



**HEAD OF PRESENCE REMARKS AT A MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
EUROPEAN POLICE COLLEGES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Tirana International Hotel, 18 January 2012

Director General Burgaj,
Chair Mr Petit,
Director Fjora,
Representatives of the European Police College,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning.

Can I say how pleased I am to be here with you today.

I believe that this is the first meeting that the Association has held in Albania.

This adds even more significance to today's meeting..

This meeting will allow you to meet your Albanian counterparts to find out what the Albanian reality is in order to best tailor future training sessions.

Chairman Petit, your Association is certainly not a new one.

Established in 1996, an initiative of the British, Dutch and German Police Academies, I believe your Association has throughout this period acted very nobly and successfully as a network for directors of European police academies.

Today, some 50 Police Colleges from 42 some countries now make up the Association. All these countries are participating States of the OSCE.

Your aim has been to assist European police services to provide the best possible policing for their respective communities whilst also addressing the challenge of international crime.

You continue to strive to maximise co-operation on police training assistance between member colleges, to facilitate the sharing of best practice, to enable greater exchange of students and staff and to introduce information technology links between colleges.

Important work indeed as are the principles of your Association: 'flexibility', 'simplicity' and 'minimal bureaucracy'.

In terms of co-operation, your Association has, I believe, reached some pretty significant milestones.

For example: implementing a training programme to assist the Candidate countries in Middle and Eastern Europe in preparing them for EU membership and in providing training modules for the South East European countries within the framework of the Stability Pact.

More crucially, in the past, it is widely felt that duplication of efforts had occurred in certain areas, for instance in the organization of the Eastern and Western European Heads of Training conferences.

I would suggest that your Association should take great credit for having taken the initiative to unify both events into a single conference.

Ladies and gentlemen,

These are just a few examples that emphasize the results that have already been achieved by the Association.

If I turn now, albeit briefly to my own organization, I think it is important and necessary to say that working closely with both PAMECA and ICITAP, the OSCE Presence has continued over many years to provide technical assistance to the Albanian State Police to help strengthen its ability to become a more modern and professional police body.

Therefore, in this regard, training support is clearly crucial.

It is clear, both in content and form, that police services of all countries should be trained properly in order to have the most able persons in the right positions.

In Albania, things are moving in the right direction, I am happy to say, and for that General Director Burgaj and his senior management team deserve much credit.

However, none of us can afford to think that a specific training delivered today, tomorrow or a week from now, for example, will finitely solve a specific organisational objective.

In this sense, training support must be seen as a continual process with an end that never arrives, or, if you prefer, with an ever wider horizon.

I think we are all aware that a poorly implemented or factually incomplete training can cause a lot of damage.

In terms of the police service, insufficiently and/or improperly trained police officers will not be 'good professionals' and will not be able to work effectively with their colleagues or the local community in which they serve.

So - all police services should be in a position to deliver the right training to the right police officers at the right time.

I believe this is a clear institutional, moral and professional obligation.

Having said this, in today's world no police officer can afford to ignore the experiences of colleagues from other police services.

So now what is at stake here today, for all of us focused on supporting the training development of police services?

In Albania, the objective is to ensure the continued security and safety of all citizens throughout the whole territory.

And in order to achieve this target, the 'bond of trust' between the police and the citizen needs to be continually strengthened.

This is what it is about: bond of trust!

From the State Police to the simple police officer, nothing of any substance, of any value will be achieved without the trust and confidence of the Albanian public.

Training is a key prerequisite here.

It provides the police officer with the relevant tools to enable him/her to professionally carry out their duties in order to gain the trust, and again I use the word 'trust', from the public and to serve their interests, to serve the 'public interest'.

The Association of European Police Colleges has proven itself to be very able in opening the path for developing new techniques and in promoting new means of training - in instilling a modern *European* approach.

Having all that in mind, I must say that the Presence will be very keen to work with the AEPC and to develop any kind of co-operation to the benefit of the Albanian State Police.

I am delighted that the Albanian State Police Academy is a member of the Association.

I have no doubt that membership will continue to be of use to the Albanian police in the future as it has already begun to be!

Director General Burgaj,
Chair Petit,
Director Fjora,
Representatives of European Police College,

Again, it is a pleasure for me to be here with you today, and I wish all colleagues present a very successful event.

Thank you very much.

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