



**REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË  
MINISTRIA E BRENDSHME**

**Facing the challenges of Organized and Serious Crimes in the Western Balkans.**

Distinguished Excellencies,

It is my pleasure to attend this Regional Conference and present a number of directions of organized crime in Albania and the measures that the Albanian Government has taken to attack and prevent it.

Right from the start I would like to convey to You the sincerest greetings of his Excellence, Mr. Lulzim Basha, Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Albania, who couldn't attend this conference and he assures maximal assistance as the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Albania, in all the common initiatives and efforts of the cooperation in the region and further to combat crime in all its forms.

Albanian Government views that organized crime makes a serious threatening for the security in the country as well as in the region and has defined as priority the fight against all forms of crime, in the domestic aspect and also trans - border organized crime at international level.

Considering the fight against organized crime as a very marginal factor the Albanian Government has undertaken a number of measures to fight organized crime and assuring a full legal framework based on the international acts and the legislation of Albania.

Strengthening of control and surveillance of the state border, through the improvement of the logistic infrastructure, IT and human resources, improvement of policies and procedures for the entrance and stay of foreign citizens in Albania, production of travel biometric documents with high securities and

conclusion of a number of agreements and protocols for the readmission with the countries of the region and third countries, enhancement of international cooperation among structures charged with the prevention of criminal activities via border, fight against corruption, improvement of criminal legislation on the illegal trafficking and contraband of humans, increase of cooperation among services of the border, migration, organized crime etc, are some of the measures undertaken for the elimination of negative effects.

Albania has been involved in the police operations carried out with FRONTEX and SECI center in the fight against illegal migration, trafficking in human resources and contraband. Joint police operations have been carried out against trafficking in human resources and contraband in people with the Greek Police in the southern border of Albania.

Albania is the first country of the Western Balkans that has signed the Agreement of Readmission with the European Community and has closely worked with these countries for its implementation signing Protocols of Implementation for this agreement. Efforts are being done to sign the Agreement of Readmission with the countries of origin of illegal immigrants.

In this framework the below are signed:

Protocol of Readmission with Croatia, Italy and it has been signed the Agreement along with the Protocol with Bosnia,

It should be mentioning, as a very important step, the endorsement of the Memorandum of Understanding a few days ago, between the Federal Ministry of Interior of Austria, Ministry of Interior of Rumania, Ministry of Interior of Slovenia and Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, for the establishment of the International Law Enforcement Coordination Unit.

These are to be signed shortly:

Agreement of Readmission and the Protocol of Implementation with Montenegro, Protocol of Readmission with Slovenia and the important Agreements of cooperation in the fight against organized crime with the Kingdom of Spain, Czech Republic and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the extraordinary session of the Joint Committee of Cooperation of SECI, it is to be approved the text of the Convention of the (SELEC) South Eastern Europe

Law Enforcement  
Centre:

**In the framework of the regional cooperation:**

The Joint Border Crossing Point Muriqan - Sukobine between Albania and Montenegro was inaugurated and commenced its function in May 2009.

Border Police officers of Albania and Montenegro and Border Police Officers of Albania and Macedonia perform joint patrolling.

During the last two years it has been considered as a very important priority the international, regional police cooperation where in addition to liaison officers we emphasize with notably regard the strategic Agreement with Europol and the deepening of contacts with homologous contacts of the region with the western developed countries.

A very important obligation and as challenge of the Albanian Police has been the establishment of the legal infrastructure, in conformity with the performance of the Police and its approximation according to standards of the EU countries.

Improvement of work method and best programming of its activities.

For the implementation of objectives the activity of the Albanian State Police has been concentrated to successfully carry out reforms in various directions where we should mention as the most important:

- Legal framework initiated with the law "for the State Police" followed by other acts as its derivations.
- Structural changes which made possible the reorganization of the Police with the aim to best share work and responsibilities.
- Changes in the work method by aiming to improve services toward the community through application of the philosophy of the Community Policing.
- Reforms in personnel with the aim to evaluate the skillful and qualified persons.
- Improvement of logistic basis and police equipments with the aim to enhance their quality, use of modern means for the control of the territory and identification of events, persons involved in violations and best implementation of duties.

Based on the above mentioned, we have reached positive outcomes in our fight against organized crime and in a short period of time we will maximally reduce negative effects that organized crime brings to the Albanian community as well as we will minimize drug abuse phenomenon, cultivation of light drugs assuring in this way a high level in the control of borders and prevention of illegal trafficking.

Aspirant Member in EU, Albania has undertaken a number of commitments and obligations with the aim at enhancing the fight against organized crime and these obligations show the necessity for Albania to engage herself in enhancement of regional cooperation and relations with neighboring countries in order to promote projects with mutual interest with regard to matters related to the fight against organized crime, illegal migration and trafficking, with notably regard trafficking of human beings, contraband, illegal trafficking in weapons and vehicles etc.

These obligations are a marginal factor for the development of the cooperation between Albania and other countries which is a direct contribution for the regional stability.

The relations between us - the Countries of the region are today based on friendship and mutual trust. I am convinced that our cooperation based on all the agreement and successful operations mentioned above will not only ameliorate the cooperation with our neighbors and fight organized crime in our countries but also give our contributions to the safety in Europe as a whole.

Thank you for your attention!