

**FOR ENHANCED REGIONAL COOPERATION OF
INTERNAL SECURITY UNITS**

ANNOUNCEMENT

We, the participants in the First regional meeting of Internal Security Units of Ministries of the Interior/Police of neighboring countries, held from October 24 to October 25, 2016 in Sofia/ Bulgaria, Heads of Anti-corruption General Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Republic of Romania, Internal Affairs Division of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction/ Hellenic Police, Internal Affairs Sector of the Ministry of Interior of Republic of Serbia, Sector for Professional Work, Prevention and Integrity of the Ministry of Interior of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Internal Security Directorate of the Ministry of Interior of Republic of Bulgaria, as well as officials responsible for the international cooperation, operational activities and for investigation of crimes and violations committed by employees in the border regions of these countries,

United in the common fight against corruption;

Understanding common challenges of that the Internal Security Authorities of the Balkan countries have to respond and have to deal, caused from the specific geographical situation of the Region;

Analyzing the current problems facing the security bodies and their cross-border specificity;

Convinced that building mutual confidence and regional cooperation mechanisms contribute to more efficient work in the prevention, detection and investigation of corrupt behavior among police and other Ministries of Interior officials;

Considering that effective intersection of illegal actions requires active contact and information exchange between the Ministries of Interior/Police units of neighboring countries;

Acknowledging that an integrated work approach, including forms for enhanced cooperation and information exchange is more effective;

Joining the standards of anti-corruption bodies and police surveillance principles of EPAC;

Recalling the appeals of Paris Declaration 2015, adopted on 15 Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly of the European Partners Against Corruption - EPAC/EACN - for further enhanced cooperation and information exchange between anti-corruption authorities and police supervisors in Europe; and

Accepting that common issues we must solve together;

We took the necessary:

1. Establishing a Network for Enhanced Regional Cooperation of Internal Security Units of Ministries of the Interior/Police of involved countries - NERCISU;
2. Determination a contact point in every NERCISU' country, for active communication link to rapid exchange, by telephone and Internet, the necessary information for Internal Security Units of Ministries of the Interior/Police;
3. Formation of joint working teams of the Network regional countries to implement preventive anti-corruption measures - Integrity Tests;
4. Partnership assistance and support in development and implementation of joint projects;
5. Conducting regular regional meetings at expert level within the Network for Enhanced Regional Cooperation of Internal Security Units of Ministries of the Interior/Police to exchange experiences and best practices, to organize operations by joint teams, to analyze jointly conducted activities etc;
6. Annually implementation a meeting of the Network for Enhanced Regional Cooperation of Internal Security Units of Ministries of the Interior /Police, whose work and decisions to be shared at the annual meeting of the European Partners Against Corruption - EPAC.

25 October 2016,
Sofia

Senior Commissioner Rumen Ganev,
Director of Internal Security Directorate,
Ministry of Interior of Republic of Bulgaria