

WRITTEN CONTRIBUTION
by
the Executive Committee of the
Commonwealth of Independent States
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In the early 90ies of the XXIst century a great deal has been done in the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the field of provision of security of the Commonwealth member states, which definitely affected the state of security of international community as a whole.

The beginning of the XXIst century is marked by new challenges and threats, which make the process of counteracting them a priority in international policy. In this context one of the most important components of cooperation between the CIS member states is interaction in the sphere of combating terrorism, crime, illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, arms, munitions and explosives, illegal migration, trafficking in persons and other kinds of crimes, as well as the issues of non-dissemination of mass distraction weapons.

Of course, the effectiveness in counteracting modern challenges and threats to security depends above all on the measures taken within the CIS member states, but in combating transnational crime we need to develop and maintain the appropriate level of interstate cooperation. Not a single state in the world is able to meet those challenges by itself.

At practically every meeting of the heads of states and governments of the CIS member states, issues of combating new challenges and threats are discussed and the agreements and international programs adopted are signed by essentially all states.

The CIS member states conduct their activities in this area in close cooperation with all interested states and international organizations, with the United Nations playing a leading role.

The geopolitical situation of the CIS member states makes it objectively necessary to preserve the appropriate level of development of regional cooperation in security issues in the Commonwealth framework.

Adoption in 1996 by the CIS heads of states of the Interstate program of joint measures for combating organized crime and other kinds of dangerous crimes in the territory of the CIS member states for the period till 2000, made the cooperation multi-ranged, complex and dynamic.

Implementation of this and subsequent programs allowed to create a solid international legal basis for cooperation.

Legal instruments on combating terrorism, crime, illicit narcotic drugs traffic, illegal migration, on counteracting crimes in the sphere of economy, intellectual property, etc., were adopted. A number of conventions have also been adopted, including the basic document – Convention on legal assistance and legal relations on civil, family and criminal cases, of 22 January 1993.

The CIS member states have substantially expanded international legal basis for their participation in international cooperation by acceding to major treaties, concluded in the criminal and legal sphere of the UN system, its specialized agencies and IAEA, as well as of the Council of Europe.

The Inter-parliamentary Assembly of the CIS member states elaborated pilot legal acts in the sphere of security and recommended them to be used by the Parliaments of the states – parties to the Convention on Inter-parliamentary Assembly of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States in elaboration of national legislations.

In line with the programs law-enforcement agencies of the CIS member states take joint target-oriented measures and conduct special operations aimed at counteracting terrorism, illicit traffic of drugs, arms and munitions, explosives, illegal migration, curbing trafficking in raw resources, activity of international bandit groups on transport etc.

The united data base of security and special agencies, specialized data bases of the Anti-terrorist center and those of the Agency for coordination of struggle against organized and other kinds of dangerous crimes have been created and are successfully functioning in the territory of the CIS member states. The

information they provide is used by the law-enforcement organs of the CIS member states.

Cooperation in staff training for law-enforcement organs is executed in educational establishments and centers of the CIS member states. Mutual practical study of personnel, exchange of methodological materials and coordination of study plans and programs have become a regular practice.

An effective mechanism of cooperation in security sphere is provided by the activity of the Coordinating council of Prosecutors-General, Council of Interior Ministers, Council of heads of security organs and specialized agencies, Council of border-guard commanders, Coordinating council of heads of financial investigation organs, Council of heads of customs agencies of the CIS member states as well as those of the Anti-terrorist center and the Agency for coordinating struggle against organize and other kinds of dangerous crimes in the territory of the CIS member states.

These are the structures to organize practical implementation of the decisions taken by the Council of Heads of State and the Council of Heads of Government on counteracting modern challenges and threats.

On the other hand the cooperation is executed not only at the level of heads of ministers and institutions of the CIS member states, but also at the level of heads of their structural subdivisions, regional and local law-enforcement organs.

On 8 April 2004 in Kyiv the 3rd joint meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers and of the above mentioned councils took place.

The participants of the meeting discussed a wide range of issues relating to joint counteracting modern challenges and threats to security of the CIS member states, they noted positive results of implementation of the Interstate program of joint measures for struggling crime for 2003-2004, Program of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States for struggling illicit traffic of drugs, psycho-trophic substances and precursors for 2002-2004 and of the Program of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States for combating international terrorism and other kinds of manifestation of extremism for 2003-2004 and recognized it necessary to elaborate similar programs for 2005-2007.

At the meeting it was proposed to submit for consideration by the CIS Council of Heads of State the issue of implementation of domestic procedures,

relating to international treaties in the sphere of combating crime and the participants addressed the parliaments and governments of the CIS member states with the proposal to take effective measures on adapting national legislations to international treaties in the said area. In their opinion it is necessary to speed up ratification by the CIS member states of the Convention on legal assistance and legal relations on civil, family and criminal cases in its new version, adopted on 7 October 2002.

The participants of the joint meeting have also expressed their support for the Ukraine's initiative regarding establishment of the OSCE Coordinating center for combating terrorism.

Such a center could be functioning as a permanent specialized sectoral organ, aimed at coordination of interaction of competent organs of the OSCE member states in the sphere of combating international terrorism.

Given the tendencies of the current challenges and threats to security of the CIS member states, their experience and state of things in cooperation within the framework of existing interstate programs for struggling crime, terrorism, illicit drugs traffic, the third joint meeting set up for realization in 2005-2007 the drafts of the Interstate program of joint measures for combating crime, the Program for cooperation between the CIS member states in combating terrorism and other kinds of manifestations of extremism and the Program for cooperation between the CIS member states in combating illicit traffic of drugs, psycho-tropic substances and precursors, which are supposed to be adopted at the next CIS summit on September 2004.

The implementation of the said programs will allow to create conditions for an adequate response to modern challenges and threats to security of the CIS member states.

**Executive Committee
of the Commonwealth of Independent States**