Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this year’s Annual Police Experts Meeting.

The meeting is jointly organized by the Transnational Threats Department and the German 2016 OSCE Chairmanship. Let me thank the Chairmanship for the exceptional co-operation in planning and preparing the meeting.
The transnational criminal landscape has changed over the recent years. It is increasingly developing into interconnected and international networks of criminals rather than traditional hierarchical, mafia-type criminal groups. Exploiting new technologies and new means of communication, these networks are dynamic and quickly adaptable to new circumstances, challenges and opportunities.

According to a research jointly done by Europol, FRONTEX and INTERPOL, which was introduced at the INTERPOL Regional Meeting in Prague last month:

- …more than 90% of the migrants coming to the EU are smuggled or otherwise facilitated by members of a criminal networks.
- …migrant smuggling is still a low risk but a highly profitable business. An estimate of the yearly criminal income of migrant smuggling results in an average of 4,5 to 5,5 billion Euros in 2015.
- …smugglers and other facilitators are organised in loosely connected networks, stretched along the migratory routes. More than 250 hotspots for migrant smuggling are identified in and outside Europe.
- …there is an increased risk that foreign terrorist fighters may use the migration flow to enter Europe.

This raises the following obvious question: How can national authorities, regional and international organizations address these sophisticated challenges? This is a
simple question - but we all know that the answer is a very complex and multifaceted one. Let me mention three instrumental factors in answering the question:

1. Strengthen regional and international co-operation – between countries of origin, transit and destination.
2. Systematic gathering, evaluation and analysis of information and data – on national, regional and international level.
3. Sharing of information and intelligence – within national boundaries and between countries of origin, transit and destination.

We have all heard this several times before and many of these points were reflected in the outcomes or conclusions of a number of OSCE conferences, meetings and workshops. The challenge has not been to identify what needs to be done, the challenge has been to find ways to put these in practice, in other words to operationalize on national, regional and international levels.

The three factors I mentioned, analysis, co-operation and information sharing, are in fact core elements of the Intelligence-Led Policing models and methodologies. Therefore, by introducing and promoting the concept of ILP and the potentials of its many components, we will contribute to its implementation in practice.
Let me not give you a presentation on what Intelligence-Led Policing is – you will hear that from renowned academics and several experts during these days – I would only like to highlight that one of the main purposes of ILP is to move the decision-making process of the police from reactive to a forward looking proactive one. Easy as it sounds, that can not be done unless there is a clear legal framework, administrational structures and practical processes in place to systematically gather, evaluate and analyse data and information, and turn them into reliable intelligence that can be used as the basis for the proactive decision making. This is a fundamental issue and a prerequisite for ILP model to work in an effective way.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Dear Colleagues.

The OSCE has a clear mandate to promote methods and tools like Intelligence-Led Policing. A number of regional and international organizations actively promote and support the adaptation of ILP methodologies and models. Some of these organizations will present their approaches and experiences today and tomorrow.

In recent years, ILP has also and increasingly been endorsed by the OSCE executive structures:

- …the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe is providing courses on criminal intelligence and risk analysis in line with ILP principles;
• …a number of OSCE field operations are assisting their host States in developing their criminal intelligence services and a few are supporting the implementation of a full ILP strategy. We will be introduced to some examples of this during the course of this meeting.

• Last, but not least, the recently renewed OSCE-UNODC Join Action Plan includes a new chapter on co-operation in the area of Intelligence-Led Policing.

When preparing this meeting we explored all existing ILP models and methodologies, to find out which ILP models are in practice, and to identify good practices to present. We sent questionnaires to our field operations, conducted a desk research and field visits. A short version of the result can be found in a draft report which is accessible on POLIS. Our examination showed that there is a variety of ILP models in place and in many instances only parts of the models are implemented. There are also examples of multiple parties promoting different ILP models in one and the same country without any reciprocal co-operation or communication.

Another challenge we noticed - is simply the historical, cultural and language differences in the use of the word “intelligence”, which can create obstacles in developing and adopting ILP. This applies especially to the Russian speakers as the word “intelligence” in Russian rather refers to secret information possessed by state
security services. On the contrary, “intelligence”, as used in the context of ILP, is the output – or the product – of the processing of information and data to be used in general policing.

Having identified these challenges we made a decision to draft a joint OSCE-UNODC ILP Factsheet - which is in your hand-out folders - containing all the basic factors of the ILP concept and explain - not only what ILP is in principle - but also what ILP is not, in order to prevent misinterpretation and misunderstanding.

All this preparatory work led to clear conclusion:

Firstly, that there is a need within the OSCE to clarify the ILP concept, and
Secondly, that there is a positive demand within the OSCE to explore and discuss Intelligence-Led Policing in details for a potential wider adoption.

This is the first time that the concept of ILP is the subject of an OSCE-wide meeting. Therefore, we have gathered prominent academics to launch all of our working sessions.

Dr. Adrian James will be the first of the three academics to speak, after my remarks. He will bring us combined insights from both the law enforcement side and the academic world. In his researches he has specifically focused on ILP and was so
kind to draft a unique version of his latest report for the participants of the Meeting. You can find his interesting report in our publications’ corner.

We have also invited the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, or ODIHR, to give a presentation on the human rights aspects of ILP which I look much forward to. After all, the basic purpose of all policing is to safeguard the human rights and fundamental freedoms of everyone.

Tomorrow we will have a joint presentation on the first Regional SOCTA - or Serious and Organized Crime Threat Assessment - supported and facilitated by the OSCE field operations in the respective countries. This is a very positive and important milestone which we hope to be an encouragement for other participating States, OSCE regions and Partners for Co-operation.

Dear Colleagues.

I look very much forward to the next one and a half day and am confident that the input from all the speakers will provide you and us with real substance to build on. I encourage all of you to actively participate in the discussions sessions and present your views, remarks or concerns.

Thank you for your attention.