

BULLETIN
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Between 26 and 28 September 2007, in Brasov, the Romanian Intelligence Service and the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform organised *The 2nd Reunion of the Heads of the Counter-terrorism Units Participant in the Brdo Process*.

This reunion was attended by representatives of the relevant institutions with attributions in the counter-terrorism area from Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, FYROM, Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey and Slovenia.

The topics of the meeting – that is the radicalization as a component of the internationalisation of the phenomenon regarding the abusive interpretation of the Islam, financing of the extremist-terrorist groups and the internet utilising by terrorist organisations and terrorism-related entities – were approached so as to help identify the causes that the global terrorist activity proliferation bases on.

The participants agreed that it is very important that all the Brdo Process states take common action and cooperate, and set some programmatic objectives for preventing and countering the above-mentioned elements.

The conclusions reached at the end of the reunion referred to the following aspects:

- The methods of promoting an alternative discourse for legitimating the moderate Muslim communities which can combat the radical discourse;
- Reaching a common cooperation approach by the state authorities and the private sector in preventing and countering the financing of the terrorist activity;
- Identifying the way in which the member states approach the monitoring of the internet and the countering of those activities related to the radical ideologies proliferation via the internet, without threatening the freedom of expression or violating privacy.

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Simulation of an action of dismantling some organised crime and terrorism groups

A terrorist cell, having the support of some persons involved in human trafficking, plans to strike a NATO meeting taking place in Burgas – Bulgaria, by consecutive attacks with weapons of mass-destruction. This is the scenario of the Integrated Exercise of Weapons of Mass-Destruction (WMD) Counterproliferation in the Black Sea Region, which is being developed these days (between 24 and 28 September 2007) at the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Police Academy. This exercise is part of the International Counterproliferation Program, organised and developed by the Defence Threat Reduction Agency, within the Department of Defence of the U.S.A. and it represents the climax of a two-year training activity.

This exercise is executed by Romania, Moldova, Georgia and Bulgaria, as well as by the Regional SECI Centre and it tests the control/ command abilities, the communications as well as the informational flow, and the operational capacities of all the participant countries, with a special focus on co-operation for countering the weapons of mass-destruction.

The activity is also attended by units of MIRA and by institutions with attributions in this field, such as: Operational Management General Directorate, the General Directorate for European Affairs and International Relations, Romanian Police (DCCOA, SIAS etc.), the Romanian Border Police (SASI), General Inspectorate for Risk Situations, the Romanian Intelligence Service, DIICOT, the National Agency for Export Control, the National Commission for Nuclear Activity Control and the National Customs' Authority.

The scenario overview:

A terrorist cell recruited some persons involved in organised crime activities in the Black Sea Region, in order to acquire the materials necessary to conduct more attacks. The materials, which were stolen from an installation in Georgia, are transported in Romania, where those persons meet the representative of the terrorist group, for exchanging materials and money. The plan involves trafficking in weapons of mass-destruction, as well as other types of trafficking (in drugs, persons etc.).

Warnings and intelligence about on-going criminal and terrorist activities within the territory of the four countries, Romania, Georgia, Bulgaria and Moldova, cause great concern regarding a possible terrorist attack. The threat of an imminent attack makes every country activate their own national command centre, so that coordinated international counterterrorist efforts could be obtained. The Romanian, Georgian, Moldovan and Bulgarian authorities conduct joint actions for arresting the people involved and for gathering evidence in a field exercise. The analysis of the evidence collected and of the intelligence received during the exercise leads to the disclosure of the criminals' plans.

The main objectives of the exercise:

Analyzing the information exchange capacities, of the policies and cooperation agreements between the participant countries; recognizing and identifying the potential terrorist movements and other criminal activities in the Black Sea Region; testing the operational capacities in a dangerous environment utilizing detection devices and protection equipment; testing the participant countries' capacity of identifying, collecting and presenting evidence which can be used in an on-going investigation or in a trial.

Back-ground information:

The Mission of the International Counterproliferation Program (ICP) within the Department of Defense (DoD) of the USA is to counter the threat of proliferation of the WMD materials and technologies through the borders and within the territories of the states in the Eastern Europe and the Baltic zone. For carrying out this mission, the ICP program ensures a series of training sessions and different equipment for the police and border security force of the participant states.

The ICP program was designed for providing the participant countries with an increased effectiveness of their response to the incidents involving weapons of mass-destruction, according to the mandate granted by the legislation in operation. The Defense Threat Reduction Agency, as the exclusive agent of the ICP program, ensures the training and equipment for strengthening the border security and police forces of these states, in the area of counterproliferating the WMD.