

2004 OSCE Annual Security Review Conference
Session 1

**COOPERATION AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL:
BASIC PRAGMATIC WAY TO ACHIEVE THE TASKS ASSIGNED TO THE ROMANIAN
INTELLIGENCE SERVICE FOR PREVENTING AND SUPPRESSING TERRORISM**

A. At the national level

- Romania was among the first Southeastern European countries which, after the September 11,2001 attacks, took the first steps to draw up the **National Strategy for Preventing and Suppressing Terrorism**.
- Approved by the Supreme Council of Country's Defense, this **fundamental doctrinal document** serves the Romanian society's interests and domestic security needs by strengthening the mechanisms for preserving itself from the threat posed by the terrorist phenomenon.
- In an organized unitary manner, the national Strategy in this line of work defines terrorism; **sets up the existence and functions of the System for Preventing and Suppressing Terrorism stipulating the technical coordinating role of the Romanian Intelligence Service as national authority in the antiterrorist line of work.**
- The antiterrorist activity is mainly based on prevention, a key component of this activity that gives priority to the identification in advance – by intelligence collection – of the conditions that might generate terrorist threats within the competence of the institutions that form the National System for Preventing and Suppressing Terrorism - no matter what their origin, manifestation form and targets are.
- For defining - as **legal obligations** - the responsibilities assumed by the institutions that are signatory of the General Protocol on the Organization and Functioning of the National System for Preventing and Suppressing Terrorism, the draft **Law on Terrorism's Prevention and Suppression** was drawn up (*and approved by Romanian Government on April 29, 2004*). *This act - which criminalizes the terrorist acts in a unitary manner and stipulates the legal obligations of the System's institutions in preventing and suppressing terrorism.*
- The National System for Preventing and Suppressing Terrorism consists of the following institutions:
 - Supreme Council of Country's Defense – having the role of strategic coordinator;
 - Romanian Intelligence Service, having the role of technical coordinator;
 - Ministry of Administration and Internal Affairs;
 - Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development;
 - Ministry of Environment and Waters;
 - Ministry of National Defense;
 - Ministry of Communications and Information Technology;
 - Ministry of Public Finances;
 - Ministry of Economy and Trade;

- Ministry of European Integration;
 - Ministry of Justice;
 - Ministry of Transportation, Buildings and Tourism;
 - Ministry of Health;
 - Foreign Intelligence Service;
 - Guard and Protection Service;
 - Special Telecommunication Service;
 - Attorney General's Office of the High Court of Cassation and Justice;
 - National Bank of Romania;
 - National Agency for Exports' Control (ANCEX);
 - National Commission for Nuclear Activities' Control (CNCAN);
 - National Office for Preventing and Suppressing the Money-Laundering (ONPCSB).
- For ensuring the appropriate coordination of the approaches and efforts made by the institutions that form the National System for Preventing and Suppressing Terrorism, the **General Protocol on the Organization and Functioning of the National System for Preventing and Suppressing Terrorism stipulates the general tasks** assigned to these bodies for accomplishing all types of missions and responsibilities of the System, as follows:
 - ***For preventing terrorism***
 - a) Intelligence and operational activities;
 - b) Activities for annihilating the channels by which the terrorist organizations are provided with human resources inside and outside the national territory;
 - c) Activities for annihilating the channels by which the terrorist organizations are provided with specific action means as well as with financial, logistic and intelligence resources inside and outside the national territory;
 - d) Guard and protection activities as well as other special deterring missions conducted by forces belonging to some of the System's institutions or by those belonging to other competent structures / organizations that are guided and monitored by the specialized structures of the System – for protecting the main human factors / domestic and foreign interests on the national soil and the main Romanian interests abroad potentially targeted by terrorists;
 - e) Activities for preparing the intervention in the civil emergency situations emerged after terrorist actions, in order to limit / counter their effects;
 - f) Public relation activities;
 - g) General foreign relations;
 - h) Professional training and specializing activities;
 - i) Activities intended for the permanent improvement of the legal framework that applies to the categories of missions assigned to the National System for Preventing and Suppressing Terrorism, both from the penal and procedural point of view.

- ***For suppressing terrorism:***

- a) Activities for identifying and prosecuting the persons who initiate, plan or perpetrate terrorist acts or terrorism-related / associated offences, in accordance with the law;

b) Direct antiterrorist intervention if terrorist actions are imminent / in process or have been conducted;

c) Participation in the terrorism's prevention and suppression by the international cooperation in various regions.

- For ensuring the identification in advance – by intelligence collection – of the conditions that might generate terrorist threats within the competence of the institutions that form the National System for Preventing and Suppressing Terrorism - no matter what their origin, manifestation forms and targets are, the **Antiterrorist Operational Coordination Center (AOCC)** began its activity on **February 15, 2004**.

Being an operational structure of the Romanian Intelligence Service, the AOCC ensures the coordination and permanent contacts with the institutions of the System that – individually and/or in cooperation – act for preventing and suppressing all categories of terrorist manifestations, in accordance with their legal responsibilities.

For implementing the provisions of the General Protocol on the Organization and Functioning of the National System for Preventing and Suppressing Terrorism, AOCC carries out ordinary activities for preventing terrorism, as well as command and coordination actions for ensuring the antiterrorist intervention:

1. Ordinary activities for preventing terrorism:

- Immediate data and intelligence sharing between the System's institutions concerning the existing or potential threats to the national security with the aim to avoid terrorist actions being perpetrated on Romanian soil or to diminish their effects when required;

- Permanent monitoring of the terrorist-related events, immediate notification of the System's competent institutions about these events and submitting proposals concerning the measures to be taken for preventing the perpetration of terrorist acts;

- In the event that terrorist actions have been conducted outside Romania, AOCC requests the intelligence and operational institutions of the System to take measures for identifying / assessing the potential threats;

- Handling the intelligence in cooperation with special appointed representatives of the partner intelligence services in order to take joint measures for annihilating all terrorist threats no matter what their origin, manifestation forms or targets are.

2. Command and coordination of the antiterrorist intervention

- Management of data, intelligence and operational notifications on the imminent perpetration of terrorist acts against targets located on the national soil, that are subsequently sent to the Antiterrorist Brigade for preparing and conducting the antiterrorist intervention;

- In the event of an imminent threat, the System's institutions must act and immediately inform the AOCC about the measures they have taken in accordance with their legal responsibilities for assessing the potential of terrorist threat in their line of work;

- Based on the extent of the action, by order of the AOCC, the Antiterrorist Brigade conducts the antiterrorist intervention independently or in cooperation with the

special forces provided by the System's institutions in accordance with their legal responsibilities.

- If needed (in the event of a terrorist or terrorist-related crisis), the Antiterrorist Operational Coordination Center ensures the logistic and operational support for the establishment of the NATIONAL CENTER FOR ANTITERRORIST ACTION, which – if the crisis affects other domains too – will be integrated in the general crisis management mechanisms organized in accordance with the law.
- In order to strengthen the appropriate means for preventing and suppressing any action aimed at planning and conducting possible terrorist attacks on the Romanian soil, in April 2004, the Supreme Council of Country's Defense – as strategic coordinator of National System for Preventing and Suppressing Terrorism – approved the **National System of Terrorist Alert**.

The National System of Terrorist Alert has five levels of alert (designated by distinct colors), based on the level of the terrorist threat revealed by intelligence collection: low (green), cautious (blue), moderate (yellow), high (orange) and critic (red).

The change of the terrorist alert's levels is passed to the structures that form the National System for Preventing and Suppressing Terrorism through the Antiterrorist Operational Coordination Center, in accordance with the decisions made by the Supreme Council of Country's Defense following the assessments at the national level.

- **By means of the free-phone, made available to all citizens, the Antiterrorist Operational Coordination Center is permanently provided with information / notifications of interest for the antiterrorist line of work.**

Categories of data expected to be provided by the citizens using the Antiterrorist Operational Coordination Center's free phone:

- a. Data on persons who are interested in procuring substances that might be used for terrorist purposes;*
- b. Data on persons who illegally make, possess, transport / handle weapons, ammunition and substances that might be used for terrorist purposes;*
- c. Data on individuals' actions that might cause malfunctions to crucial strategic facilities;*
- d. Data on the repeated or prolonged presence of unauthorized persons in the area of facilities that might represent targets of terrorist attacks (foreign diplomatic missions, offices of international institutions, etc.);*
- e. Data on individuals' unjustified interest in studying facilities of crucial importance for the social and economic life or in collecting intelligence on these facilities;*
- f. Data on individuals' attempts to photograph or film facilities that are subject to restrictions concerning these activities;*
- g. Data on prolonged unjustified parking of vehicles nearby zones of crucial importance, diplomatic missions or crowded areas;*

h. Data on the individuals' interest in insistently studying crowded places (railway or subway stations, great trade centers, tourism, sport or cultural objectives);

i. Data on the unjustified questioning about less important subjects (working program of certain institutions, rush hours, time when the personnel ensuring the embassies' guard and protection switch shifts);

j. Data on individuals' interest in insistently studying railways, routes, subways and airports, without having plausible reasons.

B. At the international level

- **The process aimed at developing the cooperation relations established by the Romanian Intelligence Service in the antiterrorist line of work includes:**
 - Intelligence sharing on general or specific matters related to terrorist groups or individuals in Romania or in the partner services' countries;
 - Opening cooperation cases for countering the activities carried out by the "targets" of the antiterrorist coalition;
 - Complex actions for identifying, preventing and disrupting the leading or operational cells of the terrorist groups represented in Romania;
 - Periodical experts' meetings.