

BULLETIN

No. 777, December the 17th, 2006

On the 18th and 19th December 2006, **Mr. Giuliano Amato, Minister of Interior of the Italian Republic**, will pay an official visit to Romania, upon the invitation of **Mr. Vasile Blaga, Minister of Administration and Interior**.

The high-level bilateral politic contacts of the Italian dignitary with the Romanian authorities will start at the Inaugural Conference of the Aspen Institute - Romania that the two Ministers Vasile Blaga and Giuliano Amato are going to attend.

This visit is a consequence of the both Romanian and Italian home ministers' interest in capitalizing on the significant existing potential of bilateral co-operation in the internal affairs domain, an essential component of the comprehensive process meant to strengthen the strategic partnership between Romania and the Republic of Italy.

The dialogue between Minister Vasile Blaga and Minister Giuliano Amato will mainly focus on the following issues:

- the dimension of the Romanian-Italian relationships after Romania's joining the EU, on January the 1st, 2007;
- the Romanian community in Italy and the Italian one in Romania, considering the new opportunities implied by the relationships between two EU Member States;
- strengthening the bilateral police co-operation in the area of countering the criminal phenomenon in Romania and Italy;
- co-operating in the field of fighting against illegal migration and trafficking in human beings, as well as in the area of border management;
- co-operating in the public administration area.

Another issue on the visit agenda will be the signing, by the two ministers, of a **Co-operation Protocol**, which will regulate the co-operation on expanding the specific actions meant to strengthen the border surveillance and control, considering Romania's E.U. accession on January the 1st 2007.

At the same time, the Border Police of the two countries will sign, in the presence of the two ministers, the **Agreement on the Co-operation Protocol Enforcement**, which will complete the bilateral framework necessary for carrying out some joint actions, with mixed patrols including representatives of the Romanian and Italian Border Police.

The climax of this visit will be the audience that the President of Romania, Mr. Traian Basescu, is going to grant to the Italian Minister of Interior.

This visit, by its consistency, will give new dimensions to the Romanian-Italian partnership in the home affairs area, which covers a wide range of complex issues in the context of the traditional relationships between Romania and Italy.

BULLETIN

No. 776, the 16th of December, 2006

Romanian – Spanish Common Action Plan for Countering Trans-national Organized Crime

“Romania did not disappoint us”, stated the Spanish Minister of Interior Mr. Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba, referring to the support that Spain granted to our country, during the process of Romania's accession to the European Union.

This statement was delivered in a press conference organized at the headquarters of the Ministry of Administration and Interior, attended by the Spanish and Romanian Ministries of Interior – Mr. Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba and Mr. Vasile Blaga, as well as the Labour Ministries of the two countries – Mr. Jesus Caldera Sanchez Capitan and Mr. Gheorghe Barbu.

The event took place in the context of the ceremony of signing the Spanish-Romanian *Common Action Plan on coordinating and co-operating in view of countering trans-national organized crime*, which includes the main common actions to be organized next year.

On the same occasion, the Romanian and the Spanish officials discussed the control of their own state borders, the Spanish expertise being appreciated as very useful, especially regarding the surveillance of the maritime border.

There have also been approached other issues related to the free movement of labour for the Romanian citizens in Spain after the 1st of January, 2007.

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The press conference – in .mp3 format – is placed on the official website of the Ministry of Administration and Interior – www.mai.gov.ro.

BULLETIN

No. 770, the 15th of December, 2006

**Romanian – Spanish Governmental Meeting
at the Ministry of Administration and Interior**

A Spanish delegation, consisting in the Minister of Interior, Mr. Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba, the Minister of Work and Social Affairs, Mr. Jesus Caldera Sanchez Capitan, and the State Secretary for the European Union, Mr. Alberto Navarro, will be in Romania on Saturday, in order to have a session of official discussions with the representatives of the Romanian Government.

The Spanish officials' dialogue partners, during the above-mentioned discussions, will be the Minister of Administration and Interior, Mr. Vasile Blaga, the Minister of Work, Social Solidarity and Family, Mr. Gheorghe Barbu, and the Minister of European Integration, Mrs. Anca Boagiu.

The discussions will take place at the Ministry of Administration and Interior headquarters and will focus on current issues of interest, concerning the relationships between Romania and Spain.

On the same occasion, the Minister of Administration and Interior, Mr. Vasile Blaga, and his Spanish homologue, Mr. Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba, will sign a Romanian – Spanish Common Action Plan, in the field of coordinating and collaborating with the view to fight against trans-national organized crime, covering the main common activities planned to be carried out next year.

No. 764

Bucharest, December 12th, 2006

The first objective of the Border Security Integrated System (SISF) has been reached

As soon as the IT Backup Subsystem is installed, the first significant objective of the Integrated Border Security System (SISF) is achieved. The IT Backup Subsystem represents the basic IT infrastructure for the entire border security system which will be used for all applications needed to secure the borders according to the EU requirements.

By putting this system into use, as well as by supplying the personnel deficit within Romanian Border Police, the Ministry of Administration and Interior has fulfilled its tasks concerning the proper level of control and surveillance of the future EU border.

The objective of the IT Backup Subsystem (IT BU) is to provide the necessary infrastructure for the information exchange among Romanian Border Police units (by implementing integrated services of voice and data), which will allow the fulfilling of the basic objectives of the state border security program.

The IT Backup Subsystem will provide the necessary support for the access, from each location of the Romanian Border Police, to the central data bases and to the already implemented WEB applications, which belong to the Ministry of Administration and Interior, and also to some other agencies having border attributions, such as Visa Online, Computerized Person Registration, other IT applications.

Therefore, for each location of the Romanian Border Police, a specific IT, Communication and Information Security equipment kit is provided: LAN/WAN components (router, switch); voice communication switch boxes (PABXs); information security equipment (Firewall, IDS, VPN, antivirus); IT equipment (servers, work stations, peripherals); network management equipment (hardware and software); auxiliary equipment (UPS, rack, etc).

The locations are inter-connected with the superior hierarchical echelon by means of a Private Virtual Network. This network incorporates elements of security.

Explanatory Context Information:

The Integrated Border Security System is a complex system destined to combat trans-border criminality, being characterized by a multitude of interconnected elements and information channels, within itself and outside, being able to perform interactions and reverse connections, to maintain its balance and to adjust itself.

This system, the first one of this kind in the world, can reach its fundamental objective – securing the Romanian State Border, and also a part of the Eastern flank of the North Atlantic Alliance, and, in the future, a significant part of the European Union Eastern Border.

The contract concluded between MoAI and EADS in August 2004 was amended in 2005. It stipulates that the whole system will have been built up by the end of 2012.

It is projected in accordance with the European Union requirements, this being a necessary condition for Romania to become a Schengen State, later on.

The Agreement stipulated that, first of all, the IT infrastructure must be installed in all locations, so that Bucharest, the Capital of the country, can communicate with all border cross points.

As for the implementation of the IT Backup Subsystem, the Romanian Minister of Administration and Interior, Mr. Vasile Blaga, said: *“The Integrated Romanian Border Security System will be one of the most competitive systems used by the European Union Member States. I deeply believe that the final product will help Romanian authorities to provide protection for the over 490 million of present and future European citizens”*.

Hervé Guillou, CEO of EADS Defence and Communications Systems, pointed out: *“We are proud to deliver the first important milestone for the border security system. Thanks to the resilient cooperation between the MoAI and EADS, this basic IT infrastructure was installed on time. The state-of-the-art border security technologies integrated and delivered by EADS will strengthen the national security of Romania as well as the security of the EU.”*

In order to implement SISF, the Ministry of Administration and Interior has spend 65.5 million Euros by now, 36 million Euros being the legal down payment, according to the contract provisions.

The costs for the IT Backup Subsystem are estimated to approximately 18.2 million Euros.

In the springtime of 2007, in accordance with the MAI-EADS contract, other five technical projects for various subsystems will be ready, and in the summertime, the last one of the FDA (First Detailed Appendix).

The Integrated Border Security System consists in an Information Subsystem and several support subsystems.

The IT Subsystem consists in a series of actions and activities performed by the units having attributions in the field of state border security, related to collecting, selecting, transmitting, analyzing, distributing and storing data and information of interest for preventing and combating crimes against border regime.

The support subsystems are sub-components of the integrated system, inter-connected by cause – effect links. The support subsystems (elements) of the integrated border security system are: Border Surveillance, Border Control, Information Technologies (the basic one and the Backup one), Fixed Communication, Data and Voice Communication, Mobility, Infrastructure (operational locations, radiocommunication pillars etc.), Integrated Logistic Support Subsystem: Human Resources (training the specialists and the end users); Integrated System Maintainance (storage, technical procedures, means, response teams etc.).

SISF's Objectives

- A consolidated security of the Romanian borders and citizens by adopting the integrated border management principles;
- Preventing and combating the cross-border criminality by continuously promoting the participative management;
- Facilitating the legal traffic of persons and goods;
- A high control level at the future EU external borders;
- Fulfilling the conditions of adhesion to the EU;
- Accomplishing the preliminary conditions of Schengen Acquis application (acceding in the area).

Beside the IT Back-up Subsystem, SISF will also contain the following support subsystems:

The **Border Surveillance** subsystem ensures the surveillance of the blue- and green borders by applying sensor technologies as TI- and TV sensors, radar or a combination of both. Sensor information is transmitted to control centres by use of the IT- and Communication System. The green border surveillance is based on mobile platforms as well as fixed positions. The blue border surveillance equipment is stationary located as well as on ships and boats in order to provide a mobile component.

Border Control is a subsystem enabling the end user to verify the authenticity of travel documents, the legality of border transit, the comparison of people's biometrical data, facilitating legal traffic simultaneously with forbidding the transit of the suspect persons and the banned goods to be imported or exported etc.

The IT Subsystem safely manages the data and information (INFOSEC), in real time, when possible. The IT Subsystem is open and scalable, so that it could be developed later on in order to provide the interface with similar national and international systems (neighbor countries, EU Member States, other states).

The communication subsystems **Fixed Communications and Data and Voice Communication** facilitates the data exchanges by utilizing fixed and mobile lines. They must collect and safely circulate the information, in very good efficient and safe conditions.

The Infrastructure Subsystem covers all units facilities, other constructions and pillars necessary to the communication or surveillance subsystems.

The Integrated Logistics Subsystem is a process which, as a consequence of the integrated logistic support analysis, provides the necessary elements for training the human resources who use the integrated border security system, maintains the system in order to identify and properly fix the faults, to prevent the deterioration and to extend its life time. It also includes the documentation, the spare parts, as well as a centralized support system to allow SISF to be 24/24.

SISF integrates existing and new border control and surveillance systems, primarily of the Romanian Border Police, and also the corresponding systems of other Romanian governmental agencies (i.e. Customs, Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, Department of Transportation, Romanian National Police) related to the border security task. Such an Integrated Border Security System will provide the necessary situational awareness for the Romanian government in order to properly react against diverse cross border crimes.

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The IT Backup Subsystem was launched today, December 12, 2006, at the Crossing Border Point Albita – Vaslui County, in the presence of general questor Anghel Andreescu – Secretary of State in MoAI, principal questor Vasile-Gabriel Nita – Deputy Head of the Public Order and Safety Department, principal questor Nelu Pop – General Inspector of the Romanian Border Police, Markus Hellenthal – Head of EADS Department, Catalin-Cedric Ghigea – Director of EADS Romania, as well as in the presence of other officials of the central and local public administration.

BULLETIN

No. 763, the 12th of December 2006

Meeting between Vasile Blaga and Donato Chiarini

The Minister of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, has met today with the new Head of the European Commission Delegation in Bucharest, Donato Chiarini. During the talks held, Minister Vasile Blaga presented before the European official the main elements of the M.A.I. actions to be taken in the period to come, which will continue the reforms carried out in view of the EU accession, over the two past years.

Minister Vasile Blaga stated that the creating of the Integrated Border Security System (SISF) will go on according to the schedule, as right today, at the future outer border of the European Union, in Albita (Iasi County), the **IT subsystem** of SISF - a component of SISF which connects all the crossing border points and all the locations of the border police to the central base of the institution, allowing operational checking and verification activities - is made functional.

At the same time, Minister Blaga informed the Head of the EC Delegation that Romania will realize directly the Schengen Information System (SIS) II, not the One4All SIS - a compromise version offered to the states which joined the European Union in 2004 and which would represent a useless investment to Romania.

Minister Vasile Blaga also stated that Romania wants a most effective administration of the Schengen Facility – funds offered by the European Union starting with 2007, amounting to about 560 million euros, out of which 300 million euros in 2007 only – so that Romania could be prepared to join the Schengen territory in January 2012. The procedure of accessing these funds is already settled, announced the Minister of Administration and Interior.

“We need five years of intensive preparations for meeting the requirements in view of becoming a Schengen Member State”, pointed out Vasile Blaga.

The Minister of Administration and Interior also specified the main goals targeted in the public administration area, i.e. the continuation of the public administration reform, decentralization, preparing the public administration apparatus so as to absorb the European funds, and preparing the public servants’ unique pay system.

During the meeting, Vasile Blaga and Donato Chiarini discussed the issue of trans-border co-operation with the neighbouring countries, Hungary and Bulgaria, considering the fact that starting with January 1, 2007, the procedures of crossing the border of these states will significantly simplify, as the “one-stop” check will be introduced.

BULLETIN
No. 762, the 12th of December 2006

The Ministry of Administration and Interior rendered functional the national system EURODAC

Today, the Ministry of Administration and Interior has rendered functional ***the national component of the European System EURODAC***, by connecting it to the central system in Luxembourg; the European System EURODAC is a network at the level of the whole European Union, specially created for supporting the fight against illegal migration and for preventing the successively submitting of asylum applications in more EU Member States by a same person, Vasile Blaga has announced.

The national system EURODAC was made functional after being tested successfully during a week.

This project, whose accomplishment represents one of the requirements for Romania’s accession to the European Union, amounts to 2.1 million euros and was financed by Phare funds, the Romanian contribution to it being of 25 percent.

The National System EURODAC has more locations situated in the Crossing Border Check Points, on the outer border of the European Union, in the Centers for receiving and accommodating the asylum seekers in Radauti, Timisoara, Galati, Somcuta Mare – Maramures, and in the Centers of public custody for the foreign citizens who illegally reside in Romania.

In parallel, the Ministry of Administration and Interior ensured the modernization of the ***national system AFIS*** (Automated Fingerprint Identification System), so as to be harmonized with the similar systems of the European Union. The modernization of this system will allow an easier identification of the persons who committed different crimes within the territory of the European Union.

What is the EURODAC System?

The EURODAC System is a European fingerprint database set up in 2003, including the fingerprints of all the asylum seekers over 14.

These fingerprints are transmitted in computerized format to the central unit of the European Union, where they are automatically compared with those already included in the database.

This procedure allows the authorities to check whether an asylum seeker entered illegally in the European Union, or whether he/she has already submitted an application to another Member State.

Thus, EURODAC allows the identification of the persons who try to violate the European asylum system and who make a tour of the Member States when one of them rejected their application, and it helps avoid the possibility of burdening the system with useless applications.