



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**Overview of the National Training Workshop on
Legal Co-operation in Criminal Matters Related to Terrorism**

14-16 December 2005
Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro

On 14-16 December, ATU organized, in co-operation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and with the support from the OSCE Mission in Serbia and Montenegro, a training workshop in Belgrade for prosecutors, judges and judicial officials of Serbia and Montenegro on legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism. The workshop was organized at the request of authorities of Serbia and Montenegro and financed through extra-budgetary contributions by the United States of America. The overall focus of the event was on issues of mutual legal assistance and extradition.

The workshop was opened by the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Serbia and had remarkably strong participation bringing together 77 officials, most of whom were senior judges and prosecutors from both Serbia and Montenegro, including several judges of the Supreme and High Courts of the Republics.

Participants were briefed by ATU on the OSCE counter-terrorism activities, with particular attention to the suggestions made by experts at the OSCE-wide *Workshop on Enhancing Legal Co-operation in Criminal Matters Related to Terrorism* which was organized by the ATU on 15 April 2005 with the donor support of Germany, USA, Liechtenstein and Sweden.

UNODC representatives presented on universal legal framework for international legal co-operation in criminal matters and carried out two interactive case study sessions in order to reinforce theoretical knowledge received at the workshop. UNODC technical assistance tools, such as model laws and treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance as well as the recently released software package "Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool" were presented at the workshop.

Participants were also briefed by ODIHR on human rights and terrorism issues, pertinent to extradition cases. The Chair of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) presented on the Council of Europe legal framework for extradition and mutual legal assistance, and the Chair of the EUROJUST Team Terrorism and Assistant Director for Public Safety and Terrorism Department of Interpol on these bodies' contribution to international co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism.

This workshop held in Serbia and Montenegro could be considered as early implementation of the recent Ljubljana Ministerial Decision MC.DEC/4/05, which "tasks the Secretary General to organize for requesting participating States, in close co-operation with the UNODC, national training workshops for prosecutors and judicial officials on issues of extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, in particular those related to terrorism", as well as OSCE's implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1631 in which the Council "urges all relevant regional and sub-regional organizations to enhance the effectiveness of their counter-terrorism efforts within their respective mandates, including

with a view to develop their capacity to help Member States in their efforts to tackle the threats to international peace and security posed by acts of terrorism”.

After the successful workshop in Serbia and Montenegro, ATU stands ready to work with Delegations of other countries in developing and organising, upon their request, similar training workshops for their officials in 2006.

These future national training workshops would also be organised in accordance with Ministerial Decision MC.DEC/4/05, and would target between 30 and 50 national officials (judges, prosecutors and those judicial officials who are involved in international legal co-operation in criminal matters). The selection of participants would be done in close co-operation with the host countries and, if applicable and appropriate, with the support of OSCE Field Operations.