



Mission Permanente de la Principauté de Monaco  
auprès des Organisations Internationales à Vienne

Permanent Representation of the Principality of Monaco  
to the International Organisations in Vienna



Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe

## **Conference on Tackling Emerging Transnational Threats in the Mediterranean Region through Information Sharing and Co-operation 1-2 June 2015, Monaco**

### **Concept Paper**

#### **Background**

The Mediterranean region faces a myriad of emerging and destabilizing transnational threats from increasingly sophisticated transnational organized crime groups involved in a wide array of illegal activities.

The objective of this conference is to stimulate and enhance international dialogue and co-operative efforts of the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation and participating States to increase their capacities to identify and counter emerging transnational threats.

#### **Proposal**

At the request of the Permanent Mission of the Principality of Monaco to the OSCE, the Transnational Threats Department, in co-operation with other thematic units of the OSCE Secretariat, and the Government of the Principality of Monaco, organizes a two-day conference on “Tackling Emerging Transnational Threats in the Mediterranean Region through Information Sharing and Co-operation”. The Conference will help showcase the important role that regional approaches and effective co-operation mechanisms can play in addressing transnational threats. This event is intended to stimulate and enhance international dialogue and co-operative efforts in the Mediterranean region. The conference consists of the opening and four thematic sessions on topics identified and specifically agreed by the organizers in close co-ordination with the OSCE Partners for Co-operation in the Mediterranean Region (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia) to maximize the effectiveness of the event. It is expected that a set of conclusions, recommendations and/or outcomes for follow-up actions will be formulated at the end of the conference. The agenda of the event will focus on the following thematic areas:

#### **Session I: Irregular migration challenges as a transnational threat**

The Mediterranean region is confronted with irregular migration as an emerging transnational threat phenomenon that needs to be addressed as such in a broader context of regional co-operation and policy developments. The participants will discuss transnational organized criminal activities in irregular migration impacting the Mediterranean region, developments in the legal and policy framework and identify ways to improve co-operation between the relevant countries. This session will pave the way for concrete solutions that would increase the information sharing effectiveness and co-operation in the region for addressing irregular migration as an emerging transnational threat, with full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in compliance with international and national law.

## **Session II: Tracing illicit financial flows and assets emanating from transnational organized crime activities**

One of the biggest challenges in combating transnational organized crime activities is identifying, tracing and seizing proceeds of crime. Experience has shown that arresting transnational organized crime members and their associates is not sufficient to eradicate their organizations unless their criminally derived assets are seized. Criminals take full advantage of the globalization of the world's economy and hide the source of their proceeds by transferring funds through a variety of financial schemes, often "reinvesting" illicit profits into the legitimate economic sector. The timely and co-ordinated tracing of illicitly derived criminal proceeds in different jurisdictions, through the effective co-ordination and co-operation among practitioners, policy makers, and other relevant stakeholders is crucial. The session will familiarize the participants with ways to work more effectively together to improve co-operative efforts to identify, trace and seize the proceeds from transnational organized crime activities. The use of existing databases, specialized institutions and units, along with other information sharing practices and co-operation mechanisms to assist in identifying, tracing and seizing the "lifeblood" of transnational organized crime will also be discussed and explored. The session will facilitate information sharing and co-operation among the participants in addressing the illicit financial flows resulting from transnational organized crime activities.

## **Session III: Seaport and airport security**

Developing effective communication and co-operation mechanisms to combat transnational organized crime activities in seaports and airports remains a critical element of border security and management for the Mediterranean region. Many of the emerging security threats challenging the Mediterranean region today revolve around the apparent exposure and vulnerability of seaports and airports from criminal activities. This working session will explore ways to improve the level of preparedness to deal with changes in the nature of the threats facing seaports and airports. This session will also introduce ongoing national and regional initiatives aimed to help the participants in their efforts to more efficiently exchange information and co-operation to bolster seaport and airport security in the Mediterranean region.

## **Session IV: Enhancing and preventing illicit weapons trafficking across borders**

Involvement of transnational organized crime in the diversion of small arms and light weapons from legal trade and state held stockpiles has been identified as a leading cause of illegal weapons proliferation across borders. This session will examine national and international tracing tools, to include INTERPOL's tracing systems, weapons stockpile management practices and export control mechanisms with cross-border interconnectivity. The session is aimed to facilitate more efficient information sharing and strengthen co-operation efforts to prevent and counter illicit weapons trafficking in the Mediterranean region.

## **Format**

This conference is organized by the Transnational Threats Department in co-operation with other thematic units of the OSCE Secretariat and the Principality of Monaco, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and INTERPOL, and will include approximately 80 participants. The participants from the OSCE Partners for Co-operation from the Mediterranean region and OSCE participating States will be invited through their respective Permanent Delegations to the OSCE in Vienna. The United Nations Office on

Drugs and Crime and INTERPOL, other relevant international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and private sector representatives will be invited to participate and contribute to the event. The OSCE encourages the participation of female experts at the event.

### **Administrative arrangements**

The organizers will fund the attendance of a maximum of three participants from national law enforcement agencies of the OSCE Partners for Co-operation in the Mediterranean Region (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia) as well as keynote speakers designated by the organizers for each session. The remaining participants from the OSCE participating States, and international and regional organizations, will be expected to cover the cost of participation at their own expense.

Catering services will be provided for all the participants during the conference. Internet will be available at the conference venue for all participants for up to three days. Accommodation options with specially arranged rates will be offered by the organizers through POLIS web page – <http://polis.osce.org>

### **Interpretation**

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Arabic.