

**BULLETIN**  
*Bucharest, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

January 21- Mr. Liviu Dragnea, was invested as the new Minister of Administration and Interior during an official ceremony that took place at M.A.I premises. He stated that his priorities for this mandate are the acceleration of decentralization and citizens' safety.

**BULLETIN**  
*Bucharest, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

Wednesday, the 14th of January 2008, the Vice Prime-Minister of Romania took over from Mr. Gabriel Oprea, who resigned, the mandate of the Romanian Ministry of Administration and Interior for a definite period of time. Mr. Dan Nica will hold both the mandate of Vice-Prime Minister and the mandate of Minister of Administration and Interior until a new minister will be nominated.

**BULLETIN**  
*No. 11 on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

On January 13, 2009, in Ruse/ Bulgaria, the Romanian and Bulgarian authorities had a bilateral meeting on the jointly organization and coordination of the Schengen Evaluation visits in the areas of police cooperation, personal data protection, visas and the maritime frontiers, which are to be carried out during 2009.

The Romanian delegation was led by Mr. Tiberiu Trifan, the Head of the Schengen Department, and the Bulgarian delegation was represented by Mr. Kalin Slavov, Deputy Minister of the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior.

Being part of a wider cooperation process developed between the two countries with a view to lead to the common objective of joining the Schengen area in March 2011, the yesterday meeting discussed some particular and technical aspects regarding the organization of the "police cooperation" visit scheduled in March 2009, as well as various general aspects referring to the coordination of the other future SchEval visits.

At the same time, within the framework of this meeting there were discussed various issues related to the signing of the Agreement between the Romanian and Bulgarian governments on the trans-border police cooperation in criminal matters, as well as of the Agreement on the turning of the Contact Bureau from Giurgiu into a Contact Centre.

These bilateral documents are extremely important in the context of the Bulgarian-Romanian partnership developed in the area of internal affairs, in adding new dimensions to the existing cooperation in view of the two states' accession to the Schengen area.

During the press conference after this meeting, Mr. Tiberiu Trifan underlined that the joining to the Schengen area in March 2011 represents the top-priority of the two governments, and that the two countries are intensively cooperating for the organization of the Evaluation missions. "*The remaining time to the deadline is quite short but we are confident that, together with our partners, we will succeed in reaching our objective*", Mr. Tiberiu Trifan stated.

**BULLETIN**  
*No. 7 on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

On Friday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2009, the minister of Administration and Interior Gabriel Oprea had a meeting with Mr. Robin Barnett, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Northern Ireland in Romania.

In the context of this meeting there were emphasized the excellent bi-lateral co-operation relationships developed in the area of home affairs between the two competent ministries; also there were briefly reviewed a series of projects and programs jointly developed so far and various cooperation tools were discussed to be used by both parties in the period to come.

Minister Gabriel Oprea mentioned the consistent support that Great Britain has granted to Romania, as a partner and ally within the framework of NATO and EU in some key areas such as: home affairs, defense, judiciary reform, fight against corruption and the effective using of the structural funds of EU.

There was reiterated the MAI leaders' commitment to continue the pragmatic cooperation developed with the British partner authorities, by finalizing the ongoing projects and by launching some common initiatives in the area of administration and interior.

As for the specialized cooperation, the activities of countering corruption within MAI were especially emphasized, as well as the preventing and countering of illegal migration, of the trafficking in human beings and drugs, as well as the corruption in the judiciary system. The Reflex and Trident Projects, and the concept of the European Operational Information Concept, through its guidelines of good practices - applied to the police activities, led to significant performances.

In turn, the British Ambassador highly appreciated the good bi-lateral co-operation developed so far, underlining that new collaboration opportunities have to be identified, according to each type of crime and each location prone to a particular criminal phenomenon.

From this point of view, His Excellency put forward the idea of a Twinning Project related to Constanta Harbor, financed by the European Union, taking into account that the most important European harbors could represent a real target to those willing to develop illegal activities.

Another suggestion referred to the development, in Romania, of a seminar as a follow up of the successful outcomes of the bi-lateral pilot project in the area of the risk situations management, implemented between the Arges County Council and the Hampshire Police Department from Great Britain.

Minister Gabriel Oprea highly appreciated these proposals, considering that MAI would succeed to effectively take action against the criminal phenomena – through its specialized units – only by developing a sustained and harmonized activity.

The minister also appreciated as that one of the top priorities is the reforming and decentralizing of the institution of MAI, including the institutionalizing of the Community Police concept.

The Ambassador of the Great Britain congratulated Mr. Gabriel Oprea on his appointment as the leader of the Romanian Ministry of Administration and Interior, and assured him of his entire support. At the same time, the two ministers expressed their full availability to continue the development of the existing cooperation in the area.