



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

45th ICPO-INTERPOL European Regional Conference

St. Johann im Pongau, Austria

16 May 2017

Secretary General Lamberto Zannier

OSCE – INTERPOL Co-operation and the Way Ahead

Mr Chairperson,
Mr President,
Mr Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank Secretary General Stock for the invitation to address this 45th European Regional Conference. I was happy to accept for a number of reasons, not least the fact that I am one of the few heads of an international organization who actually operated an INTERPOL Office, as I did a few years ago, when I was the Head of the UN Mission to Kosovo (UNMIK), which still today hosts an INTERPOL Office in Pristina and has a representative here today.

The wider European region is exposed to multiple security threats that range from instability and armed conflict to violent extremism and terrorism, as well as organized crime and trafficking in arms, drugs and human beings. As the world's largest regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the OSCE has stepped up its efforts to fighting transnational crime and highly values its partnership with INTERPOL. We cannot act in isolation and need to build coalitions.

Today, our two organizations have taken an important step toward intensifying our relationship. The OSCE-INTERPOL Joint Action Plan for 2017 to 2020, which I signed with SG Stock this morning, will strengthen our efforts to counter terrorism, enhance border security, counter trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants, as well as to combat trafficking in illicit drugs and chemical precursors and counter cybercrime. The Action Plan builds on the 2014 OSCE-INTERPOL Memorandum of Understanding and opens the way for more practical exchange of expertise across a wide spectrum of activities.

I would like to use this opportunity to illustrate the overall scope of our partnership and openings for future co-operation. Let me start with our joint work on **police-related activities**.

We are all aware that **cybercrime** is dramatically increasing in scope and sophistication, causing growing economic damage and presenting serious threats to individuals, businesses and

state institutions. Recognizing INTERPOL's strong expertise in this area, I am particularly pleased that we are preparing a **joint project** on Darknet and crypto-currencies investigations.

In the field of **counter-narcotics**, the OSCE is increasingly focusing its attention on **new psychoactive substances -- NPS**. As an example, we recently, the OSCE organised a roundtable meeting in Belarus for law enforcement experts from the region as well as INTERPOL representatives to discuss legislative measures, procedures and operational practices in combating NPS in Eastern Europe. As a follow-up to INTERPOL's active participation in this roundtable, we have developed a concept for a joint training on **law enforcement capacity building in combating NPS** on Darknet markets in Eastern Europe. We look forward to implementing this type of training with INTERPOL in the future.

We all know that **intelligence** is critical to preventing and countering serious forms of crime, including terrorism. We are now about to publish a **practical guidebook on intelligence-led policing** which has strongly benefitted from advice and conceptual material provided by INTERPOL. We look forward to the participation of INTERPOL's Assistant Director of Criminal Analysis at the guidebook's launch event in Vienna on 3 July.

Moving on to **border security**, INTERPOL and the OSCE share many common objectives and regularly co-operate on joint activities in addressing issues related to **cross-border trafficking**.

INTERPOL sits on the Advisory Board of the **OSCE's Border Management Staff College** in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and has actively participated in numerous OSCE events on **border security and management**. We also have plenty of opportunities for co-operation in preventing the **cross-border movement of terrorists**. We have expanded our national training programme on detecting forged documents, including by creating an **OSCE mobile training team** on the **identification of potential foreign terrorist fighters** at the border; and we are assisting OSCE participating States in developing **advanced passenger information** systems. INTERPOL already actively supports many of our efforts and I look forward to its participation in the first deployment of our new mobile training team. There is also scope for INTERPOL involvement in OSCE **table-top exercises** that engage multiple stakeholders in addressing the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. I also welcome INTERPOL's participation in OSCE initiatives on combating **cross-border trafficking in cultural property**.

Let me turn to **irregular migration**. In 2015, **people smuggling** operations conducted by criminal organizations were estimated to have reaped a staggering \$5 to 6 billion. To confront this challenge more effectively, the OSCE and INTERPOL have initiated active co-operation to enhance the capability and the responsiveness of law enforcement agencies and immigration offices.

In this context, a first joint OSCE-INTERPOL project is strengthening the capacities and co-operation mechanisms of the relevant national agencies of Ukraine and other countries in the region to more effectively and efficiently **combat trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants** in accordance with good practices and commitments of the OSCE participating States. Our joint efforts in this field should continue to expand in light of our complementary expertise in this area.

In the field of **anti-terrorism activities, preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalisation that lead to terrorism** is another promising area for collaboration. Allow me to highlight key OSCE initiatives in this field.

Our **Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism – LIVE** – initiative seeks to build the capacity of civil society leaders to speak out, mobilize others, and take action against intolerance and violent extremism leading to terrorism, especially at the local level. LIVE focuses on youth, women, religious and traditional leaders and is fully aligned with the UN Plan of Action and related UN Security Council resolutions. We have developed a broad partnership framework to support LIVE, and we are now piloting a youth training course in the first phase of this initiative.

In July 2015 we launched a communications campaign geared mainly toward young people known as **#United in Countering Violent Extremism (#UnitedCVE)** to counter violent extremist narratives and messages across the whole ideological spectrum. The campaign, which has so far reached over 26 million people online, raises awareness about the OSCE's extensive work in this area and provides a platform for testimonials and contributions from civil society. To those of you who use Twitter, I would encourage you to join our campaign.

We are also focusing on **countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes**. We will soon launch an OSCE e-learning module to educate and raise awareness about how terrorists misuse the Internet for incitement and recruitment, and ways to counter such activities. This e-learning module will be freely accessible on the OSCE's online platform POLIS (polis.osce.org).

Protecting critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks is an area where the OSCE promotes public-private partnerships by engaging the public and private sectors in table-top exercises. The OSCE, as a regional security organization, can be a strong partner in promoting a set of internationally recognized good practices on protecting so-called soft targets like schools, shopping malls and sporting arenas that are particularly vulnerable to terrorist attacks. And we continue to organize regional workshops on **preventing the financing of terrorism** in co-operation with UNODC.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to take this opportunity to encourage all of you to join us for two upcoming OSCE-wide conferences in Vienna: the **2017 Counter-Terrorism Conference**, on 23-24 May, which will focus on preventing and countering violent extremism that leads to terrorism, and the **2017 Anti-Drug Conference**, on 10-11 July, which will focus on the nexus between illicit drugs, organized crime and terrorism.

In closing, let me thank INTERPOL for the excellent cooperation that we have enjoyed over the past years. With the Joint Action Plan signed today we are renewing our commitment to further operationalize this productive partnership.

Thank you.