OSCE 2016 GERMAN CHAIRMANSHIP

Mr. Sascha Weh, Superintendent,
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Concluding Remarks at the Annual Police Experts Meeting

10 June 2016

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues.

The 2016 Annual Police Experts Meeting is coming to an end. On behalf of the German OSCE Chairmanship I want to express my special gratitude to all participants and to all the excellent keynote speakers that gave their excellent presentations as well as to the moderators, Irene, Elizabeth and Jorg, for leading the sessions and discussions.

In the last two days many highly interesting types and sides of Intelligence-Led Policing have been presented. I am confident that the diversity of speakers and
the various approaches that we have been introduced to have enriched our understanding of the subject matter.

As my colleague from the MoI in Berlin, Mr Sven Berger stated in the opening remarks of the German Chairmanship yesterday, the main aim of the 2016 Annual Police Experts Meeting was to introduce, to explore and to discuss the concept of Intelligence-Led Policing as an alternative to modern, effective and efficient law enforcement strategies. We aimed, not only to examine ILP as a concept, but also practical preconditions for it to work effectively. With full confidence I can state that the meeting has achieved what it aimed for. As was just mentioned by the Director the OSCE Transnational Threats Department, Alexey, we have heard and seen examples of ILP models, methodologies, approaches and implementations from the academia and from a number of countries and regions as well as international and regional organizations. And, not less importantly, we have also been introduced to several challenges and pitfalls to the various implementation methods of ILP.

Dear colleagues.

Intelligence-Led Policing can be explained in a very complex way but in simple terms it is a tool to prevent and counter crime – a methodology to gather, evaluate and analyse information to assess threats to the public and
make evidence-based decisions on how to address them. As our first keynote speaker, Dr. Adrian James, stated yesterday - our only possibility to effectively counter serious and organized crime is to use proactive methods of Intelligence-Led Policing, - to obtain, evaluate and analyse information and make informed decisions on reactions to the threats. Reactive methods simply do not work in fighting cross-border crime.

In his opening remarks yesterday, Alexey emphasized the use of ILP as a tool to operationalize findings and conclusions of Annual Police Experts Meetings and other similar OSCE events. The German OSCE Chairmanship wholeheartedly supports this view.

The value of this year’s Annual Police Experts Meeting has been the range of ILP models and applicable methods that were presented. We will all go back to our duties in the next days with new information and ideas, which is one of the important purposes of the OSCE Annual Police Experts Meetings. In addition the German Chairmanship is interested in seeing tangibles and practical outputs as follow ups of this meeting.

We believe that the OSCE Secretariat and the OSCE field operations should further promote and support the adaptation and implementation of Intelligence-Led Policing models and methodologies. At the same time, it is clear that the
understanding of the meaning of the concept varies between practitioners and organizations and even within the OSCE. Therefore this meeting has strengthened the Chairmanship’s view that there is a need for a common OSCE notion of Intelligence-Led Policing. We support the idea that the Strategic Police Matters Unit in the Transnational Threats Department works towards publishing an OSCE Guidebook on Intelligence-Led Policing. Already drafted material on the subject which was introduced at this meeting should of course be taken into consideration in the preparation of such a publication.

The Chairmanship also endorses future engagements of the OSCE executive structures in enhancing capacities of strategic and operational analysis within participating States. What was underlined several times during the meeting is the vital importance of analytical capabilities for proactive policing and one of the most serious challenges to ILP being the lack of sufficient analytical knowledge and skills. Therefore, we invite the Transnational Threats Department to consider providing support to field operations and participating States in building analysis and assessment capacities of law enforcement authorities.

The German Chairmanship is confident that the move towards proactive policing and the adoption of ILP will contribute to enhancing of law
enforcement’s capabilities of OSCE participating States in addressing present and future threats.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues.

In concluding, I thank you all for your interest in and support to this Annual Police Experts Meeting. In particular I thank the staff of the Strategic Police Matters Unit for co-organizing this event together with us at the German Chairmanship. Special thanks go of course to all the speakers and moderators, who through their valuable contributions, made this meeting a success.

I also thank the interpreters for their excellent work.

Thank you very much to you all, have a safe travel back home.

The meeting is closed.

Thank you very much.