

BULLETIN
No. 21, the 10th of January 2008

**The common declaration of Romania and Bulgaria
on the accession to the Schengen area**

In the context of the bilateral relationships developed with Bulgaria in the Schengen domain, yesterday, 9 January 2008, a delegation of MIAR led by principal quaestor PhD Vasile Gabriel NIȚĂ, Secretary of State, Head of the Schengen Department was hosted by the Bulgarian Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Mr. Goran Yonov in Sofia.

During this meeting, the two officials agreed on the text of the *Common Declaration of Bulgaria and Romania on the accession to the Schengen area*. By this document, which is going to be signed by the interior ministers of the two countries, and submitted to the Secretariat General of the EU Council on the occasion of the JHA Council in Brno to be held on 24-25 January 2008, *Romania and Bulgaria both commit themselves to joining the Schengen area in 2011*, agreeing at the same time to take all the necessary steps in close co-operation.

In the context of the increasing development of the bi-lateral relationship in the Schengen area, the two officials also discussed about the co-operation relationship between the component units of the two ministries, as well as about the development of some common projects in the future.

BULLETIN
No. 20, the 10th of January 2008

35 years since the Interpol National Bureau of Romania was created

On the 10th January 2008, the Interpol National Bureau (INB) of Romania celebrated, at the headquarters of the International Police Cooperation Centre, its 35th anniversary. During all these years Romanian police have been contributing to the increase in the international cooperation and to the promoting of the Interpol standards in the relationships they developed with the other member states, following Romania's re-accession to the International Criminal Police Organization – Interpol (ICPO-Interpol), at the 42nd Session of the General Reunion – Interpol in Vienna - 1973, when the Interpol National Bureau became the first unit specialized in preventing and countering the crimes specific to trans-border organized criminality.

At the 35th anniversary, the General Director of the International Police Cooperation Centre (IPCC), quaestor Mihai Stoica appreciates that the progresses achieved by the Interpol National Bureau within the IPCC wouldn't have been possible without the passing of some measures referring to the development of the activity in the area of the operative information exchange, the reducing of the response time in solving the received requests, or without the application of some additional measures meant to reveal the exact situation of the trans-border crime produced with the Romanian and foreign citizens' involvement.

“The total operative messages recorded in the database of the INB in 2007 reached an unequalled level”, stated the head of the INB, commissar Catalin Ionescu, on the occasion of the yearly assessment of the IPCC. In this respect, in 2007 - 75,037 items of information were received from the foreign law enforcement agencies (in 2006 – there were 47,365) – a 58% increase in comparison with 2007; during the same period of time, there were also received 13,756 assistance applications (a 25% increase in comparison with 2007); at the same time, the operative messages which were sent recorded a 45% increase, as there were 55,316 messages transmitted to the domestic and foreign correspondents.

In 2007, the INB officers executed the extradition of 881 persons, in this regard being recorded a 96 percent increase in comparison with last year.

This particular activity of extradition materialized in reaching solutions to some special cases, as more outstanding members of the Italian mafia and some criminals internationally wanted for terrorist activity were arrested in Romania and handed over to the foreign authorities.

The Interpol National Bureau adjusted its activity to the new status of Romania as a member state of the European Union, by adopting the application of the European arrest warrant and by placing the Interpol instruments agreed by EU at the disposal of the Romanian authorities, such as the database containing the travel documents stolen at international level – with over 13 million entries.

The results of the Interpol National Bureau in 2007 confirm once more its workers' effectiveness, which contributed to the development of the police partnership with the international organisms in police matters.

“The activity of international police cooperation developed by the Interpol National Bureau – Bucharest is one of the best in Europe”, stated Secretary General of the ICPO-Interpol, on the occasion of the European Regional Conference of Interpol, held between 30 May and 1 June 2007, in Varna, Bulgaria.

At the 35th anniversary of the Interpol National Bureau in Romania, the statement of the Secretary General of Interpol emphasizes the activity of INB and its spectacular evolution during 2007, materialized in an efficient exchange of operative information and messages.

Background Information

The International Criminal Police Organisation (ICPO) is an inter-governmental institution which provides mutual police assistance among its member states for preventing and deterring common law criminality; it does not interfere in political, military, religious or racist issues; it respects the sovereignty and independence of each country; it ensures the police-related intelligence exchange at international level; it identifies the criminals who are internationally wanted, with arrest warrants; it coordinates the activity of surveillance and arrest of the international criminals; it informs the specialised units on the crimes referring to foreign ID document theft, international trafficking in drugs, money forgery, vehicle and art theft etc., for taking the required operative actions. Upon request, it requires information for solving criminal causes.

On 10 January 1973, the **Interpol National Bureau** was created within the Police General Inspectorate, as a central unit of the Romanian Police whose main attribution is ensuring information exchange among the Romanian judicial authorities and the counterpart services of the 186 member states of the ICPO. This bureau is provided with the necessary equipment, so as to receive and transmit the intelligence referring to common law crimes in the shortest time.

After 1990, following the deep political, economic and social changes at global level, the Romanian Police's cooperation with the counterpart authorities of the other Interpol member states and with the Secretariat General of ICPO continuously developed and resulted in a numerous items of operative information.

Presently, the Interpol National Bureau is the central specialised unit within the International Police Cooperation Centre which provides the unitary application of the relevant enactments (laws, Governmental Decisions and Ordinances, Decisions of the National Supreme Defence Council), as well as the ordinances, dispositions, instructions and regulations released and approved by the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform and by the General Director of the International Police Cooperation Centre on the operational police cooperation developed with the national police of the ICPO-Interpol states.

The Interpol National Bureau is the official contact unit within the International Police Cooperation Centre in issues related to operational international police cooperation, judicial information exchange and the international surveillance of the persons wanted at international level, in view of their extradition to Romania.

BULLETIN
No. 17, the 8th of January 2008

In the context of the bilateral relationships developed with Bulgaria in the Schengen domain, today, 8 January 2008, a delegation of MIAR, led by principal quaestor PhD Vasile Gabriel NIȚĂ, Secretary of State, Head of the Schengen Department will be hosted by the Bulgarian Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Mr. Goran Yonov in Sofia.

During this meeting, the two officials will discuss the text of the Common Declaration of Bulgaria and Romania on the accession to the Schengen area, the steps to be taken as well as the calendar referring to this issue.

In the context of the increasing development of the bi-lateral relationship in the Schengen area, the two officials will also discuss the calendar for the future Schengen evaluations for Romania and Bulgaria.