

## CONCLUSIONS

### Regional Conference in Belgrade, 24-25.05.2007.

- In order to raise the efficiency of financial investigations, national legislations have to be harmonized with international standards. Harmonization of national legislations with international standards defined in relevant international and European conventions, as well in recommendations and guidelines, will also significantly facilitate co-operation between participating countries themselves.
- Special stress in efforts within the legislation harmonization with mentioned international standards, participating countries should put on three issues: "extended confiscation", "reversed burden of proof" and legal entities responsibility. Introducing these instruments into practise would create more optimal conditions for financial investigations and more effective actions in assets confiscation.
- More intensive introduction of financial investigations practice, parallel to police/criminal investigations is necessary, especially in organized crime cases. In order to enforce this practice, in countries where that is not the case, it is necessary to establish within police structures specialized units for financial investigations conducting.
- Following this, it is necessary to instigate co-operation between different lines of work (drugs, serious crime) with specialized financial units, in order to have most comprehensive and most powerful strike to organized criminal groups.
- In countries where that is not the case, initiate necessary steps for establishment of specialized body – confiscated property management agency or some other efficient mechanism to be introduced. Establishment and functioning of such body could positively encourage efficient and better criminal and financial investigations, and later criminal prosecution of organized criminal groups.
- Endeavour to introduce new, better quality system solutions, such as above mentioned agency or some other efficient mechanism for confiscated assets management, but also enact more strict provisions regulating other related issues, such as sanctioning of nonreporting assets origin.
- Encourage co-operation with international institutions relevant for the area of financial investigations and crime proceeds confiscation and better use of such institutions. Consider the possibilities and undertake necessary steps towards membership in presented CARIN network.
- For the purpose of more efficient fight against organized crime, continue with the practise of intelligence and information exchange between police services of participating countries, either directly or via Liaison Officers, as well with all other forms of operational co-operation (ex. bilateral or multilateral border crossing meetings, etc) in order to achieve agreements on joint activities and achieve better results.

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- Beside police co-operation, strengthen co-operation with other authorities relevant for financial investigations (FIU, Tax Police, etc) within the country, as well abroad, and also encourage co-operation of Prosecutors in different countries, especially within the pre-trial procedure, in order make use of police and judicial resources exploited in their best capacities through target focused joint agreements and investigations planning.
- Depending on future possibilities, an organization of next conference will be considered; conference will again be a continuation of current practice in co-operation between MoI Republic of Serbia and OSCE Mission to Serbia. Topics suggested by participants are: fictitious import-export, abuse of false invoices, VAT frauds, corruption, management of confiscated assets, use of SIT, undercover agents and work with informants in OC investigations.

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