



1st Meeting of the Committee of Ministers
under the
Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe

Vienna, 17 July 2008

The Ministers of the Contracting Parties to the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe, being the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia and Romania

Gathered for the first time in our statutory capacity under Article 33 of the said Convention, as ratified by our respective Parliaments;

Reaffirming that the regional nature of the threats to our internal security demands a regional response;

Stressing the importance of good governance of the security sector for promoting sustainable democratic development;

Being aware that the full implementation of the Convention will signify our preparedness to implement the requirements of the EU *Acquis Communautaire* in the area of Freedom, Security and Justice,;

Determined to strengthen effective cooperation between our law enforcement authorities and therewith to enhance the security and stability of our region and of Europe;

Encouraged by the swiftness of the ratifications and entry into force of the Convention ;

Commending Austria for initiating the process of negotiations that led to the signing of the Convention in Vienna on 5 May 2006;

Agreeing that the implementation of the Convention constitutes a milestone in our joint efforts for enhancing regional security cooperation;

have agreed to the following

CONCLUSIONS

The Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe provides a comprehensive set of rules and standards designed to guide and enhance our common activities regarding police cooperation, the application of which will be a demanding undertaking, requiring our full attention.

We hereby reconfirm our full commitment to an effective implementation process, including the allocation of necessary financial and human resources.

We welcome the involvement of Austria, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and other international partners in supporting the implementation of the Convention.

A comprehensive approach to effective implementation requires a solid starting base. In this spirit we:

- a) endorse as priorities the following key recommendations:
 - Amending our respective national legislation, particularly regarding data protection,
 - Concluding bilateral and multilateral implementation agreements,
 - Developing a Police Cooperation Convention Manual,
 - Establishing National Central Units,
 - Conducting standardised training on Convention related matters,
 - Establishing common centres, and
 - Correction of Article 15, paragraph 8, and Article 17, paragraph 2, in accordance with Article 79 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties;
- b) endorse the proposal of Austria and DCAF to set up a Police Cooperation Convention Secretariat in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and agree to support the work of the Secretariat with financial resources and personnel;
- c) ask Austria and DCAF to prepare an effective implementation mechanism, including:

- a Memorandum of Understanding on the cooperation between the Secretariat and the Contracting Parties, and on the support of the Contracting Parties to the functioning of the Secretariat;
- an Action Plan concerning the key recommendations;
- a Communication Strategy for the Convention;

d) establish the expert working group according to Article 33, paragraph 2, and task the group to join Austria and DCAF in the preparation of the documents specified in paragraph c) above.

We shall review the achieved results at our next gathering within a year's time.

In conclusion, we want to convey our sincere gratitude to the Government of Austria for generously hosting this meeting.