

January the 13th, 2006
Bucharest

BULLETIN

ROMANIA AND BULGARIA PREPARE TO BECOME EUROPOL MEMBER-STATES

Tri-lateral meeting Romania – Europol – Bulgaria organised in Ruse.

On Sunday, January 15, 2006, in Ruse – Bulgaria, leading members of the Ministry of Administration and Interior will meet representatives of the counterpart institutions from Bulgaria and officials of EUROPOL, for discussing the **Project of EUROPOL (European Police Office) Enlargement** regarding the two EU acceding countries.

The tri-lateral discussions will be developed over four days (January 15-18) and will focus on 7 high-interest domains, namely: operations, human resources, the legal field, the financial field, the data integrity, security and facilities, and IT&C.

The Romanian delegation will be led by **the national leader of the Project**, questor Corneliu Alexandru – the general director of the General Directorate for E.U. Accession and International Relations from the Ministry of Administration and Interior – and will include managers and experts assigned for the specific domains that are to be approached.

The project team also includes questor Eugen Corciu - deputy general inspector of the Romanian Police General Inspectorate, as the manager of the Operations domain, questor Mihai Gheorghe Stoica - the Head of the International Police Co-operation Centre, and the Head of the National EUROPOL Unit - sub-commissioner Mihai Nastase.

The organisation of this work session demonstrates the special attention paid by the European Police Centre, Romania and Bulgaria, to the process of assimilating and enforcing the best practices in the domain of the police co-operation, as well as to the management of the specific activities, in compliance with the EUROPOL Methodology.

BACKGROUND ACTIVITIES

The National EUROPOL Unit was set up within the framework of a twinning convention developed in 2005, between January the 1st and July the 22nd, and after Romania signed, on the 25th of November 2003, the Agreement regarding the co-operation between Romania and the European Police Office – EUROPOL.

Becoming operational on the 1st of July, 2005, this unit ensures the data and information exchange regarding financial crimes (credit cards, money forgery, frauds), trafficking in drugs and human beings, smuggling, murders/raping, propriety-related serious infringements, trafficking in nuclear and radioactive materials, environment-related crimes, theft and terrorism, with a special focus on the criminal groups involved.

The co-operation through the N.E.U. also regards the information exchange in view of verifying, supplementing and capitalising on the specialty knowledge, the reports on the general situation, investigation procedures, methods of criminal phenomenon prevention, consultancy and support in individual investigations, as effectively as possible.

For Romania, this first reunion represents an obvious continuation, considering the responsibilities implied by the signing - on the 25th of November 2003 - of the **Agreement regarding the co-operation between Romania and the European Police Office – EUROPOL**, a legal instrument which regulates the collaboration with EUROPOL, up to the moment when the EUROPOL Convention will enter into force, following Romania's accession to the above-mentioned agreement.

Bucharest, January the 13th 2006

BULLETIN

THE CITIZENS OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE REGARDED AS SAFE ARE NOT GOING TO BE GRANTED ASYLUM IN THE EUROPEAN UNION ANYMORE

The home affairs ministers of the European Union Member-States, gathered in Vienna within the framework of the informal European Council of Justice and Home Affairs, have discussed today the possibility of setting a common asylum procedure at the European level, in view of ensuring a better control of illegal migration phenomenon. Among the proposals analysed, there were the setting up of a common system of sending the migrants back to their origin countries, on plane, as well as the setting up of a European asylum agency, which to ensure the co-ordination of the European states' policies regarding this domain.

The home affairs ministries also analysed the proposition to draw up a list with the countries which are regarded as safe, so that their citizens should not be granted asylum in any of the EU Member-States. This list is a necessary one as, for the moment, there are not any common standards regarding the granting of asylum in the EU Member-States.

At the same time, the home affairs ministers expressed their concern regarding the great number of the people who abusively require asylum in the EU states, their actual reasons being some economic-related ones.

The Minister of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, present at the informal ministerial reunion of the JHA Council in Vienna, has appreciated that Romania has to prepare in due time for being able to effectively deal with the issue of illegal migration and asylum.

Vasile Blaga has underscored that our country does not represent anymore a major migration-source country, which is also acknowledged by the western countries within the framework of the diplomatic contracts developed lately – but it is expected that, once becoming an EU Member-State, Romania will turn into a transit-country, and even into a destination-country for the illegal migration.

Romania could become an attractive country for other states' citizens who look for a job, especially as the infrastructure investment projects will require important human resources and, because of the great number of the Romanian citizens working abroad, our country faces a work-force shortage.

Bucharest, January the 12th 2006

BULLETIN

**THE MINISTER OF ADMINISTRATION AND INTERIOR
IS PARTICIPATING IN THE INFORMAL MINISTERIAL REUNION OF THE EUROPEAN
UNION IN THE DOMAIN OF JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS**

Between the 12 and 14 of January, the Minister of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, is participating in the informal ministerial reunion of the European Union in the domain of Justice and Home Affairs, which will take place in Vienna (Austria).

On this meeting's agenda there are issues such as the management of asylum and migration, the internal security architecture and the future of the EUROPOL Bureau, as well as the implementation of the Strategy regarding the external dimension of JHA, issues of high interest to Romania in the context of our country's future accession to the European Union on the 1st of January 2007.

At the same time, the delegation led by Minister Vasile Blaga will take part in bi-lateral meetings with the delegations of the counterpart ministries of the EU Member-States, in view of ensuring a high awareness on the progresses recorded by Romania last year, as well as for discussing some important questions of common interest.

This is the first reunion of this kind that has been organised since the beginning of this year, when Austria took over the presidency of the European Union Council.

Among the priorities of the Austrian presidency in the domain of Justice and Home Affairs there are the following issues: the fight against organised crime and corruption – including the development of a European network of countering corruption, the countering of terrorism, the implementation of the Schengen Agreement (removing the border controls at the borders between the states that last accessed the Schengen area and the Schengen states, when the quality standards of security are fully maintained), as well as the creating of a management integrated European system in the field of crisis and hazard situations.

**January the 11th, 2006
Bucharest**

BULLETIN

ROMANIA AIMS AT BECOMING A SCHENGEN STATE BY 2010.

Romania aims at becoming a Schengen state by 2010, three years after its accession to the European Union, the minister of Administration and Interior - Vasile Blaga has announced today, within the framework of a meeting with a delegation of the Deputies Assembly of France. The minister of Administration and Interior assured the French deputies in Bucharest that the border modernizing programme is being developed in compliance with the deadlines established, no delay having been recorded so far, and that Romania will shortly have one of the most effective border securing systems, especially after the successful renegotiations with EADS.

“Beginning with 2007, the Romanian border will be the border of the European Union, and we want this frontier to be a secure one”, stated the minister of Administration and Interior, who underscored that the outer border of Romania will represent a quarter of the total outer border of the European Union, as it is about 2,000 km-long.

The head of the French delegation, Deputy Herve de Charette, President of the Commission of Foreign Affairs of the Deputy Assembly and former minister of foreign affairs of France, assured Minister Vasile

Blaga that France is looking forward to Romania's EU accession as much as our country is. Herve de Charette has stated that the French Parliament will undoubtedly ratify in due time the treaty of Romania's accession to the European Union.

The French official has also stated that the members of the delegation were impressed by both the Romanian institutions and politicians, that do their best to accomplish all the commitments made over the EU accession process. **"We know that this process represents a real challenge"**, Herve de Charette also stated.