

OSCE 2018 Annual Police Experts Meeting

Future Policing Strategies:

Addressing Trends and Changes in a Globalized World

22-23 October 2018 Hofburg, Vienna

CONCEPT PAPER

Introduction

The OSCE Annual Police Experts Meeting is organized in accordance with the OSCE Ministerial Decision MC(9).DEC/9 of 4 December 2001, which calls upon the OSCE to preferably annually convene meetings of law enforcement experts from OSCE participating States and representatives of relevant specialized international and regional organizations. The OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities (PC.DEC/1049 of 2012) highlights to take evolution of transnational threats and the rapidly changing criminal phenomena into account in OSCE's police-related activities (Art. 6). It furthermore underlines the OSCE's role in promoting the co-operation, information sharing and the exchange of best practices between police services of OSCE participating States (Art. 12).

Background

During recent years, demographic changes, increased diversity, economic disparity, and globalization with its technological innovations and interconnectedness, have revolutionized policing and made the operating environment of criminal justice practitioners significantly more complex. Police authorities are experiencing a transformation in the way criminals and criminal networks make use of these developments to invent new types of crimes and create new methods for committing traditional crime.

While already existing transnational crimes like trafficking in illicit drugs and human beings, smuggling of weapons and terrorism are expected to become even more difficult to combat, cybercrime including ransomware, online fraud, hacking and data theft are believed to become central issues for law enforcement to deal with. Expansion of online payment methods, cryptocurrencies and anonymous websites further contribute to the changing nature of crime.

National police services, and international and regional law enforcement agencies, have to gear up their efforts to respond effectively to the changing environment. Today's police officers are expected to be proficient in a range of new skills and capabilities to deal with day-to-day scenarios without consulting experts. This calls for constant adaptation to the modern policing environment, including through discussion forums, exchange of good practices, in-service training and e-learning.

Modern policing requires building strong and enduring collaboration with stakeholders and partners within the public and the private sector, NGOs and academia in an effort to identify, prioritize and address risks and threats to public security and safety.

Aim and key questions of the 2018 APEM

The 2018 OSCE Annual Police Experts Meeting's (APEM) focuses on the future. The meeting seeks to address new and emerging crime threats and trends and other future law enforcement tasks. In addition, participants will be introduced to ways in which police services can prepare to meet these developments.

The aim of the 2018 APEM is to introduce and discuss legislative instruments, co-operation mechanisms, multi-disciplinary/-agency approaches, policing strategies and good practice examples, for the purpose of strengthening efforts of OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation in addressing new and emerging crimes through forward-looking approaches to policing.

To this end, the APEM 2018 will address, discuss and seek to answer the following three questions:

- What are the main recent and future developments with regard to transnational crime and other public safety concerns?
- How can police authorities and agencies prepare to address these emerging threats and new tasks?
- How can strategies such as the confiscation of criminal proceeds be applied against profit-driven, transnational crime?

Structure of the Meeting

The APEM 2018 will cover one and a half day, from noon 22 October to the afternoon of 23 October. After a formal opening and welcoming remarks, the meeting will be divided into three main sessions. The first session will introduce new and emerging challenges and crime threats facing present and future law enforcement from the academic and research perspective as well as from the standpoint of OSCE participating States and regional and international organizations. Session two will discuss the changes and adjustments that national and international law enforcement agencies have to make in order to address these new and emerging threats. The session will present good practices from various stakeholders as well as institutional "visions for the future" to prepare for the new challenges. Building on last year's APEM, the third session will focus on approaches to identify, trace, seize and confiscate proceeds of criminal activities, which is commonly believed to be the most effective way to fight profit-oriented transnational crime. A side event will be organized during lunch hour on 23 October, where experts will introduce some recent developments in cybercrime and cryptocurrencies.

The main findings and outcomes of the meeting will be compiled in a report, which will serve as a basis for further discussions on this topic at the national, regional and international level, and as guidance for the OSCE when providing technical assistance to OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation.