



**Address by Senior RCC Expert on Justice and Home Affairs,
Virgil Ivan Cucu, at the
SEE Regional Coordination Conference,
Justice, Home Affairs and Security Cooperation
&
Meeting of the Steering Group
Regional Strategic Document**

Sarajevo, 30 November 2010

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to welcome you all at this important event.

The mere fact that so many international and regional organizations and representatives of governments from South East Europe got together today around the idea of coordinating their strategic activities in the field of justice and home affairs is of substantial importance for the region, proving mutual trust and confidence among stakeholders.

In June 2010, the new RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013 was endorsed by the RCC Annual Meeting and, subsequently, by the Heads of State and Government of the South-East European Cooperation (SEEC) Participating States. In this context, the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) has been entrusted to set up a strategic coordination, guidance and monitoring mechanism on regional cooperation in the priority areas, among which, the justice and home affairs and security cooperation play a particularly prominent role.

The Enlargement Strategy Paper 2011-2011 recently adopted by the European Commission also underlines the key role of the RCC in guiding and monitoring regional cooperation and in assuring full reflection of regional priorities in the context of the planning and programming of the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Multi-beneficiary Programme and donor funding in general. The RCC Secretariat and the European Commission have joined efforts in this respect. Through the RCC Secretariat all relevant regional organizations are connected to the implementation of regional projects. Also, through the established Working Groups on IPA Multi-Beneficiaries co-chaired by the European Commission and RCC, they are getting involved in EU – financed projects and become part of a coordinated strategic planning. In this view, the European Commission's Enlargement Strategy Paper commends the efforts of the RCC to enhance cooperation between the police, prosecution services and the judiciary.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me now to focus on the relevance of the Regional Strategic Document and Action Plan in the field of Justice and Home Affairs, as one of the important and, at the same time, challenging endeavours at the regional level. Since 2008, the RCC Secretariat is working on harmonizing the strategies, programs and action plans focusing on the region.

Together with the relevant stakeholders we have embarked, in December 2009, on the preparation of a Regional Strategic Document in the field of Justice and Home Affairs for South East Europe, which will enhance coordination of the regional taskforces

and initiatives with the international organizations and with relevant EU institutions and agencies.

The first phase of this process has been completed in July 2010 when the participants at the *Meeting of the Steering Group for Regional Strategy* (SGRS) agreed to concentrate on the process of developing, drafting and adopting the Regional Strategic Document and Action Plan. A particular attention has been given to the development of a monitoring system and to its implementation.

During this Coordination Conference and Meeting of the Steering Group we are very much expecting an active contribution from your side, in order to provide a consolidated and accepted text of the Regional Strategic Document and the Action Plan which are envisaged to be endorsed by the Meeting of the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs of the SEECP Participating States, planned to take place in February 2011, under the Montenegrin SEECP Chairmanship-in-Office.

Once we will have a jointly developed and implemented regional approach and common operational platforms to deal effectively with the immense challenges in these important areas we will certainly contribute to the security and stability of our region, to the better life of our citizens and, last but not least, to the advancement of all of our countries on the path towards the European and Euro-Atlantic integrations.

Thank you for your attention and I wish you all success in continuation of our common constructive efforts.