



BULGARIAN CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE



PCC SEE

MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLICE EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE POLICE COOPERATION CONVENTION FOR SOUTHEAST EUROPE

7-9 April 2010, Sofia

MINUTES

Conducting standardised training on PCC SEE related matters was recognised as a key priority for the implementation of the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe (hereinafter referred to as: "PCC SEE") by the Committee of Ministers at its first meeting in Vienna in July 2008. At its second meeting in Brussels in November 2009 the Committee of Ministers approved an Action Plan on the Implementation of PCC SEE where specific tasks related to the standardised training were envisaged, as well as responsible bodies and deadlines for their implementation.

A Strategy Paper regarding the conduct of standardised training on PCC SEE related matters was prepared by the PCC SEE Secretariat and consulted among the Contracting Parties (hereinafter referred to as: "CPs") in the beginning of 2010.

On the initiative of the Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-office of PCC SEE, a meeting of representatives of the police education and training institutions of CPs was held in Sofia on 8 and 9 April 2010. The main objective of the meeting was to exchange information on the curricula of the police education and training institutions of the CPs with regard to training on PCC SEE related matters. In order to widen the scope of the cooperation and to use already existing best practices within the EU and the region, representatives of Austria (National Security Academy SIAK), CEPOL, Frontex, AEPC, OSCE, UNODC, SECI Center were invited to present their existing training programmes and give ideas on their use within the framework of PCC SEE.

The Strategy Paper was presented in details by the PCC SEE Secretariat and the representatives of all CPs declared the approval of their countries of the document. Several proposals regarding joint training were outlined in the presentation of the Strategy Paper and the presentations of the CPs. Most of the proposals (Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Romania) were related to regional trainings on different subjects in the respective police education and training institutions.

The Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-office pointed out that the main instrument of the standardised training is the elaboration of a common curriculum, unified for all police

education and training institutions of CPs, yet taking into account the national particularities of the education and training.

Bulgaria suggested using distant form of training with regard to the theoretical part of PCC SEE related matters - via a common training website of the police education and training institutions of the CPs specially designed for this purpose, or via the official Home Page of the PCC SEE Secretariat.

With regard to the practical part of the trainings Bulgaria suggested to carry out most of them in the police education and training institution of each CP with experts coming from different EU MS and EU agencies, pointing out that this will save financial resources for sending trainees, on the one hand, and will give opportunity for more people from the respective CP to be included, on the other.

Bulgaria and CEPOL proposed to change the term "standardised training" into "harmonised training", in order to comply better with the terminology used in the academic circles.

The presentations made by the CPs showed that the police education and training institutions in some countries already have training courses covering PCC SEE related matters (Bulgaria and Romania have almost all of them, Montenegro and Serbia have some). The CPs which do not have specific training programmes on PCC SEE related matters may introduce such and are encouraged to do it. The presentations showed that all police education and training institutions are entitled to execute such training.

The discussions highlighted that the proper and adequate training on PCC SEE related matters, along with a broad awareness on PCC SEE within the CPs and the region, on one hand, and the EU as a whole on the other, are important preconditions for the practical implementation of PCC SEE and carrying out efficient international police cooperation.

In their contributions all the international partners made an overview of their cooperation with CPs to PCC SEE in the area of training and declared their readiness to continue and enhance this cooperation.

- CEPOL presented its ten common curricula and expressed readiness to provide the ones related to PCC SEE after concluding a formal agreement with the PCC SEE Secretariat.
- Frontex presented an overview of the ongoing implementation of the training provisions of its working arrangements with all CPs, which are limited to the field of border security.
- AEPC highlighted that although it does not have ready common curricula to provide, the Association is open for cooperation and is ready to answer requests from the police education and training institutions of PCC SEE CPs in this direction.
- OSCE made a particular suggestion related to the proposal on distant form of training, pointing out that information on all police trainings organised by OSCE are available on its website, even in the languages of PCC SEE CPs which are all members of the Organisation. It was proposed to use this information in order to contribute to the efforts within the PCC SEE framework
- SECI Center reiterated its commitment to offer its expertise in trainings organised by the PCC SEE Secretariat for CPs (also members of the SECI Center) on three

particular forms of cooperation envisaged in PCC SEE, namely joint threat analysis, liaison officers and controlled deliveries.

At the end of the meeting the participants were asked to present the outcomes of the discussions to their respective Ministries, in order to prepare the positions of the CPs on the proposals of Bulgaria till the meeting of the Expert Working Group under Art.33 of PCC SEE (19-20 April 2010). The EWG is asked to reach a common understanding on the following proposals, in particular:

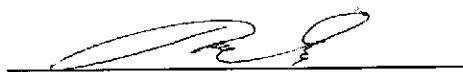
- Using distant form of training for the theoretical part of PCC SEE related matters;
- Carrying out most of the practical training at the police education and training institutions of the CPs on the spot with lecturers from the EU MS and agencies as well as relevant international organisations;
- Using fully the possibilities of Art.11 of PCC SEE for cooperation in the field of basic and advanced training.

In its concluding presentation on the way ahead with regard to harmonised training the Head of the PCC SEE Secretariat proposed to the representatives of CPs and the international partners to consider two possibilities for establishing a long term sustainable system, namely Consortium among the police education and training institutions, or establishing a Working Group under PCC SEE in order to elaborate the system on harmonised training. The prevailing opinion (of five CPs and most of the international partners) was that a Working Group would achieve faster the needed results. Still there were opinions that in longer-term perspective the Consortium may be a more efficient solution, and that the possible WG may be the intermediate solution to be transformed into a Consortium at later stage, or to use the opportunities of already existing Consortiums as AEPC. The CPs representatives were asked to consider the two possibilities and to inform the members of the EWG from their countries, in order to take a decision on this issue at the forthcoming meeting on 19-20 April 2010.

The EWG is asked to prepare a draft decision of the Committee of Ministers on the particular ways to carry out the harmonised training on PCC SEE related matters. The Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-office and the PCC SEE Secretariat declared their readiness to prepare such a draft after the EWG meeting and to consult it with the CPs under the silent procedure in order to have the decision adopted at the Third meeting of CoM to be held on 20-21 May 2010.

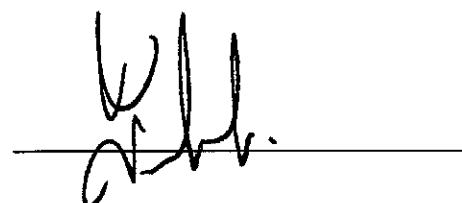
Sofia, 9 April 2010

**FOR THE BULGARIAN
CHAIRMANSHIP-IN-OFFICE**



**Rusi Yanev
Academy of the Ministry of Interior**

FOR THE PCC SEE SECRETARIAT



**Anton Travner
Head of the Secretariat**