

Declaration
of the prosecutor representatives of the first meeting
of the South East European Prosecutor Advisory Group
Belgrade 11-12, December 2003

Convinced to effectively combat trans-border crime, cooperation across borders in Southeast Europe must also extend to prosecutors

Recognizing that to dismantle organized criminal groups requires successful court convictions

Considering convictions require proper and timely production of evidence

Mindful that proper evidence often requires coordination of ongoing investigations and thus sharing of information and knowledge of operational planning

Understanding that criminal investigations and the evidence thereof often exists in multiple countries

Realizing that personal contacts between prosecutors can facilitate mutual legal assistance, extradition procedures, and exchange of information on criminal investigations and strategies across borders

Agreeing that we can work together, according to our national laws and relevant Council of Europe and European Union Protocols and Conventions, and relevant international instruments to facilitate these exchanges by being available to our colleagues and making ourselves available as points of contact for other representatives to this group

Acknowledging that cooperation between law enforcement and prosecutors in our region must be strengthened and improved

Following the recommendations of state prosecutors of the region at the Ohrid Conference in May 2002, to form a "Regional Advisory Group of Prosecutors, meeting on a regular basis, in order to identify needed documents and regional legislation, or harmonizing of existing national legislation, and will forward these recommendations to the National Ministries" and which will "advise and counsel the investigations of the SECI Regional Center task forces, targeting specific organized crime activities as a means of achieving" the final judicial results.

We hereby constitute Southeastern European Prosecutors Advisory Group (hereinafter referred to as SEEPAG) with its membership of us the representatives of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR

Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Turkey.

As members of the SEEPAG we shall endeavor to, in accordance with our national laws and all relevant international conventions and treaties:

- Be committed to facilitating mutual legal assistance and other requests for exchanges of information
- Respond to the best of our ability to requests from other members, with a recognition of the need for real time communications and responses in urgent cases;
- Work together as prosecutors for the common goal of combating crime;
- Have our group be a forum for best practices

The SEEPAG recognizes the need to cooperate with EUROJUST to further explore areas of mutual development

The SEEPAG recognize the need to cooperate with relevant regional initiatives.

Done in Beograd, December 12, 2003