

***THE FINAL CONCLUSIONS IN THE CASE OF THE HELICOPTER CRASH
HAPPENED IN DECEMBER 2006***

The commission that the Minister of Administration and Interior order to be created, in view of verifying the conditions that led to the helicopter crash on 23 December 2006, in which helicopter EC 135, NR 328 of the Special Unit of Aviation within MAI was involved, finalized the investigations, and drew the conclusion that the accident was caused by the bad meteorological conditions.

The investigation in this case started on 23 December 2006, and the commission included MAI specialists in the airborne area, and in forensic science as well.

According to the commission report, the accident was caused by **the helicopter's entering into a mass of cloudy air which reduced visibility to zero in all directions**, this fact making the crew raise the helicopter and try to move over the highest altitude of the zone. During the ascending spiral flight, the crew did not have the technical possibility to avoid the collision with the fir-trees on the mountain, and so they forced the helicopter's landing.

The meteorological conditions at the helicopter's landing in Targu Mures (visibility between 5 and 8 km, a totally covered sky, and the lower limit of the cloud layer – 300-900 m) allowed the carrying out of the mission in good conditions. In Reghin as well as in Bistrita Nasaud, according to the monitoring reports, the meteorological conditions remained good for flying, but the weather changed instantly in the zone of the accident, where there was zero visibility according to the latest weather news at that time, the lower limit of the cloudy layer (stratus clouds with misty air) being also zero.

The investigations in this case were carried out by **two sub-commissions**, on technical issues and on the respecting of the flight procedures, which concluded that the **airborne vehicle functioned normally, presenting no flaws able to affect the flight security, and that the flight procedures were accomplished** by the crew members.

After the crash, the airborne vehicle was totally destroyed.

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On 23 December 2006, the helicopter of the Special Unit of Aviation flew to Vatra Dornei, with the mission to save a person who was going to be transported to Targu Mures, for a surgery. Around 13.20 p.m., the helicopter executed forced landing in the area of Pasul Tihuta, Bistrita Nasaud County.

Aboard the helicopter there were two pilots of the Special Unit of Aviation within MAI, a doctor and a nurse of SMURD Mures. The crew members survived, as they were only slightly injured.

**THE FIRST ROMANIAN CITIZEN SEIZED
ON THE GROUNDS OF THE EUROPEAN ARREST WARRANT**

Officers of the International Police Cooperation Center – National Bureau of Interpol carried out the first handing over on grounds of a European arrest warrant, today, 9th of February, 2007.

The Romanian citizen being handed over is a female, aged 20, who was accomplice to the assassination of a Dutch citizen. The Dutch police took over the suspect from Henri Coanda International Airport in order to investigate her, under preventive arrest, in Holland.

On the 25th of November, 2006, the Dutch Police found the corpse of a male, aged approx. 35, which had been stabbed to death and thrown away to a swamp.

The investigations carried out by the Dutch authorities resulted into the fact that the suspect persons were two Romanian citizens who had left Holland, after a short period of time, for Spain.

The main suspect was located by the Spanish Police and handed over to the Dutch judiciary authorities on the 27th of December, 2006. As a result of the investigations and on the basis of the evidence found, the suspect was put under arrest for committing homicide.

Two weeks before the above mentioned arrest, a European arrest warrant was issued on the name of his accomplice who was to be investigated and brought to justice. Therefore, the Dutch authorities requested the International Police Cooperation Center - National Bureau of Interpol to arrest her in order to be handed over.

For their crime, the two Romanians could face a life sentence in prison.

The perpetrators' identification was possible due to the information exchange between the Dutch authorities and the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police / the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, with the support of the Dutch liaison officer accredited in Bucharest.

Also today, on the basis of a Legal Sentence issued by the Galati Court of Appeal, the Romanian citizen F. Iulian, aged 22, was extradited to the Italian authorities and taken over by an Italian police escort.

The Romanian citizen was the object of a temporary arrest warrant, being put under international surveillance by the Italian authorities since October last year for committing the crimes of instigating to prostitution and trafficking in human beings. He promised well paid jobs in Italy to several young women, some of them being under-aged, from Galati County. Instead of that, the victims were sold or forced to prostitute themselves.

The citizen's previous crimes were known: theft, robbery and rape, committed between 2000 – 2002, this information being transmitted via National Bureau of Interpol in Bucharest to the Italian Police.

When the individual was handed over, officers from the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police – the Directorate of Police Penal Prosecution and representatives of the National Bureau of Interpol were present.

BULLETIN

No. 66, the 8th of February 2007

Romanian-Jordanian Co-operation in the home affairs area

Within the framework of the co-operation activity developed between Romania and Jordan in the home affairs field, the Director of the Public Security Department from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Mr. General-Lieutenant Mohammad Majed AL-EITAN, is paying an official visit to Romania between 8 and 11 February 2007, upon the invitation of the general questor Anghel ANDREESCU, Secretary of State within MAI.

The Jordanian guest will be accompanied in Bucharest by officials within the Jordanian authorities responsible for preventive security, in police and road traffic matters. The presence in Romania of the Jordanian Head of the Public Security Department marks the re-launching of the bilateral Romanian-Jordanian co-operation in the internal affairs field, in view of capitalizing on the co-operation potential of the two countries.

The visit agenda includes a round of consultations between the two official delegations, meetings of the Jordanian guest with officials of the Presidency, of the Romanian Intelligence Service, as well as with representatives within the specialised units of the Ministry of Administration and Interior.

The official discussions between the two delegations will be focused on bi-lateral issues, on applying more effectively the Romanian-Jordanian Agreement in operation, on countering organised crime, trafficking in drugs and terrorism, the talks being expected to focus on effective methods of combating illegal migration and of securing borders.

BULLETIN

No. 61, the 7th of February 2007

MAI requested the extension of the Reflex Project

The Ministry of Administration and Interior, Vasile Blaga, requested from the British Minister for European Affairs, Geoff Hoon, the extension of the Reflex Project developed between Romania and Great Britain, which is going to be finalised in March 2007.

This project focuses on the co-operation between the law enforcement agencies of the two states in view of countering trafficking in human beings, and it has represented the main instrument used against illegal migration between Romania and Great Britain.

During the meeting held on Tuesday, March 6, 2007, at the headquarters of MAI, the Minister of Administration and Interior presented before the British official the special attention that Romania has paid to the fight against trafficking in human beings, including by establishing the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons – unit which is running within MAI.

At the same time, the Romanian official stated that, for rendering this Agency functional at national level, other 7 regional centres for trafficking victims' assistance will be set up, beside the 8 centres of this kind which are functional at the moment. These centres will be established in those localities where Courts of Appeal are currently functioning.

So far, the Reflex Project has led to the investigation of 211 cases, in which 587 persons were involved, out of whom 563 were Romanians.

BULLETIN

No. 60, the 6th of February 2007

Campaign against Trafficking in Human Beings in Great Britain

5,000 posters and 350,000 brochures will be disseminated in Romania, mainly via the units of the Ministry of Administration and Interior, but also via the NGOs, schools, churches and other partners, in the context of a campaign for preventing trafficking in human beings in Great Britain, launched today at the headquarters of the Ministry of Administration and Interior by the Minister of European Affairs from Great Britain Mr. Geoff HOON and the Minister of Administration and Interior Mr. Vasile BLAGA.

This campaign, which aims at the wide public, including the possible victims, wants to raise awareness of the threat of trafficking for sexual exploitation purposes, especially in the case of women and children, by offering information on trafficking in person, in general, and on trafficking in Great Britain, in special.

It has to be mentioned that the **National Agency against Trafficking in Persons within MAI (ANITP)** will participate in the development of this campaign as a partner, along with the International Organisation for Migration – the initiator of this project –, including by the freephone line 0800800678 that ANITP provides.

“The purpose of this project is to disseminate information on preventing trafficking in human beings towards Great Britain, to improve the HelpLine service existing within the Agency, as well as to create new opportunities of co-operation between the two specialised agencies of our country”, stated Minister Blaga within the framework of the press conference that took place on the occasion of the British official's visit to M.A.I.

The launch of the campaign was preceded by discussions between the two ministers, who addressed issues regarding especially the Romanian labour movement on the British market, the development of the bilateral police co-operation programmes, the necessity to strengthen co-operation for preventing and combating trafficking in drugs and human beings, illegal migration and trans-national organised crimes.