

BULLETIN
No. 552, October the 5th, 2007

On Monday, October 8th, the Cultural Centre of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform will host the launching conference on the **PHARE Projects “Adopting the concept of intelligence led policing in the field of organised crime” and “Schengen Acquis Approximation”**.

The event will be attended by numerous high officials within the German diplomatic mission in Bucharest, within the European Commission Representation and the leaders of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform, such as: H.E. Mr. **Roland LOHKAMP**, extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bucharest, Mr. **Jürgen WERNER**, official representative of the German Federal Ministry of Interior, Mr. **Peter NATH**, German Project Leader, Mr. **Martin TUFFNER** and Mr. **Hans-Dieter HILKEN**, Resident Twinning Advisers; H.E. ambassador **Donato CHIARINI**, Head of the EU Commission Representative in Bucharest; General Quaestor **Anghel ANDREESCU**, Secretary of State, Head of the Public Order and Safety Department, Senior Quaestor **Corneliu ALEXANDRU**, General Director of the General Directorate of European Affairs and International Relations, Romanian Project Leader; Quaestor **Eugen CORCIU**, Deputy Head of the General Inspector of Romanian Police.

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Info-background

Between October 2007 and October 2008, The Bundeskriminalamt from the Federal Republic of Germany will grant Romania assistance for two Phare 2006 twinning projects: “*Adopting the concept of intelligence led policing in the field of organised crime*” and “*Schengen Acquis Approximation*”.

The first project, **PHARE 2006 RO2006/IB/JH/06** - “*Adopting the concept of intelligence led policing in the field of organised crime*” is aimed at continuing the development of the Central Intelligence Analysis Unit, a structure within the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police, as well as enhancing the quality of the data gathering process, in the field of organised crime. At the same time, this project has in view setting out methods of inter-agency cooperation, in the field of intelligence analysis.

The project, which is due to be carried out over a 12-month period and has a total budget of 928,519.94 Euro, is divided into three main components as follows:

- Enhancing the capacity of the Central Intelligence Analysis Unit to sustain and coordinate the processes of data gathering, processing and analysis;
- Enhancing the quality of the data gathered, as well as diminishing the possible risks tied to this activity;
- Enhancing the inter-institutional cooperation between the law enforcement agencies, in view of making efficient the exchange of information at a national level, from the perspective of a Member State.

The second project, **PHARE 2006 RO2006/IB/JH/01** - “*Schengen Acquis Approximation*” is targeted at harmonising the Romanian legislation with the best practices in the field, through bringing to functional standards the future SIRENE National Office, in view of ensuring an efficient control at the EU external borders, along with implementing the Schengen Information System II (SIS II).

This project benefits from a total Budget of 616,134.73 Euro for the following 12 months of implementation and is divided into three major components:

- Legislative compliance;
- Rendering operational the SIRENE Office;
- Trans-border police cooperation.

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The press is invited to take part in this event, on Monday, **the 8th of October 2007**, starting **09.00h**, at the Cultural Centre of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform – the Nichita Stănescu Hall.

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No. 549, October the 3rd, 2007

On the 3rd and 4th of October 2007, the 7th Ministerial Conference on illegal migration, organised crime, corruption and terrorism is being held in Brdo, the Republic of Slovenia. This event is organised annually by the Slovenian Ministry of Interior and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior, and M.I.R.A. is represented this year by a ministerial delegation, led by secretary of state Marin Patuleanu.

The agenda of this Ministerial Conference includes a series of questions of interest for the states participating in the Brdo Process, namely Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey and Hungary, issues also discussed at European level.

The heads of the national delegations from the states participating in the Brdo Process, together with high officials invited at this reunion, will exchange ideas and points of view regarding the following issues: *effective management of the migration flows in the context of the implementation of the Global Approach of Migration in the South-Eastern Europe; types of migration in the South-Eastern Europe; the evaluation of the threats caused by organised crime in the Western Balkans region.*

This reunion has a special significance, as this event draws the attention of the participants in the Brdo Process to elements of European interest, such as the Western Balkans question, in this way a new approach regarding the interconnection of the regional initiatives on the South-Eastern European area being developed.

Therefore, there will be outlined the general principles for the future development of some common actions and increased cooperation relationships between the countries participating in the Brdo Process, the member-states of the European Union, on the one side, and the Western Balkans, on the other side, *in order to enhance the level of security and stability in the region, as well as to support the Western Balkans countries in adopting and implementing effectively the European standards and good practices in the area of justice and home affairs.*

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No. 548, October the 3rd, 2007

On the 4th of October 2007, at the premises of the Permanent Representation of Romania at the European Union – Brussels, the Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of Island on the readmission of the two countries' own nationals and foreigners will be signed during a ceremonial event.

On behalf of the Romanian party the document will be signed by HE Ambassador Lazar Comanescu, and on behalf of Island - by HE Ambassador of Island at the EU Kjartan Johannsson.

By the signing of this legal instrument of bi-lateral cooperation, the relevant governmental authorities from Romania and Island will be able to collaborate in the areas of countering illegal migration and the facilitating, based on reciprocity, of the readmission of the persons which enter or reside illegally within the territory of the two partner states.

As an institution with attributions in this area, the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform will be assigned the responsibility to enforce, by its specialised units, the provisions of this document.

BULLETIN

No. 547, January the 3rd, 2007

EUROPOL Enlargement Ceremony

On the 3rd and 4th of October 2007, a delegation within the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform, led by General Quaestor Anghel ANDREESCU, Secretary of State, will be in Hague, the Netherlands, for participating in the Europol enlargement ceremony.

Romanian's accession to the European Union did not imply the gaining of the Europol membership. This status was gained as a consequence of our country's meeting the requirements provided by the Europol Enlargement Project, developed during 2005-2006 at the level of M.I.R.A.

The Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform respected the deadline of 31st December 2006 set for the finalization of this project; therefore the celebration of Romania and Bulgaria's joining the Europol represents an important moment to our country and implies a high level of responsibility for us.

The Europol Convention entered into force on the 1st of August 2007, at the same time with the adoption and publication in the Official Journal of the European Union of the Decision of the EU Council regarding the Romania and Bulgaria's joining the Europol.

Info-background

The Agreement on the cooperation between Romania and the European Police Office was signed in Bucharest on 25 November 2003. The signing of this Agreement represents the consequence of the efforts made by the Romanian party so as the police activities could reach the European level, and a kind of recognition of the police's successful results. The Agreement was ratified by the Law No. 197/25.05.2004, published in the Off. G. No. 498/02.06.2004.

For preparing the participation in Europol, the National Focal Point (PNF) becomes the beneficiary of the Twinning Convention for Project RO/03/IB/JH/06 on "The Setting up of the National Europol Unit", having the Netherlands and Austria as partners. The setting up of National Europol Office in Romania aimed to align the Romanian Police's institutional and operational capacity with the European Union standards, as well as to implement the best practices in the areas of police cooperation and countering organised crime.

On the 10 December 2004, the official opening of the *Romanian Liaison Office at Europol* took place, and on 22 June 2005 the Phare Twinning Project on "*The Setting up of the National Europol Unit*" officially concluded.

Romania was granted the status of observer in the Board Council of Europol, starting May 2005.

Europol is the organisation in charge with the law enforcement within the European Union and with the management of the intelligence referring to crimes. Its objective is to enhance the effectiveness of and the cooperation between the relevant authorities from the member states with regard to preventing and countering serious international crimes and terrorism.

BULLETIN **No. 546, the 1st of October 2007**

On the 1st of October 2007, in the context of the Informal JHA Council from Lisbon, minister of interior and administrative reform Cristian DAVID had a bi-lateral meeting with Ms Guusje ter HORST, minister of interior and national relationships from the Netherlands.

The two officials signed the Agreement between the Romanian Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform and the Ministry of Interior and National Relationships from the Netherlands and the Ministry of Justice from the Netherlands for amending the *Memorandum of Agreement between the Romanian Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform and the Ministry of Interior and National Relationships from the Netherlands and the Ministry of Justice from the Netherlands in the area of home affairs*, concluded in Hague on the 21st of April 2004. This represents a stage of expansion of the bilateral legal framework necessary for developing the specific co-operation between the Romanian organisms and the Dutch ones, with attributions in the fields of law enforcement, crime prevention and raising the training level of police, at national and European level.

The Memorandum of Agreement in the area of internal affairs refers to a 5-year period of time.

At the same time, the two officials evaluated the cooperation specific to the Romanian and Dutch institutions with attributions in the internal affairs field, developed within bilateral, multilateral and regional framework, and identified some new opportunities for developing and diversifying this collaboration in the future.

This meeting has a special significance in the evolution of the Romanian-Dutch cooperation relationship in the area of internal affairs, underlining the two parties' willingness to continue the existing specific collaboration, with a special focus on the bilateral activities.