



DECISION I/2011

Adopted by the

Steering Group on the Regional Strategy

In the Area of Justice and Home Affairs

Belgrade, 1 December 2011

Acting within the mandate established in the COMMON DECLARATION OF SEECP MINISTERS OF JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS *“Regarding the endorsement of the Regional Strategic Document 2011-2013 and the Action Plan for its implementation”* adopted in Budva, on 18 March 2011;

Taking into account Article 3 of the COMMON DECLARATION stating that the *Steering Group on Regional Strategy (SGRS)* will establish the reporting mechanism on regional activities and regional monitoring tools to assess the level of regional cooperation within justice and home affairs area;

Respecting the positions and proposals expressed by the SGRS members during several stages of consultations,

The Steering Group on the Regional Strategy

Decides the following:

1. Approve the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism (M&EM) as the regional monitoring tools to annually assess the level of regional cooperation within justice and home affairs area.
2. Entrust RCC Secretariat to collect, centralize and periodically report on the level of regional cooperation in the justice and home affairs area.
3. The proposed calendar for the M&EM is:
 - a. Setting up the M&EM Database: February 2012
 - b. Training and Support: March 2012
 - c. Data Collection and Aggregation: April-May 2012
 - d. In country missions and Analysis: April-June 2012
 - e. Report and Steering Group Meeting :July 2012

Belgrade, 1 December2011

DECISION II/2011

Adopted by the

Steering Group of the Regional Strategy

In the Area of Justice and Home Affairs

Belgrade, 2 December 2011

Acting within the mandate established in the COMMON DECLARATION OF SEECP MINISTERS OF JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS “Regarding the endorsement of the Regional Strategic Document 2011-2013 and the Action Plan for its implementation” adopted in Budva, on 18 March 2011

Taking into account Article 2 of COMMON DECLARATION stating that the Steering Group on Regional Strategy (SGRS) will periodically meet under the coordination of the RCC Secretariat and regularly assess the implementation of the Action Plan, and review, update and consolidate regional strategic choices, challenges and priorities

Having in mind the Action Plan to the Regional Strategic Document and in particular the provisions of Objective C2, activity b) and Objective B.4: activities a) and d)

Taking stock of the outcomes of *the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs* organized in Ohrid 3-4 October 2011 and the *Regional Conference of the Ministers of Interior and Ministers of Justice of the SEECP countries “Challenges and achievements of the regional and transnational cooperation in the fight against organised crime in South Eastern Europe”*, organised in Belgrade 29-30 of November 2011,

Considering the positions and proposals expressed by the SGRS’ members during several stages of consultations,

The Steering Group of the Regional Strategy

Reconfirming the strategic choices, challenges and priorities stated in the Regional Strategic Document 2011-2013 and the Action Plan on Justice and Home Affairs endorsed by the SEECP Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs in Budva on 18 March 2011;

Reiterating the progress in the regional cooperation registered during the Joint Meeting of the Steering Group on Regional Strategy (SGRS) and IPA Multi-Beneficiary Strategy Working Group Conclusions from Sarajevo – Ilidža, 7-8 July 2011;

Taking note of the most recent evolutions and positive results in the implementation of the PCC-SEE, SELEC entering into force and establishment, ILECU, MARRI, RACVIAC, SEELS, SEESAC, SEEPAG and WB Prosecutors' Network cooperation and the German initiative of the Western Balkans Network on coordinated Police Development Aid;

Taking note of the latest Corruption Perception Index results published by Transparency International which reflect negative trends in perception of corruption in South Eastern Europe;

Decides the following:

1. Enhance the level of regional cooperation in the area of assets recovery by exchanging lessons learned and best practices. To this end, countries of SEECP will actively participate to the regional events planned to take place in 2012 in Belgrade and Bucharest;
2. Advance on the path of studying the prerequisites for closer judicial cooperation, police operations, police and prosecution activities in criminal investigations, sharing of information on issues affecting the police, prosecution and court services by:
 - a. organising in the first quarter of 2012 a regional event with participation of representatives from Central Authorities of SEECP countries;
 - b. developing, on the basis of such event, an inventory of most relevant shortcomings in the implementation of the existing legal

and institutional framework for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, including review of European Union' best practices in executing arrest warrants and police cooperation;

- c. formulating expert recommendations for addressing identified shortcomings;
 - d. the outcomes of the above activities should feed into the First Annual Report evaluating level of regional cooperation to be launched in July 2012.
3. Welcomes the readiness of RACVIAC to support the process of exchanging information and share best practices at the regional level regarding the protection of fundamental rights within justice and security cooperation. A regional event addressing the topic shall be organised in the first half of 2012.
4. Initiate necessary procedures in relation with European Union to access available judicial network tools provided by European Judicial Network.

Belgrade, 2 December 2011