



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**THE SOUTH-EAST EUROPE POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
(SEPCA)**

AND

**THE PUBLIC SECURITY DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR MINISTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY**

**AIMED AT STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME**

Memorandum of Understanding
between
the South-East Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCA)
and
the Public Security Department of the Interior Ministry
of the Republic of Italy
aimed at strengthening cooperation in the
fight against organised crime

The Public Security Department of the Interior Ministry of the Republic of Italy and the Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCA), hereinafter referred to as the "Parties";

HAVING REGARD to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, signed in Palermo on 12th December 2000 by the Republic of Italy and by SEPCA Member Countries;

HAVING REGARD to the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on the fight against organised crime, signed in Tirana on 19th June 2007, in force since 19th December 2008;

HAVING REGARD to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the fight against organised crime and drug trafficking, signed in Sarajevo on 28th January 2002, in force since 26th October 2007;

HAVING REGARD to the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on the fight against organised crime, signed in Rome on 12th April 1999, in force since 16th February 2001;

HAVING REGARD to the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the fight against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and against organised crime, signed in Rome on 28th May 1993, in force since 4th May 1994;

HAVING REGARD to the Operational Protocol for the Joint Team entrusted to collect and exchange information on trafficking in drugs between the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Macedonia – Bureau for Public Security - and the Department of Public Security of the Ministry of the Interior of the Italian Republic, signed in Ohrid on 29th November 2010;

HAVING REGARD to the Cooperation Protocol between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Italy, signed in Chisinau on 15th December 2006;

HAVING REGARD to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Government of the Republic of Italy for cooperation in fighting organized crime, signed in Rome on 3 July 2002, in force since 5 May 2004;

HAVING REGARD to the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Italy and the Government of Montenegro on the fight against crime, signed in Rome on 25th July 2007;

HAVING REGARD to the Cooperation Protocol between the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Italy and the Ministry of Administration and Interior of Romania, signed in Bucharest on 19th December 2006, in force since 27th February 2008;

HAVING REGARD to the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on the fight against organised crime, drug trafficking and international terrorism, signed in Rome on 18th December 2008, in force since 6th November 2009;

HAVING REGARD to the Articles of Association of the Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCA), done in Valbandon on 14th June 2007;

CONSIDERING the fact that Italy, as well as Bulgaria and Romania are EU Member States and comply with EU legislation and regulations;

CONSIDERING the strategic importance of the Western Balkans region within

the framework of international security policy as a source and transit area of transnational criminal phenomena posing a serious threat to Europe as a whole;

BEARING IN MIND the meetings held in Skopje on 17th and 23rd February 2011 between the highest representatives of the Public Security Department of the Republic of Italy and the SEPCA President during which the participants agreed to intensify contacts and enhance police cooperation in the Balkan area by planning and developing common security policies;

CONFIRMING the intention to increase prevention and fight against the various forms of organised crime through the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding supporting joint investigative initiatives;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article 1

Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding

In compliance with their respective rules and procedures and pursuant to international law, the Parties will consider the possibility of establishing a Joint Working Group for the exchange and analysis of information, also of an operational nature, on transnational criminal phenomena of common interest.

In this respect, the Association of the Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCA) commit itself to promoting the exchange of information and meetings between Italy and SEPCA Member Countries.

Article 2

Composition of the Joint Working Group

The Joint Working Group will be composed of one or more experts appointed within the Italian and SEPCA Member Countries' Police Forces.

Article 3

Tasks of the Joint Working Group

The Joint Working Group will deal with the exchange and analysis of information on the following criminal phenomena with a view to improving the Parties' respective knowledge and detecting the international connections of the criminal organisations involved:

- Illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors;
- Illegal immigration;
- Trafficking in human beings and exploitation of victims;
- International trafficking in stolen vehicles;
- Illicit trafficking in arms and explosive substances;
- Illicit trafficking in toxic, nuclear and radioactive substances;
- Currency, document and commodity counterfeiting;
- Computer crime.

The exchange of information and its regular update will also be facilitated by the Liaison Officers posted to SEPCA Member Countries, in compliance with the national and international regulations in force on data protection.

On the basis of the information obtained the Parties will promote joint activities involving SEPCA Member Countries aimed at preventing and combating the criminal phenomena mentioned in the present Memorandum.

Article 4

Meetings of the Joint Working Group

The Joint Working Group will meet once a year or whenever the Parties deem it necessary, alternatively in Italy and in the Country holding SEPCA Presidency.

Article 5

Protection of Personal Data

The Parties agree that information and personal data exchanged pursuant to the present Memorandum will be used exclusively for the purposes envisaged therein, in compliance with the respective national rules and procedures and with the relevant international Conventions, in particular the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data no. 108 of 28 January 1981 and the Additional Protocol thereto no. 181 of 8 November 2001.

Each Party shall ensure a level of protection of the personal data and information acquired under this Memorandum in conformity with the level of protection guaranteed by the other Party. It shall adopt the necessary technical and organizational measures to safeguard personal data against accidental or unlawful destruction, accidental loss or disclosure, unauthorized alteration or access by unauthorized persons or against any unauthorized form of processing.

Article 6

Expenses

Each Party shall bear the ordinary expenses for the implementation of the present Memorandum. In case of extraordinary expenses, the Parties shall consult each other in order to set the terms and conditions of their respective contribution.

Unless otherwise agreed, the expenses related to periodic meetings shall be borne by the hosting Party, whereas travel and accommodation expenses of the visiting experts shall be borne by the sending Party.

Article 7

Entry into Force

The present Memorandum shall enter into force on the date of its signing or on the date of receipt of the last written notification by which the Countries concerned shall notify each other of their compliance with their internal procedures.

This Memorandum, signed by the Parties in duplicate, in the Italian and English languages, both texts being equally authentic, is concluded for an indefinite period of time, unless one of the Parties intends to terminate it with at least three months' notice in writing to the other Party. It may be amended with agreement of both Parties at any time.

DONE at Rome, this 19th day of May 2011.

For
the Southeast Europe Police Chiefs
Association (SEPCA)

The President
Ljupčo Todorovski

Ljupčo Todorovski

For
the Public Security Department of the
Interior Ministry of the Republic of
Italy
The Chief of Police
Director-General of Public Security
Prefect Antonio Manganelli

Antonio Manganelli

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the South-East Europe Police Chiefs Association
(SEPCA)

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the Public Security Department of the
Interior Ministry of the Republic of Italy

Rome, 19th May 2011