



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia
to the International Organizations in Vienna*

ENGLISH only

ASRC - Session 2 (Border Security and Management)

Statement made by Ambassador Vladimir MATEK, Permanent Representative

- Croatian Government welcomes cooperation on the issues of border security and management in the framework of the OSCE as well as other multilateral and bilateral levels. We believe such synergetic approach is the most efficient element of addressing threats of terrorism and organized crime today.
- The OSCE is now working on the draft outline of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept. We do hope that the willingness of the Delegations to achieve a concrete result for the 2004 Ministerial meeting will help us all to improve our ability in facing the threats to security and stability.
- The OSCE experience and important role in borders questions, inter alia, helped the Croatian Government to recognize early on the need for effective policies on border security and management. Croatia's border security system, established in 1991, is from the very beginning based on democratic standards within the competence of the civil government structure (the Ministry of Internal Affairs). We expect it will become a rule for the whole OSCE –zone.
- Today, Croatia is involved in several multilateral initiatives aimed at strengthening the modern border management (the OSCE as well as EU and Stability Pact, the Ohrid Process.... as well as cooperating and upholding government official and expert level contacts with all its neighbours on border security issues, including most importantly on the exchange of information and experience. There are several activities related to the border security and management recently organized in Croatia in those frameworks:
 - The second seminar of the OSCE SEE Cross border Co-operation Programme took place in Dubrovnik on 19 -22 April 2004
 - Road Map/Workshop to support modern policing in Croatia took place in Tuheljske Toplice on 10 – 14 May 2004 and was organized by OSCE Mission in Croatia
 - The Heads of Border Services/Guards and Ohrid Border Process National Contact Points took place in RACVIAC (Zagreb/Rakitje) on 2 June 2004.
- When speaking on the regional and particularly sub-regional cooperation this Organization is contributing to, Croatia supports the opinion that this work should be organized according to the individual needs of the countries. The work done by this Organization through the excellent report of the Assessment Team headed by General Buwitt and its follow-up was a very good example of how we should proceed.
- Finally, let me underline the importance which for Croatia has had the cooperation with the EU Commission and the EU Member States, through the implementation of the twinning projects on Integrated Border Management. It has provided us with expertise on how to harmonize our border management legislation and practice with the EU standards. Here we would like to express not only our gratitude for their help, but to commit ourselves to share this experience of transformations with other countries, while continuing to play an active role in the Ohrid Process and other forms of regional cooperation.