



Annex IV to BS/IM/R(2006)1

JOINT DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR / PUBLIC ORDER OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BSEC) ON STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME, CORRUPTION AND TERRORISM

Bucharest, 24th March 2006

The Ministers of Interior / Public Order and Heads of Delegations of the Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation: The Republic of Albania, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine met in Bucharest with the aim of strengthening the framework for further cooperation and developing coordinated and effective activities for combating crime, in particular in its organized forms as well as corruption and terrorism,

Concerned about the dimension crime, in particular in its organized forms, as well as corruption, have taken in recent years, at a national and international level which affect the internal security and stability of the BSEC Member States,

Conscious of the serious threat that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes to international peace and security, to political, economic and social stability, to the territorial integrity and safety of the States, as well as to the development of friendly and good neighborly relations and bilateral and multilateral cooperation among the BSEC Member States,

Taking into account:

-The Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its organized forms, signed in Kerkyra on October 2nd 1998,

- The Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its organized forms, done in Kiev on 15 March 2002,

- The Additional Protocol on combating terrorism to the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in particular in its organized forms, done in Athens on 3 December 2004,
- The Joint Statements and Declarations of the Ministers of Interior / Public Order of the BSEC Member States signed in Yerevan, on 17 October 1996, in Istanbul, on 22 October 1997, in Poiana Braşov, on 28 April 2000, in Kiev on 15 March 2002 and in Athens, on 3 December 2004,
- The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted in New York, in November 15th 2000 aiming at the improvement of providing assistance and protection,
- The provisions of the United Nations documents on combating terrorism including the Security Council Resolutions in this field, in particular Resolution 1373,
- The United Nations Convention against corruption, opened for signature from 9 to 11 December 2003, in Merida,
- The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms from November 4th 1950, as well as its Additional Protocols,
- The Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Council of Europe, adopted on the occasion of the Third Summit, from Warsaw, 16 – 17 May 2005, according to which the Council of Europe will continue to play an active role in combating terrorism and will develop its activities in fight against corruption and organized crime

The Ministers and Heads of Delegations, committing themselves to strengthen the cooperation in combating organized crime, corruption and terrorism,

- welcomed the first Meeting of the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime and emphasized their determination to make the best use of it as another valuable tool in the fight against the organized crime, corruption and terrorism;
- reaffirmed their readiness to cooperate in the fight against organized crime, corruption and terrorism and, in this respect, to enhance the cooperation with international and regional specialized organizations;
- agreed to pay a special attention to develop, on bilateral and multilateral basis, the efficient cooperation among BSEC Member States in strengthening the measures of combating transborder crime, illegal migration and trafficking in human beings;
- agreed to examine the possibility of initiation of a cooperation framework between BSEC and the SECI Regional Centre for Combating Trans-border Crime in Bucharest aiming at building synergies, transferring expertise to the BSEC Network of Liaison Officers on Combating Crime and developing the specific operational capacities of the two bodies;

- decided to call upon, first of all, the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union, to provide assistance in the elaboration and the implementation of projects in the BSEC Member States in the fields of organized crime, corruption and terrorism prevention and control;
- undertook the work for the greater involvement of the civil society in the fight against terrorism, organized crime and corruption by increasing public information, raising awareness on the risks of corrupt practices and practicing intolerance towards these phenomena, inviting the civil society, including the private sector, to formulate points of view and recommendations;
- stressed the importance of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (Merida Convention) for the strengthening of the regional cooperation in the fight against corruption, and invited all BSEC Members States to become parties to it;
- expressed their gratitude to the Government and the people of Romania for the warm hospitality extended to them during the Meeting.
