



Adopted and signed on  
23 September 2005  
English

High Level Meeting of Ministers of Interior and of  
Security and Senior Officials of Governments and  
Administrations from South-eastern Europe  
on the Regional Strategy on Tools against Organised  
and Economic Crime

**JOINT DECLARATION**

23 September 2005  
Island of Brijuni, Croatia

***We, the Ministers of Interior, Minister of Security and Senior Officials of the Governments and Administrations from South-eastern Europe:***

Participating in this High Level Meeting of Ministers of Interior, Security and Senior Officials on the Regional Strategy on Tools against Organised and Economic Crime held on Brijuni Island (23 September 2005);

In cooperation with the Council of Europe, the European Commission and other international organisations

***in our official capacity***

*Recalling* the objectives, standards, and obligations of European and other international standards against economic crime, money laundering, corruption, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of persons, and other forms of organised and serious crime;

*Acknowledging* the progress made by our countries and administrations in the adjustment of criminal legislation, and in building and strengthening capacities of specialised criminal justice services to address economic crime, money laundering, corruption, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of persons, and other forms of organised and serious crime;

*Recognising* the pressing need to further improve our legislative and institutional frameworks and enhance our capacities for more effective implementation of legislation;

*Acknowledging* the similarities and differences and the regional character of the challenges we face, while believing that an effective fight against serious crime requires increased and well-functioning regional and international co-operation;

*Building* on the London Statement of November 2002, the Stabilisation and Association Process, and other commitments, efforts, lessons learned and experiences derived from them;

*Reaffirming* our obligation to respect, in our efforts to fight serious crime, the international instruments for the protection of human rights, and in particular the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights;

*Supporting* the findings of the Working Groups and experts within the framework of the joint Council of Europe and European Commission CARPO project;

*Believing* that comprehensive public policy and action against serious crime need to be knowledge-based and rooted in intelligence gathered through a structured framework for systematic collection, analysis, processing of data in accordance with European standards of personal data protection;

*Agreeing* that targeting of proceeds of crime in combating serious crime through financial investigations leading to identification, seizure and confiscation of

the proceeds of crime is an integral part of any comprehensive strategy against serious crime;

*Acknowledging* that if crime, in all its modern forms and variations, is to be adequately tackled, law enforcement needs to employ efficient tools and modern policing strategies in the process of detection, investigation and prosecution, including special investigative means through a comprehensive legal framework and a proper institutional structure with effective control mechanisms and judicial supervision;

*Aware* that an effective system of measures ensuring the protection of witnesses and collaborators of justice before, during and after criminal proceedings is an essential tool for the successful investigation and prosecution of serious crimes as well as being an obligation of the criminal justice system towards witnesses and victims of crime;

*Believing* that serious transnational crime is not a challenge that countries can meet alone and that international and mutual co-operation in criminal matters plays a key role in the general framework of relations between States and jurisdictions both at the European and international level in this respect.

**We endorse**

**the REGIONAL STRATEGY ON TOOLS AGAINST ORGANISED AND ECONOMIC CRIME presented at this meeting**

**and**

**commit ourselves to:**

In accordance with the goals and measures set out in the Strategy,

- improve our legal framework and institutional capacities in the area of crime analysis and criminal intelligence system,
- promote the adoption and implementation in our law enforcement and criminal justice systems of a framework for integrated financial and criminal investigation aimed at confiscation of proceeds from crime,
- continue enhancing our capacities to utilise special investigative means for the detection and investigation of serious criminal offences, while making their use subject to strict principles of legality, proportionality, procedural safeguards and oversight mechanisms,
- continue our efforts to build a comprehensive system for the protection of witnesses, vulnerable victims and collaborators of justice prior, during and after criminal proceedings,
- strengthen our capacities in view of a functional system of regional and international co-operation in criminal matters;

Ensure bilateral and multilateral regional cooperation and the application of lessons learned from the region when implementing the Strategy, while at the same time promote efforts to design solutions tailor-made to respond to the specifics of local concerns;

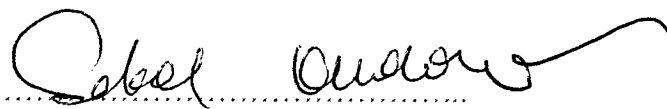
Advocate the additional allocation of budgetary funds to assure the continuation and effective implementation of the goals of the Strategy;

Continue our efforts to support and participate in projects aimed at implementing the goals of the Strategy in a consistent manner;

Review on a regular basis the progress made and in this view, meet again in September 2006 in Sarajevo.

Island of Brijuni, 23 September 2005

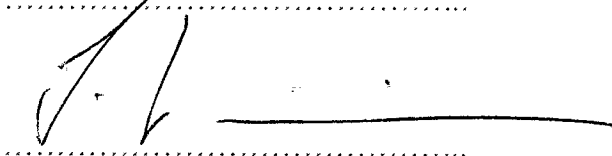
*Mr Sokol OLLDASHI*  
*Minister of Interior*



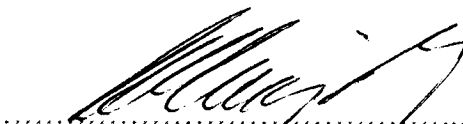
*Mr Barisa ČOLAK*  
*Minister of Security*



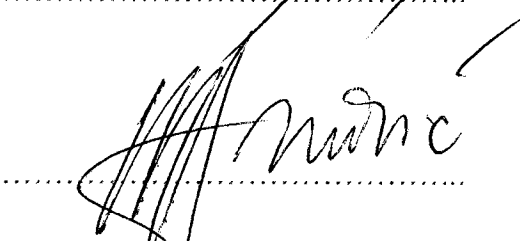
*Mr Ivica KIRIN*  
*Minister of Interior*



*Mr Ljubomir MIHAJLOVSKI*  
*Minister of Interior*



*Mr Dragan DJUROVIĆ*  
*Deputy Prime Minister*  
*Minister of Interior*



*Mr Dragan JOČIĆ*  
*Minister of Interior*



*Mr Jean DUSSOURD*  
*Deputy Special Representative*  
*of the Secretary-General*  
*for Police and Justice*  
*UNMIK*

