

October the 21st, 2005
Bucharest

BULLETIN

THE EUROPOL DELEGATION AT THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICE COOPERATION.

Between the 19th and the 21st of October 2005, an EUROPOL delegation headed by Kevin O’Connell, deputy manager, is paying an official visit to Romania.

On this occasion, **today the 21st of October, at the Centre for International Police Cooperation**, the EUROPOL delegation has met with the Questor Mihai Stoica, general manager of this institution.

In the framework of the discussions, subjects referring to the increase of cooperation for countering international crime, mainly through intelligence exchange and periodical contacts between EUROPOL and the Romanian law enforcement authorities were approached.

On this occasion, Mr. Kevin O’Connell has noted the progress made by the Romanian law enforcement authorities, also showing that a successful collaboration such as the one between the Romanian state and EUROPOL is grounded on what he has called “team work”.

The EUROPOL delegation will also discuss today with representatives of the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police, at the headquarters of this structure.

October the 20th, 2005
Bucharest

BULLETIN

EUROPOL DELEGATION IN ROMANIA.

Between the 19th and the 21st of October 2005, a EUROPOL delegation headed by Kevin O’Connell, deputy manager, is paying an official visit to Romania.

On this occasion, **today, the 20th of October 2005**, the EUROPOL delegation has met, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Administration and Interior, the Questor-in-chief Florin Sandu, secretary of state. In the framework of the discussions, the stage of accomplishing the objectives set by concluding, on November 25, 2003, the Agreement pertaining to the Cooperation between Romania and the European Police Office, ratified by the Law no. 197/2004, was analysed.

The today agenda of the visit also includes the participation of Mr. Kevin O'Connell in the training course for countering frauds committed by electronic payment means, organized by EUROPOL in Predeal between the 17th and the 21st of October 2005.

Friday, the 21st of October 2005, the EUROPOL delegation will meet with leadership representatives of the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police and of the International Police Cooperation Centre. The subjects that will be approached refer to the increasing of cooperation for countering international crime, mainly through intelligence exchange and periodical contacts between EUROPOL and the Romanian law enforcement authorities.

**October the 17th, 2005
Bucharest**

BULLETIN

MINISTER VASILE BLAGA HAS MET WITH HIS GREEK COUNTERPART, A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY OF ROMANIA'S ACCESSION TO THE E.U., IN THE GREEK PARLIAMENT.

Minister of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, has met today with his Greek counterpart, Prokopios Pavlouopoulos, a few days before the ratification, by the Greek Parliament, of the treaty of Romania's accession to the European Union, scheduled on the 2nd of November 2005.

One of the main issues approached during this visit has been the Romanian public administration reform, in the context of Romania's accession to the E.U.

The decentralization and the process of getting rid of bureaucracy are the most important challenges for the Romanian administration in the period to come, stated minister Vasile Blaga, within the framework of the talks with his counterpart official. According to Minister Vasile Blaga, the most significant issues of the legislative package regarding the administration reform that will be presented next month to the Parliament in Bucharest, are the getting rid of political interference in administration – a phenomenon that significantly affected the functioning of the Romanian society up to last year, the real decentralization of the administration, as well as the setting up of a simpler and more efficient system of public services delivery to the citizens.

Minister Vasile Blaga presented to the leadership of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization some of the most important objectives that this legislative package is aimed at. In their relations with the administration, the citizens must not face useless and intricate formalities; for getting an approval or a document, "they must go to only one place, only once", and at only one desk. Getting rid of bureaucracy and introducing the e-administration are the strong points of the administrative reform in Greece. As Romania could use the Greek expertise in this domain, the two ministries agreed, in the same context, to sign an agreement memorandum regarding a more strengthened co-operation in the administration issues.

Minister Vasile Blaga has also stated that the new laws of administration will give much more power of decision to the local public administration authorities, especially at the financial level. The Romanian official hopes that, by adopting this measure, a series of shortcomings of the local public administration, which - over the past years - there was transferred competences without being transferred appropriate funds, could be avoided in the future. Given these circumstances, the local administration is made to finance, for example, the health or educational institutions without being given the possibility to get involved in their management, which would provide better services for the citizens.

The Greek Minister, Prokopios Pavlouopoulos, expressed his confidence that the Romania's monitoring Report will be a positive one regarding the progresses recorded in the public administration reform.

**October the 17th, 2005
Bucharest**

BULLETIN

GREECE IS LEGALIZING THE STATUTE OF ROMANIAN CITIZENS WHO ARE WORKING ON THIS STATE'S TERRITORY.

As from this month, Greece will enforce a law that offers to the Romanian citizens who are working in this country the opportunity to legalize their situation. The minister of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, has discussed on the subject of this law and of other migration issues with the Greek minister of Home Affairs, Public Administration and Decentralization, Prokopios Pavlopoulos, in the framework of their today meeting in Athens, where the Romanian minister is paying an official visit. "We want to render normal the foreigners' situation in our country" has stated during the meeting the Greek minister.

According to the estimates of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Public Administration and Decentralization, which is monitoring the situation of illegal migration in Greece, the number of Romanian citizens from this country could be between 50,000 and 100,000, but the figure cannot be accurately set. These Romanians have presently the opportunity to address to the Greek authorities in order to settle their situation, provided they have legally entered (even if on basis of a tourist visa) on the Greek territory before the 1st of January 2005 and they have a place of work.

The Greek authorities are taking this measure four years after their last action of "turning legal the illegal", term used in Greece for this kind of enactments.

During the past two years, over 1,500 Romanian citizens were arrested in Greece for illegal stay, but these figures are considered as relatively normal by the Greek authorities.

The Greek minister of Home Affairs has offered to his Romanian counterpart the Greek support in drafting an immigration law that would be soon necessary, after the accession to the European Union. The Greek minister also said that his country has already experienced the transforming from a country source of immigrants into a destination country and it is expected that Romania would follow the same path. The minister Vasile Blaga has also emphasized the need to manage this phenomenon in due time, especially taking into account the lack of labour force that is already felt in some regions from Romania, as a result of the fact that over two million Romanians are already working in countries such as Spain, Italy or France.

October the 17th, 2005
Bucharest

BULLETIN

THE LAST TWENTY FOUR HOURS OUTCOMES RECORDED BY THE WORKERS WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION AND INTERIOR IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY. In completing their assignments in the field of public order and safety the personnel within the Ministry of Administration and Interior recorded during the last 24 hours 177 events, as follows:

1. THE ROMANIAN POLICE GENERAL INSPECTORATE: recorded **90** offences, out of which **37** of judicial nature and **1** of economic-financial nature. During the specific actions and controls meant to fight against the criminal phenomenon, **55 doers of certain crimes were identified.** The personnel of the Road Police recorded **31** road traffic minor offences; they also recorded **20** road traffic accidents that resulted in **3** deceased and **18** seriously injured persons.

2. THE ROMANIAN GENDARMERIE GENERAL INSPECTORATE: accomplished, during the above-mentioned interval of time, **333** missions for keeping and preserving the public order and applied **207** sanctions for minor offences amounting to over **36,000** RON. At the same time, effectives of gendarmes guarded **1,117** objectives of high interest, as well as pipes for transporting oil products on a total distance of **973** km.

3. THE BORDER POLICE GENERAL INSPECTORATE: there were applied **233** sanctions for minor offences and, independently or in cooperation with other institutions, there were taken over in order to be seized goods amounting to over **985,800** RON. A number of **789** Romanian citizens were not allowed to leave the country and **34** Romanian citizens were sent back from different countries, based on readmission agreements.

4. THE GENERAL INSPECTORATE FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS: intervened in case of **64** events, out of which **26** fires; they also granted first aid in **27** emergency situations.

October the 16th, 2005
Bucharest

PRESS RELEASE

ROMANIA AND GREECE WILL ENHANCE THE COOPERATION RELATIONS IN THE DOMAIN OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

In the period 17-18 of October 2005, the Minister of Administration and Interior will pay an official visit to the Hellenic Republic, upon the invitation of the Greek Minister of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization, Prokopios PAVLOPOULOS. The agenda of this visit will also include talks with the leadership of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization, as well as meetings with the Greek Minister of Public Order and with the secretary general of the Civil Protection of the Hellenic Republic.

The official talks that Mr. Vasile Blaga, Minister of Administration and Interior, will have with Mr. Prokopios PAVLOPOULOS, Minister of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization of the Hellenic Republic, represent a good opportunity for developing an effective exchange of ideas and expertise in the domain of public administration reform, with a special focus on the public services decentralization. At the same time, the sub-regional cooperation in the Black Sea area, within the framework of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (OBSEC), will be one of the most important issues approached by the two ministers.

Within the framework of the scheduled meetings, the Romanian and Greek officials will hold discussions on the project of "Memorandum of Agreement regarding the cooperation in the domain of public administration, management and personnel organisation". This document, issued upon the initiative of the Greek party, mainly aims at developing an appropriate framework, which could enable both Romania and Greece to promote bi-lateral cooperation, in view of improving the effectiveness in the domain of public administration.

According to the memorandum that the two ministers will talk about, Romania and Greece are going to cooperate in the domain of evaluating the efficiency in the public sector, and the Greek party is going to share its expertise gained after the implementation of the CEF (Common Evaluation Framework) System with the Romanian specialists in public administration. At the same time, Romania and Greece are going to cooperate in optimising the quality of public services and in delivering them to the citizens, as well as in developing training programmes for the public servants.

This visit, including the discussions with Mr. George VOULGARAKIS – Minister of Public Order of the Hellenic Republic, will be a good opportunity to evaluate the cooperation developed at the level of the two ministries, in a bi-lateral and multi-lateral framework, as well as to identify some new perspectives of diversifying this cooperation in the future.