



OSCE CHIEFS OF POLICE MEETING
24 November 2006
BRUSSELS STATEMENT

Chiefs of Police or their representatives from the OSCE participating States and Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation gathered in Brussels on 24 November to discuss the growing impact of transnational organized crime on individuals and societies and to enhance international police cooperation to better fight the scourge of organized crime and improve security.

In conclusion of the meeting, the following statement was adopted:

On the role of the OSCE, the Chiefs of Police:

- Recall the firm commitment by Heads of State and Government at the Istanbul 1999 OSCE Summit to step up the OSCE's work to combat organized crime and to enhance the OSCE's role in civilian police-related activities as an integral part of the Organization's efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation;
- Recognize the role of the OSCE as a platform for political dialogue, in close collaboration with specialized regional and international institutions;
- Support the work of the OSCE and its Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) in the area of policing;
- Welcome the OSCE Guidebook on Democratic Policing and the Policing Online Information System or POLIS.

On strategic risk and threat analyses for law enforcement purposes, participants:

- Acknowledge the importance of gathering and producing quality and actionable data for producing reliable and effective risk analyses and threat assessments;
- Reaffirm the need for greater national resources to be made available to this end;
- Recognize the need to continue to move towards intelligence-led policing;
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- Recognize that an OSCE-wide picture of criminality - a single crime map - would be a worthwhile endeavour;
- Commit to enhance technical assistance and capacity-building for such analyses in cooperation with international organizations or via bilateral channels.

On cooperation among national police services to combat organized crime, participants:

- Reaffirm their resolve to intensify efforts to combat organized crime and to introduce measures to continue and enhance cooperation in this field;
- Underscore the need for a clear legal basis as a prerequisite for police cooperation at an intergovernmental level;
- Underscore the crucial importance of information-sharing between law enforcement agencies and in that context point to the role of data protection and data processing, effective and clear privacy legislation and complementarity of legal procedures;
- Recognize the need for effective cooperation among law enforcement officers and prosecutors at an international level;
- Reaffirm that the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is the major international instrument in the fight against organized crime and call for further and enhanced co-operation with the State Parties and UNODC to ensure its full and proper implementation;
- Acknowledge the major role of Interpol and underscore the need for national police to use Interpol's operational databases and tools to their full potential;
- Acknowledge the major role of the UNODC and other international and regional organizations.



On democratic oversight, participants:

- Reaffirm the importance of civil and democratic oversight bodies to ensure accountability of law enforcement agencies, including as regards international police cooperation, and recall the provisions of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Budapest 1994) and, as appropriate, the 2001 European Code of Police Ethics of the Council of Europe.

The Chiefs of Police:

- reaffirm the role of policing as a crucial and integral element of the criminal justice sector: the effectiveness of policing is intrinsically linked to the role of other actors that, together with policing, form the criminal justice chain;
- recognize the need to continue to support and further develop community-based and intelligence-led policing in all societies;
- welcome the increasing recognition of the contribution and value of policing within an international context;
- acknowledge the role of effective and accountable policing in restoring peace and stability in post-conflict environments and in ensuring public safety and the rule of law in all societies;
- commit to enhance police assistance and capacity-building to improve police capabilities to counter criminality in all its forms with the most appropriate skills and tools;
- propose to meet within the OSCE at the level of Police Chiefs every three years.