

BULLETIN
No. 617, the 22nd of September 2006

The Romanian integrated border security system is in total compliance with the definition that the JHA Council could adopt soon

The Romanian integrated border security system (IBSS), designed by the Ministry of Administration and Interior, totally meets the criteria put forth by the Finnish Presidency of the Justice and Home Affairs Council, debated these days by this organism.

Willing to describe the concept very clearly, Finland - currently holding the Presidency of the European Council - submitted a potential definition of the “*integrated border management*” to the EU home affairs ministries, present today in Tampere (Finland).

The Romanian integrated border security system includes all the elements provided by this definition: border control in compliance with the Schengen Border Code, trans-border crime investigation, internal and international co-operation, as well as the 4-level architecture of the system – measures in third countries, co-operation with neighbouring countries, the border control itself and control measures in the Schengen territory.

The Romanian system, totally founded on these principles, will be one of the most modern systems of the kind around the world. Amounting to approximately 1.3 billion euros, this system will be financed from public funds, Phare funds (which have been or are presently being contracted), as well as from Schengen Facility, estimated to over 500 million euros, available after Romania’s EU accession.

The Ministry of Administration and Interior is represented in the JHA Council reunion - where this debate has been launched - by a delegation led by Minister Vasile Blaga.

This reunion also addressed other issues, such as fight against terrorism, migration management, the development of the second stage of the asylum application process, and countering organized crime. The improvement of the decision making process in the justice and home affairs area is scheduled to be under debate tomorrow.

BULLETIN
No. 614, 19th of September 2006

**Minister Vasile Blaga will participate
in the Informal Reunion of the EU Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs**

The Minister of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, will participate, between September 20 – 22, 2006, in the Informal Reunion of the European Union Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs that takes place in Tampere, Finland.

The conference, being the first meeting organized, at this level, by the Finnish Presidency of the European Council, gathers approximately 60 ministers, as well as the European Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security, Franco Frattini, and several representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the European Parliament, EUROPOL, EUROJUST and FRONTEX.

Choosing the city of Tampere for this event has a special significance for the Finnish Presidency, since the present cooperation framework in the field of Justice and Home Affairs was set up on the occasion of the European Council that took place in 1999, during the former Finnish Presidency.

“The Tampere Program” was continued by “The Hague Program”, started in 2004, having as a main objective the consolidation of the area of freedom, security and justice, for the period between 2005 and 2010.

Assessing this program is a priority for the Finnish Presidency, one of its main goals being the identification of the most important issues that are to be dealt with, in the field of freedom, security and justice.

“It’s high time to report the progress we’ve made and to think about the best way we should follow in order to make new steps towards reaching the ambitions stipulated in the Tampere and the Hague Programs”, shows the letter addressed by the Finnish Minister of Justice and Home Affairs to all guests of this reunion.

BULLETIN
No. 611, 19th of September 2006

Minister Vasile Blaga keeps on taking the necessary steps for convincing Great Britain to lift the visas for the Romanian nationals

Today, the Minister of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, has met with Catherine Ashton, Baroness of Upholland and Undersecretary of State for Constitutional Affairs in the British Government, present in Romania in a documentation visit on the stage of our country's preparedness for the European Union accession.

During the meeting, the Romanian Minister of Administration and Interior showed that the progress achieved by Romania in the fields of border securing and countering illegal migration, as well as the introducing, starting with 2007, of the biometric passports, represent strong reasons which could make Great Britain lift the visas for the Romanian nationals traveling to this country as soon as possible.

"Romania is now one of the safest places in this part of Europe", the Minister of Administration and Interior also underlined.

At the same time, Minister Vasile Blaga stated that Great Britain is by no means threatened by an "invasion" of Romanian workers, taking into consideration that our country is facing nowadays a labor deficit in some regions.

In turn, Catherine Ashton stated that the British authorities appreciate the labor potential of the Romanians in Great Britain. The official referred to the recent media campaign in Great Britain on the issue of the Romanian workers, and said that he regarded it as mainly groundless.

During the same meeting, the two officials held discussions on the co-operation between Romania and Great Britain in the area of justice and home affairs. Minister Vasile Blaga put forth before the British party a series of proposals on the sectors in which this co-operation could be enhanced; he also suggested that he would appreciate Great Britain's support in countering corruption within the Border Police, as well as in training this institution's personnel so that they could get accustomed to working with the modern equipment of the integrated border security system.

September 18, 2006

British support for the implementation of the European Criminal Intelligence Model in Romania

On September the 18th 2006, the Ministry of Administration and Interior in partnership with the British Embassy in Bucharest took the first step in implementing the European Criminal Intelligence Model. The two institutions organised, in Brasov, an informative seminar on this topic, attended by approximately 50 representatives of the MAI, Romanian Police, Border Police as well as by representatives of the British Embassy.

According to a memorandum signed in May this year by the Minister of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, and the secretary of state Kim Howells within the British Foreign Affairs Minister, Romania will implement the European Model by the end of 2007. Great Britain has committed itself to providing support and expertise for the Romanian law enforcement agencies.

After the seminar, a press conference was held, during which the representatives of the central and local mass-media could find out details on the seminar discussions and on the partnership of Britain and Romania for countering organised crime.

Attending the press conference, the Deputy Head of Mission Iain Lindsay said: *"What is particularly pleasing is the clear co-operation at all levels. We share common problems but our colleagues here today from the law enforcements agencies are seeking to find common solutions. I look forward to them continuing this active co-operation when Romania takes its rightful place as a fellow member of the EU."*

At the same time, principal quaestor PhD Vasile Gabriel Nita stated: *"We consider that this work reunion is part of the overall efforts made by our country for aligning with the European institutions, in view of Romania's forthcoming integration to the EU /.../. In a world marked by globalization and information outburst, we believe that the co-operation with international organisms represents a strategic goal to be achieved in fighting crime, and the enforcement of this model - a real opportunity to us."*

The process of the European Model implementation implies a series of stages to be developed during about one year and a half, and it includes seminars, training courses, debates and legislative trainings.

Notes for editors:

1. The European Criminal Intelligence Model is a model for the police activity. It represents the base for the concept of "Intelligence-Led Policing" and is functional at the level of all the law enforcement agencies in Great Britain as an excellence model. The implementation and the using of this model in Great Britain is supported by the British Police Heads Association.

2. The concern about this model has been one of the Great Britain's priorities in the field of Justice and Home Affairs during the British EU Presidency (July-December 2005).