

*19th Annual Session of the Crans Montana Forum
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Speech of the Minister of Interior of Republic of Srpska, BiH,
Forum: The Union for the Mediterranean and Security*

Dear ladies and gentlemen,
Esteemed colleagues,

Talking about global security in European Union, Mediterranean space or Western Balkans, thus in some way about wider cooperation in security issues, it is important for all to understand that there is no actual form of organized criminal activity or terrorist act for which anyone can for sure say that it can not happen in his/her environment. Terrorism and organized crime today do not recognize countries borders. Internationalization of these phenomena has developed very strongly, in the way that impression was made that in one moment the world become surprised and caught. But not security structures, just those who didn't understand with enough seriousness these issues and without whose support the security structures are not able to provide maximum of protection and safety.

Trafficking in weapons, drugs, humans and other forms of organized crimes bring high profits to better and more sophisticated organized criminal groups, more often internationally connected.

September 11th was, unfortunately, "tragic event of soberness" that finally defined terrorism as global issue and threat. It broke all illusions on absolute safety. Unfortunately, no serious and responsible person can think about it as something that happens to someone else.

Terrorists have their political goals, but not always just political, and for realization of their intentions they need also money. By political, but also by other resources, the volume and the way of their financing can be significantly limited. It is totally logical that for additional possibilities of financing, they direct themselves towards well organized criminal structures or to involve in their criminal activities.

That will, of course, give a new dimension to organized crime, let we call it ideological, although it is not the most adequate expression, and it will also be even more closed and difficult to approach by security structures.

On the other side, organized criminal groups are perfectly comfort with unstable political ambient that significantly diminishes efficiency of the institutions. That suit them also in the sense that they easily enter the institutions by corruptive actions and similar. Even today we face the fact that well organized criminal cartels provoke or even carry out various forms of terrorist acts.

South-East Europe is especially sensitive area, suitable for strengthening of criminal activities or some kind of door for entering Europe and infiltration of not only organized criminal groups but terrorist organizations. Because of our near past and insufficient institution building, social tensions and many other reasons, this is very sensitive area that should be treated by special attention.

Special dimension to this issue is given by potential danger of infiltration of this problem to the system institutions and multiplication of possibilities of efficient separation of criminal and legal activities.

Even in the region of Western Balkans, in spite of numerous animosities as part of inglorious past, that represent difficulty for establishing better and more efficient society, criminal groups cooperate very closely without any prejudice.

Even in this area I come from, we came to mature comprehension that the biggest obstacle for terrorism and organized crime in South East Europe would be the rule of law and independency of courts, as well as efficient security structures. However, the precondition for this was to reach higher level of democratic and ethic level of society, but also to carry out activities that include removal from state and political authorities, especially from justice and police, because of any reason, ideological or greedy ones, all those that brake democratization and development of society. All these were preconditions for joining of these states in euro-Atlantic integrations.

However, along with creation of independent justice and rule of law, several questions are imposed here that ask for answers, when we talk about global security in Europe and Mediterranean space, that is regional and international cooperation. Thus, along with strengthening the institutions responsible for rule of laws, the question is raised what other institutions are engaged in international cooperation with the aim to raise efficiency in this fight, or in which way the existing cooperation could be improved. We have already seen that organized criminal groups quickly established trans-national cooperation so we have to respond here quickly and efficiently.

It can be noted that in that context international factor made a lot of effort and reached very positive effects with the aim of improve the security segment. Assistance and support in technical equipping, education and organizational issues are irreplaceable and successful step forward. But it is clear that without full support, active and determine approach from the local level, there is no real and long-term effects.

Regional, international cooperation in these issues are necessity, axiom in their prevalence. But without strong foundation in local security structures, it will be handicapped for the most necessary thing - full determination and unreserved readiness to gain knowledge on the very place of action, undertake organized activity and oppose to these phenomenons and raise awareness about their social damage.

Quality, timely, exact and correct information is one of the key preconditions in efficient fight against organized crime. Information can not remain purpose for itself and it would be if it is not directed to support operational work. Exchange of information is also very significant and important. Supposition of accessibility of information is the level of trust in institutions. But only with exchange of information and its accessibility we enable security structures overall perception, issue understanding, quality planning and good final effects.

I would especially emphasized that often fastness and quality of reaction of security agencies often depend on fastness of information flow, and also success in prevention of criminal activities, offences and bigger tragedies.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Existing international security system is being developed and the circumstances we live in and problems we are facing with impose it as necessity. Our generation should take it extremely serious because challenges we are facing with are almost civilizational by nature and the future will be very critical on every our failure.

I do not have intention to waste your time emphasizing importance and significance of the necessity of existence and further development of Interpol, Europol and SECI and similar institutional types of international cooperation of security agencies.

I want to call your attention, because of the very reason I've already mentioned, but also because of the others, to necessity of more direct and closer cooperation of security agencies. Sovereignty of states at the beginning of 21st century by constitution of regional communities or communities of states like EU, significantly changes its content. Non acceptance of this fact can create serious long term damage and sometimes almost irretrievable consequences.

Ministry of Interior of Republic of Srpska that I'm had of, is the best proof that with full determination in fight against all that danger for the safety of individual but also wider space, with overcoming bad heritage and stereotypes from the near past, with creation of ambient of mutual trust and cooperation between agencies within state, but also outside, is possible to contribute to building of more safe everyday life, not only within one country, but whole region and wider.

I will give you only couple of examples where Ministry of Interior and Police of Republic of Srpska made fantastic direct cooperation with security structure of the countries in the region:

- After several year lasting search in the region, detection of illegal printing house of forged euros (cooperation with Croatia, Slovenia, Austria and Europol)
- Several cases of murder are solved (successful cooperation with Slovenia and Croatia)
- Drug seizure (excellent cooperation with Croatia, Slovenia and Greece)

Those are just some of examples of regional cooperation made on the basis of mutual trust and respect. If there was no direct and immediate cooperation we would never come to these results, what show that Ministry of Interior of Republic of Srpska has grown in strong institution and reliable partner to all counterpart that are ready for open fight against organized crime and terrorism.

Ladies and gentlemen,
Respectful colleagues,

At the end of this speech let me conclude that in our everyday activities we have to develop and support all forms of institutional cooperation that is carried out by implementation of various conventions, compliance to agreements, by using of existing international organizations, such as Interpol, Europol, SECI Regional Center etc from one side, and from the other side we need to do everything to encourage and increase trust of those who are directly involved in operational activities.

So, the key of success in creation of legal suppositions for cooperation and building of mutual trust, and this event today is excellent occasion that enables us to get know each other better, discuss and exchange our ideas on improvement of cooperation. So, please let me thank you for your attention, and specially to thank the organizer that enabled us to discuss the issues of global security in EU, Mediterranean space, and regional and international cooperation in one constructive atmosphere.

Thank you for your attention!