



**REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

SPEECH

Minister for Internal Affairs, LL.M Gordana Jankuloska

**Regional Ministerial Conference for
Strengthening of the regional and transnational
cooperation as a precondition for successful fight
against
the organized crime in Southeastern Europe**

**Theme: Transfer of best practices in fight against the
organized crime in Western Balkan, with special
emphasis on the trade in drugs and crime which is
realized with special use of high-technological means**

Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, 28-30 November 2011

Respected colleges ministers,

Respected guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It should never be claimed that everything possible
was done, because we should always try to go, at least a

step forward. In this way, I would sublimate the strategic premise which, I believe, we all share when it comes to the fight against crime, regardless of its form. In that sense, at the very beginning, I would like to emphasize the unambiguous and uncompromising determination of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia in the area of fight against the organized crime, putting special accent on the drugs trafficking, as a high priority, which in continuity, through the Ministry of Internal Affairs, but also through all competent law enforcement institutions, is implemented effectively and practically in that field.

The achieved results, however, impose us a belief that that Republic of Macedonia strengthened itself as regional factor for security, throughout its full commitment in the fight against organized crime.

All achievements in this sphere are result of hard work, maximum invested capacities and resources, whose wide space for action is certainly enabled by the parallel development and the promotion of the mutual direct bilateral and regional cooperation, the establishment of operative police cooperation, the system of efficient and integrated border management, harmonization of the legislation, application of the law – meaning respect and application of the European standards in the area of the internal affairs.

Following the modern application of high-technological methods possessed by those who stand against us, i.e. the organized crime, then our need and obligation to invest continuous and maximum efforts in modernization of the entire chain of cooperation is completely logical, not only for appropriate parity against those standing on the opposite side of the law, but also due to the need to be always step forward, usually acting preventively, thereby preventing the negative consequences on the fundamental human rights and freedoms. Only in this way we can create conditions for more secure, safer and if you like, also healthier future for our next generations.

It is especially important that in this our efforts and fight we have effective support from the European Union and the United States of America.

Speaking from the aspect of acceptance of the modern postulates for efficient dealing with the organized crime, the Ministry for Internal Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia – when it is about the fight against illegal trafficking in drugs – has previously achieved really noticeable results in this field, thus using the international channels of cooperation with the police services of the foreign countries, thus exchanging operative and intelligence information, conducting joint operations and

involving public prosecutors from the countries where the investigations are conducted, thereby implementing and utilizing the bilateral international basis, as well as the membership in the international organizations, agencies and initiatives, as the Office of the European Police EUROPOL, Interpol, the SECI/SELEC Center, and via direct mutual cooperation.

I shall, for instance, emphasize that last year, there were several joint investigations/operations conducted, related to illegal trafficking in drugs, together with countries from the region and wider. I would like to mention the operations conducted in cooperation with the police services of the Great Britain and the Republic of Serbia, coordinated by the SELEC center from Bucharest. In this manner, there was joint operation conducted – controlled delivery of liquid cocaine, by air, on relation Venezuela via London – Great Britain, Belgrade – Republic of Serbia with final destination Skopje – Republic of Macedonia, which resulted in seizure of 1100 milliliters of liquid cocaine, thus criminally charging one person, being Macedonian citizen.

At the end of the last year, in the city of Nis, Republic of Serbia, in cooperation with the Serbian police service competent for fight against drugs, there were 500 kilograms of heroin seized, and throughout

this year in Republic of Macedonia there were 595 kilograms of heroin seized, which resulted in criminal charges against 14 persons in the Republic of Macedonia.

Of the same significance is the joint operation conducted in cooperation with SOCA (British Serious and Organized Crime Agency), also with the American service for fight against drugs DEA, as well as with the police services for fight against drugs of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Greece, whereby an international criminal group, organizing transports of larger amount of cocaine from Bolivia through Greece and Macedonia for Serbia was cut off, thus seizing 169 kilograms narcotic drug cocaine in the middle of this year in Thessaloniki, hidden in a container. According to the documentation, a Bolivian company appears to be a sender of the container and as a recipient of the goods a company from Skopje, data of which are misused by the criminal group members.

Beside the applied modern high-technological standards, both in the perpetration and in the fight against the organized and other type of crime, also not less important are the efforts which are unavoidably to be undertaken in the upgrading of the level of their implementation in domestic and wider regional extent.

With their development we face also with new types of criminal acts and methods for their perpetration.

Since in the past certain type of crimes were perpetrated only by physical contact between the perpetrator and the victim, nowadays, supported by the latest sophisticated methods this manner is bypassed. Certainly, the high-technological manner of perpetrating criminal acts nowadays mostly refers to the computer crime which, we all agree, is rapidly developing around the world and thus not bypassing anyone. In view of this, our mutual regional cooperation, the exchange of experiences and most recent practices in detection of this type of crime is becoming inevitable.

An illustration to this is the operation conducted in the period of February-May this year, where the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia and SECI/SELEC Center performed an international operation, known as "GOLD", where four persons were detained and criminally charged, three Macedonians and a Serbian citizens, for using forged payment cards and buying various goods, mainly gold from jewelries in the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Macedonia and afterwards selling that gold in other shops – jewelries, thus obtaining the required cash.

Namely, we received intelligence by the Serbian police authorities on unknown persons, Macedonian citizens, being part of criminal group, who along with the Serbian citizens perpetrated illegal transactions in more than a few Balkan countries.

We have identified those Macedonian citizens, hence, through the SECI/SELEC Center, a cooperation with the Serbian police services was initiated, a joint international operation started, special investigative measures were implemented against the members of the criminal group on the territories of the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Serbia. Simultaneously, within this operation in the Republic of Macedonia and in the Republic of Serbia the members of the criminal group were detained (two persons were detained on the territory of the Republic of Serbia and two persons in the Republic of Macedonia), whereby, in the Republic of Macedonia during search of the home of one of the criminal group members, we have found and seized a complete workshop for preparation of forged payment cards, as well as previously prepared forged payment cards from different brands (Visa, Master).

Respected,

These examples being pointed out by me, clearly indicate the need, not only for reform, i.e. upgrading the part of internal affairs, as an inevitable and necessary process, which at the same time follows all social processes of integration of our countries, but also to the imperative to which we should strive towards - creation of mutual trust, as basis for successful and fruitful mutual cooperation in the projecting of stable and secure future.

I surely believe that this Conference is a contribution in that direction, especially when it comes to the regional cooperation between the countries from Western Balkan.

Once again I would like to thank You for Your attention.