



**Project: Development of Reliable and Functioning Policing Systems  
and Enhancing of Combating Main Criminal Activities and Police Co-operation  
(CARPO project)**

*Focus: Strengthening police capacities against serious crime in South-eastern Europe*

**High level meeting of Ministers of Interior and Senior Officials from South-eastern  
Europe on the Regional Strategy on Tools against Organised and Economic Crime**  
(Brijuni Island, Croatia, 23 September 2005)

## **BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION**

Countries of South-eastern Europe have made significant progress in recent years in acceding to European and other international instruments, adjusting their criminal legislation, creating specialised institutions on economic crime, money laundering, corruption and organised crime, and adopting policies and strategies in some of these fields.

Considering cross-border and transnational ramifications of organised and economic crime, measures taken at national levels need to be complemented by regional and international strategies. Countries of South-eastern Europe have recognised this and participated in regional initiatives and programmes and organised crime and corruption for some years. However, regional and international dimensions need to be further strengthened. The adoption of a regional strategy on tools against organised and economic crime will thus provide an important added value.

The elaboration of such a strategy is being supported through the CARPO Project of the European Commission and the Council of Europe and covers sectors such as:

- Crime analysis and criminal intelligence
- Financial investigations and confiscation of proceeds of crime
- Special investigative means
- Witness protection
- Co-operation in criminal matters.

The strategies developed for each of these sectors so far, will now need to be merged into a consolidated regional strategy.

The CARPO project has allowed all participating countries from South-eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”), which are member States of the Council of Europe and strive to come closer to the European Union, to define common benchmarks to establish progress made towards the EU *acquis* and Council of Europe standards.

## **OBJECTIVE**

The high level meeting of Ministers of Interior and Senior officials in Brijuni aims at assessing the progress accomplished in the fight against organised crime in South-eastern Europe, as well as to examine the Regional Strategy on Tools against Organised and Economic Crime prepared by national officials under the CARPO

project. This regional strategy will provide for compatible approaches and joint actions in South-eastern Europe and is based on:

- a situation report on organised and economic crime,
- common benchmarks to meet the *acquis* of the European Union and Council of Europe standards against which progress made by each project area can be measured,
- sectoral strategies on crime analysis and criminal intelligence, financial investigations and confiscation of proceeds of crime, special investigative means, witness protection, and co-operation in criminal matters,
- already existing national strategies.

## **SETTING OF THE MEETING**

The meeting will be divided in two parts:

- 22 September: Expert level meeting to finalise the Regional Strategy and the Joint Declaration,
- 23 September: High level meeting of Ministers of Interior and Senior Officials from South-eastern Europe on the Regional Strategy on Tools against Organised and Economic Crime.

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

The high level meeting of Ministers of Interior and Senior officials would lead to an agreement on a comprehensive and legitimate Regional Strategy on Tools against Organised and Economic Crime which will serve as a basis for specific action plans in the participating countries and area. The Ministers of Interior and Senior officials would also have the opportunity to adopt a Joint Declaration.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

Ministers of Interior and Senior officials from central, judiciary and law enforcement authorities responsible for matters related to organised and economic crime from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and UNMIK.

Representatives of the technical working groups from the participating countries and area.

Representatives of the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the project’s consortium partners: Belgium, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, International Organisation for Migration.

Observers: Europol, Eurojust, OSCE Mission to Croatia, SPOC and UNODC.

The total number of expected participants is around 100 persons.

## **FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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