

ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE OSCE BORDER SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS NETWORK

10 YEARS BACK – 10 YEARS FORWARD

VIENNA, AUSTRIA
27 - 28 MARCH 2017

BACKGROUND

At the Ministerial Council in Ljubljana, participating States (pS) adopted the **OSCE Border Security and Management Concept (BSMC, MC.DOC/2/05; 6 December 2005)**. In the BSMC, the OSCE was tasked to facilitate the “exchange of information, experience and best practices” as well as “technical dialogue between national border services and competent national structures” on border security and management issues.

Additionally, the BSMC identified the establishment of national focal points (NFPs) as a method by which a possible OSCE contribution may be delivered. The NFP Network is meant to be a tool for co-operation between pS on border security and management issues, with the primary purpose to facilitate information sharing. The Permanent Council approved the **Terms of Reference for the OSCE Border Security and Management NFP Network (PC.DEC/757; 5 December 2006)**, thus clarifying the responsibilities of the NFPs and the OSCE Secretariat. This year’s meeting will provide an opportunity to take stock of the past decade of implementing the NFP Network Terms of Reference and to brainstorm on new and innovative ways to further advance the implementation of the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept by OSCE pS.

The meeting will be organized by the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship and the Transnational Threats Department/Border Security and Management Unit (TNTD/BSMU), in Vienna, Austria. The event focuses on the conclusions of previous annual meetings and is in line with the 2017 Austrian OSCE Chairmanship priorities.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Analyse emerging threats and risks related to border security and management issues and assess available international, regional and cross border co-operation mechanisms to address them;
- Analyse migration related challenges in the OSCE area and beyond;
- Define and discuss the role of customs services in preventing and countering terrorism;
- Share best practices and lessons learnt in detecting potential foreign terrorist fighters at the border;
- Take stock of the implementation of the BSMC provision to “promote high standards in border services and competent national structures”, namely focusing on such thematic areas as: (1) countering corruption in border security and management; (2) use of information exchange technologies; (3) education and training in border security and management; (4) promoting gender equality in border security and management;
- Define gaps and agree on potential countermeasures in combating various types of illicit cross-border trafficking;
- Discuss the emerging phenomenon of trafficking in cultural property and potential ways to improve co-operation on a national and regional level to address it;

- Discuss and develop recommendations on how mechanisms for co-operation on border security at a national, regional and international level can be improved, especially between border guard/police and other services involved in border security and management; and
- Discuss on-going initiatives and agree on future activities.

PARTICIPANTS

The meeting is open for officially designated NFPs, relevant national experts as well as representatives of the OSCE field operations that address border security and management issues in their host country¹ and officials from international and regional organizations dealing with relevant issues that are willing to contribute to the discussions.

The Austrian OSCE Chairmanship is planning to invite suitable border security and management experts from the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to take part in some sessions of the meeting.

DRAFT AGENDA

Monday, 27 March		
<i>Study Visit (optional)</i>		
09.00 – 9.45		<i>Bus transfer to Laxenburg, Austria Meeting point: Entrance to Hofburg Congress Centre</i>
09.45 – 11.30		Presentation of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)
11.30 – 13.00		<i>Lunch in Laxenburg</i>
13.00 – 13.45		<i>Return transfer to Hofburg Congress Centre</i>
Venue: Hofburg Congress Centre		
13.45 – 14.00		<i>Registration of participants</i>
14.00 – 14.30		Opening remarks
14.30 – 15.30		Emerging threats and risks and available cross-border co-operation mechanisms to address them <i>The OSCE BSMC calls for improved co-operation between border security and management services on all levels in order to address current and emerging threats to security within the OSCE area and beyond. The participants are invited to review existing mechanisms for cooperation in the region and brainstorm on their effectiveness/efficiency to respond to current and emerging threats and risks.</i>
15.30 – 16.00		Coffee break <i>Group photo</i>

¹ The co-ordination meeting of OSCE Field Operation representatives dealing with border security and management issues is planned for the afternoon of 26 March 2017 at the same venue.

16.00 – 17.30		<p>NFP Network Working Groups Session</p> <p><i>The NFPs will be invited to take part in a working group of their choice. Please note that only Working Group II will have simultaneous English – Russian interpretation.</i></p> <p>Working Group I: Migration-related challenges in the OSCE area and beyond <i>The participants will be invited to follow up on the outcomes of previous Annual Meetings of the OSCE Border Security and Management NFP Network and to share the experiences of their services in addressing migration-related challenges.</i></p> <p>Working Group II: Countering terrorism at the border² <i>Preventing and countering terrorism has become a major responsibility for all border security and management agencies in recent years. The participants of this working group will be invited to discuss the role of customs services in preventing and countering terrorism, available tools to identify foreign terrorist fighters at the border, and existing co-operation mechanisms for exchanging information and conducting joint operational activities.</i></p> <p>Working Group III: Information exchange technologies in border security and management <i>A well-functioning process of information exchange between and within national agencies involved in border security and management is one of the main factors contributing to the successful management of the border. Modern day technology allows for smooth, timely and continuous information exchange. The participants of this working group will discuss how the use of new technologies can enhance the effectiveness/efficiency of information exchange with a special focus on tools for sharing Passenger Name Records (PNR) / Advance Passenger Information (API).</i></p>
17.30 – 18.00		Presentations by Working Groups
18.00		Reception hosted by the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship
Tuesday, 28 March		
9.00 – 9.30		<p>Introduction to the session on promoting high standards in border services and competent national structures</p> <p><i>The OSCE BSMC promotes “high standards in border services and competent national structures” calling upon the pS to enhance the efficiency of their national border security and management services by means of preventing corruption, improving information-sharing processes within their services and on an interagency level, enhancing education standards and introducing innovative educational technologies, as well as promoting gender equality in border security and management.</i></p>

² Simultaneous English – Russian interpretation will be provided in this working group session

9.30 – 11.00		<p>NFP Network Working Groups Session</p> <p><i>The NFPs will be invited to take part in a working group of their choice.</i></p> <p><i>Please note that only Working Group I will have simultaneous English – Russian interpretation.</i></p> <p>Working Group I: Countering corruption in border security and management³ <i>The 2005 OSCE BSMC defines the fight against corruption as one of the priority areas for improved co-operation among national border security and management services. During this session, participants will review existing oversight mechanisms both within their agencies and on the national level, identify strengths and weaknesses in preventing and investigating corruption, discuss the monitoring and oversight function of civil society, and make recommendations on ways to improve existing mechanisms.</i></p> <p>Working Group II: Promoting gender equality in border security and management <i>Female staff in border security and management services remain a minority and the number of women involved in decision-making processes and leadership positions is equally low. Uneven hiring practices, selection processes, as well as recruitment, retention and promotion policies, keep the number of female personnel within the border security and management services artificially low. The under-representation of women at all levels negatively impacts the culture and operational effectiveness of border security and management agencies. The participants will be invited to discuss the reasons for gender inequality within their services, with a view to identify strategies to increase the number of women female staff. Moreover, the positive impact of integrating a gender perspective into border security and management will be discussed.</i></p> <p>Working Group III: Education and training in border security and management <i>Participants will be invited to discuss best practices in the area of training as well as new mechanisms used by the OSCE Border Management Staff College to engage with the national training institutions of OSCE ps' border security and management services.</i></p>
11.00 – 11.30		<p>Coffee break</p>
11.30 – 12.00		<p>Presentations by Working Groups</p>

³ Simultaneous English – Russian interpretation will be provided in this working group session

12.00 – 13.00		<p>NFP Network Working Groups Session</p> <p><i>The NFPs will be invited to take part in the working group of their choice.</i></p> <p><i>Please note that only Working Group III will be provided with simultaneous English – Russian interpretation.</i></p> <p>Working Group I: Combatting illicit trafficking across the border <i>Participants will be invited to identify ways to enhance the capacity of national services to tackle different types of trafficking across the border. The competences and roles of various services involved in the process of border management will be reviewed in order to identify ways to optimise their standard operating procedures in addressing the gaps in legislation and procedures exploited by traffickers.</i></p> <p>Working Group II: Preventing trafficking in cultural property <i>OSCE pS border security and management services are gradually taking on new responsibilities while also gaining new functions. Combating trafficking in cultural property has recently gained more attention by pS due to the importance of protecting cultural heritage and also in light of recent discoveries linking it to the financing of terrorism. Participants will be invited to brainstorm on ways to enhance national expertise, improve interagency co-operation and information sharing mechanisms with a view to improve the capacity of services to identify and prevent this cross-border crime.</i></p> <p>Working Group III: Countering the illicit trafficking of weapons across borders⁴ <i>As an intergovernmental organization dealing with regional conflict resolution, the OSCE has a mandate in preventing the illicit trafficking of weapons, ammunition and explosives. The participants of this working group will be invited to review best practices, existing tools and technologies, as well as remaining gaps and challenges in addressing the trafficking of weapons, and formulate recommendations to address this challenge.</i></p>
13.00 – 14.00		<p>Lunch</p>
14.00 – 14.30		<p>Presentations by Working Groups</p>

⁴ Simultaneous English – Russian interpretation will be provided in this working group session

14.30 – 15.30		<p>NFP Network Working Groups Session</p> <p><i>The NFPs will be invited to take part in the working group of their choice.</i></p> <p><i>Please note that only one working group will be provided with simultaneous English – Russian interpretation.</i></p> <p>Working Group I: Are we there yet? Improving existing mechanisms for regional co-operation⁵</p> <p><i>The participants will be invited to review and analyse the effectiveness of existing mechanisms for regional co-operation, and identify gaps and challenges with a view to identify potential solutions to address them.</i></p> <p>Working Group II: Interagency co-operation in practice: Bridging between border guard/police services and other agencies at the border</p> <p><i>Efficient interagency co-operation at the border and at the central level provides for smooth flow of information, fast clearance procedures, enhanced border security, and a facilitated flow of goods that contributes to stronger economies and intensified trade between neighbouring countries. At the same time, taking into account that the services operating at the border have different objectives and competences and belong to different national institutions, co-operation between those services on the national level is key. The participants will be invited to analyse challenges to inter-agency cooperation and develop recommendations on how to address them.</i></p>
15.30 – 15.45		Coffee break
15.45 – 16.15		Presentations by Working Groups
16.00 – 17.00		Way forward: discussion of planned and future activities of the OSCE Border Security and Management NFP Network
17.00 – 17.30		Closing remarks

REGISTRATION

Participants are invited to use the POLIS on-line registration tool: <http://polis.osce.org/registration>

DEADLINE: 5 MARCH 2017

The provisional list of participants will be available at the accreditation desk during registration, throughout the meeting, and a final version will be uploaded to the POLIS platform after the meeting together with all the other meeting materials.

MEETING VENUE

The Meeting will take place at the Hofburg Congress Centre in **Vienna, Austria**

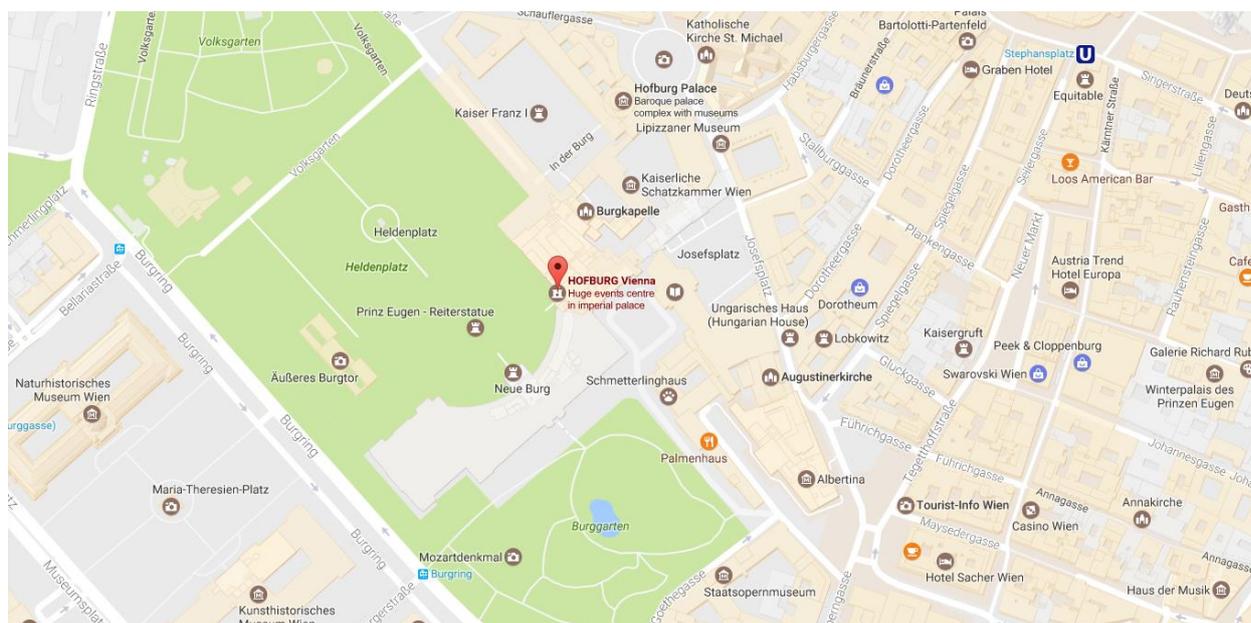
Address: Hofburg Congress Centre, Heldenplatz, 1014 Vienna

Tel: +43 1 5873666

E-mail: vienna@hofburg.com

⁵ Simultaneous English – Russian interpretation will be provided in this working group session

Map:



ACCOMMODATION IN VIENNA

The participants are kindly requested to book their own accommodation in the vicinity of the Hofburg Congress Centre. Neither the OSCE nor the host country will cover the accommodation costs of participants.

TRAVEL BOOKINGS

Participants are kindly requested to make their own travel arrangements, which will not be paid for by the OSCE or the host country.

Participants eligible for travel sponsorship will be contacted separately.

TRANSFERS TO/FROM THE AIRPORT

Participants are kindly requested to arrange the transfers from/to the airport and to/from their hotel on their own.

MEALS

Lunches and coffee breaks will be provided at the conference venue.

CHATHAM HOUSE RULE

The meeting should stimulate an open debate with the aim to draft recommendations. Therefore the meeting will be held and reported in accordance with the Chatham House Rule⁶. The rule allows people to speak as individuals and to express views that may not be those of their organizations or nations, and therefore encourages free discussion. Speakers are free to voice their own opinions, without concern for their personal reputation or their official duties and affiliations.

⁶ The **Chatham House Rule** is a principle that governs the confidentiality of the source of information received at a meeting. Since its refinement in 2002, the rule states: *When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.*

WORKING LANGUAGES

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and Russian. Some of the parallel working group sessions will only be conducted in English (please consult the programme of the event).

DISTRIBUTION OF WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS AND MEETING MATERIALS

Participants are welcome to submit written contributions reflecting their views on the issues to be discussed at the meeting (to bordersnfp@osce.org). An *English translation* of documents submitted in another language is highly appreciated.

All the meeting materials will be stored in POLIS.

VISA SUPPORT

Participants are encouraged to apply for visas as early as possible.

It is advisable to check for visa and entry requirements before making travel arrangements. Please visit <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/travel-stay/entry-and-residence-in-austria/entry-and-visa/> or contact an official Austrian diplomatic representation in your area.

Visa support letters can be requested by e-mail from Veronika.Cerna@osce.org. Your request should be accompanied by a scanned copy of the passport with which you will travel, valid for at least six months, and an indication of the embassy to which you will be applying.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

In case of emergency:

European emergency phone number: 112

Police: 110

Medical help:

Medical emergencies: 144

Call a doctor: 144

Tip: you can always use public phone booths and EUR coins to call in Vienna.

YOUR CONTACTS AT THE AUSTRIAN OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP

Ms. Astrid Holzinger

Adviser, Politico-Military Dimension

Tel: +43 501 150 4328

Mobile: +43 676 8999 4328

E-Mail : astrid.holzinger@bmeia.gv.at

Mr. Bence Dobri

Adviser, Politico-Military Dimension

Tel: +43 501 150 4333

Mobile: +43 676 899 994 333

E-Mail: bence.dobri@bmeia.gv.at

YOUR CONTACTS IN THE TRANSNATIONAL THREATS DEPARTMENT

Ms. Oksana Nazarchuk

Border Adviser

Tel: + 43 1 51 436 6641

Mobile: + 43 664 859 08 85

E-mail: oksana.nazarchuk@osce.org

Ms. Veronika Cerna

Project Assistant

Tel: +431514366711

Mobile: +43 6763012890

e-mail: veronika.cerna@osce.org