC coordination SGRS is mandated
  - To regularly assess the implementation of the Action Plan, and review, update and consolidate regional strategic choices, challenges and priorities.
  - To establish the reporting mechanism on SEE activities and the regional cooperation monitoring tool.
- The goal - to provide a strategic overview of the regional cooperation in South East Europe within justice and home affairs area and to help regional organizations to demonstrate their impact, identify areas that need further improvement and make strategic decisions based on clear indicators.

1. Approve the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism (M&EM) as the regional monitoring tools to assess the level of regional cooperation within justice and home affairs area.

2. Entrust RCC Secretariat to collect, centralize and periodically report on the level of regional cooperation in the justice and home affairs area.

3. The first report is expected in the spring 2012

4. SGRS will function as **working group** to study prerequisites for closer cooperation on police operations, police and prosecution services in criminal investigations, sharing of information on issues affecting the police, prosecution and court services

5. SGRS will function as the **working group** to exchange information and share best practices at the regional level regarding the protection of fundamental rights within JHA and Security priority areas.

6. Establish the **network** of mutual legal assistance contact points in civil law matters;

- Improving the judiciary and prosecutorial cooperation in fighting organised crime and dangerous forms of criminality implies also the establishment of basic **procedural and rule of law** links with the new regional treaty based organizations such as, the South East Europe (SEE) Police Convention and Southeast Europe Law Enforcement Centre for combating trans-border crime - SELEC.
- Under the rule of law, meaning under the prosecutors and courts judicial scrutiny, has to enter the new created network of International Law Enforcement Coordination Units – ILECU's.
- **Mutual** cooperation, mutual recognition, mutual legal assistance and trust
- Use the **existing regional mechanisms and networks** such as: SELEC, South East European Prosecutors Advisory Group (SEEPAG) WB Prosecutor's Network, SEPCA, PCC-SEE Secretariat, ILECU's
- **Direct** contacts and cooperation **institutional and individual**
- Develop **uniform mechanisms of communication procedures, exchange of information and intelligence and to transfer proceedings**
- **E-Justice**
- Diminish the length of the proceedings – **abbreviated criminal proceedings**
- Protection of **personal data and privacy**