



**PCC SEE**

**Sofia, 18 January 2010**

**Room document**

---

**From:** Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-Office of PCC SEE

**To:** PCC SEE Secretariat

---

**Subject:** Priorities of the Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-Office of PCC SEE during the First Half of 2010

---

Attached please find a summary of the priorities of the Bulgarian Chairmanship of the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe during the first half of 2010.

The information was presented by the Bulgarian participant at the PCC SEE Implementation Programme Way Ahead meeting in Ljubljana on 15 January 2010.

Following the regulations on document management in the Committee of Ministers Rules of Procedure (CoM 02/09), the Bulgarian Chairmanship asks the Secretariat to put this summary at the official Home page of the Convention.

# **BULGARIAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE POLICE COOPERATION CONVENTION FOR SOUTHEAST EUROPE**

*January - June 2010*

The enhancement of the bilateral and multilateral cooperation within the region in the area of home affairs, as well as the efficient counteraction to cross-border organised crime have constantly been among the main priorities of Bulgaria in the past years.

Since its accession to the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe (the Convention entered into force for the country on 1 March 2009) Bulgaria has taken the commitment to work for its efficient implementation, for the introduction of European methods and standards in the law enforcement activities, for the improvement of the level of security in the region and its accession to the single European area of justice, freedom and security.

Therefore the main aim of the Bulgarian chairmanship of PCC SEE is to contribute to the practical implementation of the Convention, to the introduction of modern standards for cooperation and the enhancement of the police interaction in the region, in order to achieve gradually compliance with the EU standards in all Western Balkan countries.

Bulgaria will work for the fulfilment of the following **priorities during its Chairmanship in the first half of 2010:**

- *Fostering the process of practical implementation of the different aspects of the Convention*
  - In our opinion, speeding-up of the process of signing PCC SEE implementation agreements is of key importance for transforming the Convention into a functioning mechanism for cross-border cooperation between law enforcement authorities introducing all modern forms of interaction which have proven their efficiency within the EU.
  - Bulgaria is ready to start the mutual evaluation missions in the field of data protection. We hope that the Contracting Parties which shall be subject to such evaluation missions, have already assessed their capacities and will submit declarations on their readiness in due time.

Carrying out of those mutual evaluation missions is extremely important because in practice the results from them are preconditions for the successful implementation of the Convention in general. The exchange of information and the practical implementation of most of the other forms of cooperation envisaged in the Convention can start only after these evaluation missions have completed successfully and a specific level of data protection is achieved in all Contracting Parties.

❑ *Conducting standardised training on Convention related matters*

Bulgaria accepts the proposal of the Secretariat made at the CoM meeting in Brussels in November 2009 to incorporate the Convention into the curricula of the police academies of the Contracting Parties and to carry out the training in specific areas (cross-border surveillance, controlled deliveries, etc.) in cooperation with the EU and international experts.

Training on all Convention related matters is already part of the curricula of different subjects in the Academy of the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior. A new training subject – European Police Cooperation – has been introduced since the current academic year, and it covers the legal background, the nature and forms of the operational police cooperation, as well as the best EU practices for their implementation.

The Academy of the Ministry of Interior is ready to share its experience with the police academies of the other Contracting Parties and to host a two-day expert meeting in Sofia in the framework of the Bulgarian Chairmanship. The meeting will give opportunity to representatives of the police academies of the Contracting Parties to exchange information on the currently used curricula and the Convention related matters included in them.

❑ *Financing part of the activities under the Convention through projects financed in the framework of EU financial instruments*

Being both EU Member States and Contracting Parties to PCC SEE, Bulgaria and Romania can work together with the Secretariat and explore the possibilities for preparing and submitting project proposals in the framework of the EC Specific Programme on Prevention of and Fight against Crime, in order to get financing for part of the activities under the Convention. The rest of the Contracting Parties can participate in the projects as associated partners or target groups, without receiving EU financial support.

According to the Work programme for 2010 approved by the EC, there will be grant subsidies for areas which cover the PCC SEE activities and its priorities on fostering the operational aspect of the police cooperation within the region. Bulgaria considers that there are several fields of cooperation under the Convention where project proposals can be prepared and submitted for approval by the EC, namely:

- JITs' activities;
- Cooperation in the law enforcement area, and countering terrorism, cross-border crime and trafficking in human beings in particular;
- Education and preparing of unified curricula.

A workshop of representatives of the Secretariat, Bulgaria and Romania may be carried out in Ljubljana in the framework of the Bulgarian Chairmanship in order to explore the possibilities and consult the opportunities to prepare project proposals on specific issues.

▣ *Organising the Third meeting of the Committee of Ministers*

As declared during the second meeting of the Committee of Ministers in Brussels in November 2009, Bulgaria is ready to organise the next meeting of the Committee of Ministers in the framework of its Chairmanship. The meeting will be held on 20-21 May 2010 in Sofia.

In our opinion, the main accents of the meeting could be:

- Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Contracting Parties and DCAF;
- Possible signing of bi- and multilateral agreements on the implementation of different forms of cooperation envisaged in the Convention;
- Endorsement of the results of the possible evaluation missions in the field of data protection;
- Endorsement of the results of the expert meeting of the police academies of the Contracting Parties for exchange of information and opinions on the conducting of standardised training on Convention related matters;
- Providing information on the possibilities to submit project proposals and apply for financing part of the activities under the Convention by EU financial instruments.

**SCHEDULE OF THE EVENTS DURING THE BULGARIAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE POLICE COOPERATION CONVENTION FOR SOUTHEAST EUROPE**

| <b>Period</b>  | <b>Place</b>     | <b>Event</b>  |
|--|------------------|---|
| 15 January 2010  | Ljubljana        | PCC SEE Implementation Programme Way Ahead Meeting  |
| 24 - 26 February 2010  | Ljubljana        | Setting up of a Working group on Data Protection and preparing a timetable of the possible mutual evaluation missions   |
| After submitting Declarations of readiness from the respective CPs | Respective CP(s) | Mutual evaluation mission(s) on Data Protection   |
| 23 - 26 March 2010   | Chisinau         | Meeting of WG IBM for screening of the Moldovan legislation with reference to Cross Border Cooperation  |
| 7 - 9 April 2010   | Sofia            | Workshop of representatives of the police academies of CPs on exchange of information on the currently used curricula and the way Convention related matters are included within them |
| 19 - 21 April 2010   | Ljubljana        | Meeting of EWG in order to assess the previous activities and to prepare the meeting of CoM   |
| 20 - 21 May 2010   | Sofia            | Third meeting of CoM  |