

The Fifth Regional (Jumbo) Security Coordination Conference

“Paving the Way for Stabilization in the Western Balkans: The Balkan Route in the New Geopolitical Order - Old and New Challenges to Security”

DRAFT Agenda

19-20 November 2020

DAY 1 19 November 2020	
10:00 – 10:20	Opening of the Conference: Welcome and introductory remarks
	<p>Moderator of the Conference: Hana Sokolovic, TV Host, Journalist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alessandra Guidi, Deputy Director General of the Department of Public Security in charge of coordination of Police Forces, Ministry of Interior, Italy • Davinia Wood, Head of Unit, International Strategy, DG Home, European Commission • Amer Kapetanović, Head of Political Department, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
10:20 – 11:35	Panel I: Immigration Flows along the Balkan route – old and new regional and global Scenarios
Panel Guidelines:	<p>Illegal migration is one of the top priorities and challenges, not only in the region of Western Balkans but also in Europe. 2015 and 2016 have witnessed the peaks in migration flows through the Balkans into the EU. The arrival of more than one million asylum seekers and migrants to Europe in 2015 exposed serious flaws to the Western Balkans. It is not surprising that findings of the Balkan Barometer 2020¹, show that close to two thirds of citizens (respondents) across the region (63%) perceive migration as a security risk to their economy, a 1-point increase compared to 2018 results.</p> <p>On 23rd of September 2020, the President of the EC has presented a new Pact on Migration and Asylum. The EC realizes that:</p> <p>“Migration is a complex issue, with many facets that need to be weighed together. The safety of people who seek international protection or a better life, the concerns of countries at the EU's external borders, which worry that migratory pressures will exceed their capacities and which need solidarity from others. Or the concerns of other EU Member States, which are concerned that, if procedures are not respected at the external borders, their own national systems for asylum, integration or return will not be able to cope in the event of large flows. The current system no longer works. And for the past five years, the EU has not been able to fix it. The EU must overcome the current stalemate and rise up to the task. With the new Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Commission proposes common European solutions to a European challenge. The</p>

¹ <https://www.rcc.int/balkanbarometer/home>

	<p>EU must move away from ad-hoc solutions and put in place a predictable and reliable migration management system.”²</p> <p>Panel I selected 4 strategic aspects and invited leading international, regional and national experts for discussing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and functions of stakeholders for improving migration management • Searching for facts - research and science • Return between incentives for volunteers and readmission • Border management and allocation of human and technical resources
	<p>Chair: Massimo Bontempi, Central Director of Immigration and Border Police</p> <p>Co-Chair and Catalytic Intervener: Sashko Kocev, Director of MARRI Regional Centre</p> <p>➤ ITALIAN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SECURITY representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Migration flows and related criminal phenomena along the Balkan Route</i> Damiano Risi (Central Directorate of Immigration and Border Police) and Chiara Rota (Anti-Crime Central Directorate); • <i>Immigration flows by sea originating from the Balkan region: modus operandi adopted by police forces with focus on practical cases of police cooperation with Balkan Authorities</i> - Francesco Della Corte (Guardia di Finanza General Headquarters); <p>➤ WB6 economies Border Police:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saša Kecman, Advisor to the Minister of Security, Bosnia and Herzegovina • Shaban Guda, Head of Border Police Kosovo^{*3} • Marija Božović, Senior police inspector, Ministry of Interior, Montenegro • Nikola Mirchevski, Head of Sector for Border operations and Ljupcho Markudov, Head of Unit for trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, Ministry of Interior, North Macedonia • Aleksandar Todosiev, Programme manager in MARRI Regional Center
11:35 -11:50	Q/A session - PANEL I
11:50- 12:05	Break
12:05 - 13:20	Panel II: The Terrorist threat between old and new scenarios (focus on managing the threat of returning foreign terrorist fighters and curbing radicalisation in prisons)
Panel	Terrorism is a threat to all states and all people posing serious risk to the life of the citizens and to the security of the European Union and Western Balkans alike. WB regions faces emergence of security challenges arising from radicalisation, too often leading to extreme

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1706

³ *This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of independence.

Guidelines:	<p>violence. Unfortunately the means of radicalization and terrorism evolve constantly as the internet and social media present possible channels through which radicalisation and recruitment can take place. Managing the threat of returning foreign terrorist fighters and their family members is a challenge to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism. Additionally prison and probation systems have become hubs for radicalization as thousands of jihadi extremists have been arrested across Europe over the course of the past five years.</p> <p>The growing number of violent extremists, returnees threat, and radicalisation in prisons in the Western Balkans requires common regional approaches, exchange of good practices and multi-agency information exchange, with a specific view to rehabilitation, reintegration and risk management of these cases. From the prison perspective, the Italian experience in countering organized crime and internal terrorism has allowed to develop a special managerial attitude that has resulted in establishing within the prison systems special criteria to classify and manage, with different modalities, the various types of prisoners based on the crimes committed.</p> <p>Over the years and in view of the increased international terrorist threat, Italy has adopted a series of measures aimed at preventing and combating violent radicalization and proselytism in the penitentiary area.</p> <p><i>This session will focus on regional response in the following areas:</i> <i>How to strengthen the resilience; Best models for an effective multi-agency response in curbing radicalization in prisons; Improved exchange of information among relevant regional stakeholders; Education, training and psychological support after release of extremist offenders; Development of regional counter-narratives;</i></p>
	<p><i>Chair: Claudio Galzerano, former Director of the Italian Anti-Terrorism Service and new Director of the European Counter Terrorism Centre (EUROPOL)</i></p> <p><i>Co-Chair and Catalytic Intervener: Agron Sojati, Head of IISG Secretariat</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Filip DE CEUNINCK, EU regional Counter-Terrorism Advisor, EU Delegation in Sarajevo ➤ ITALIAN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SECURITY representatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Management of the returns from the Syrian- Iraqi area of the foreign fighters of the Balkan Region - Arturo Varriale (Central Directorate of Preventive Police);</i> • <i>Italian experience in preventing and combating violent radicalization in the penitentiary area - Carla Ciavarella and Barbara Napelli (Department of Penitentiary Administration)</i> ➤ PCVE CT WB6 National Coordinators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lejdi Dervishi, Albania • Lejla Čopelj, Bosnia and Herzegovina • Lulzim Fushtica, Kosovo* • Dragica Rajković, Montenegro • Borce Petrevski, North Macedonia

13:20-13:35	Q/A session - PANEL II
13:35-13:50	Break
13:50-15:05	Panel III: Illicit Markets and Transnational Organised Crime (opportunities provided by international police cooperation)
Panel Guidelines:	<p>The organized criminal networks profiting from the sale of illegal goods are becoming more complex than ever while generating each year billions of Euros. Transnational organized crime adapts to markets by creating new forms of crime and transcending cultural, social and geographical boundaries. It cannot be assumed that anywhere in Western Balkans or Europe is immune from the threat of organised crime. Europol reports show that in EU, in 2017 only, there were around 5,000 organised crime groups under investigation, splitting an illegal market estimated to be worth around €110 billion or 1% of the EU's overall GDP. Most of these groups operate outside of given borders and boundaries. Main organised crime threats to the WB region impact also the EU and vice-versa, considering the region's strategic location at the crossroads of several (trafficking) routes. Criminal Groups from the WB region are well-connected with other international Organised Crime Groups and rely on land, air and maritime routes to conduct their criminal activities.</p> <p>The presence of organized crime represents a specific threat to the establishment and advancing of the rule of law reforms in WB region. The situation calls for deep and continuous internal reforms but also building up and strengthening regional cooperation among police, judicial authorities and other state and non-state actors to counter threats originating from trans-national organised crime. Fight against organised crime cannot rely on cooperation alone. Only a strong and coordinated response by the WB economies and EU can break the vicious circle of organised crime.</p> <p><i>This session will explore ways forward how to respond to these existing challenges undertaking a common, regional action and exploring ways of strengthened cooperation between Western Balkans and the EU in tackling the Transnational Organised Crime.</i></p>
	<p><i>Chair: Vittorio Rizzi</i>, Deputy Director General of Public Security, Central Director of Criminal Police</p> <p><i>Co-Chair and Catalytic Intervener: Constantin Prevelakis</i>, Coordinator of the French center of expertise on security in South-Eastern Europe, French Embassy in Serbia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chairmanship of the Security Commitment Steering Group of the Berlin Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yvette Bosworth, Head of Countering Serious & Organised Crime. Leading across Home Office and FCDO, chair of the SCSG • Rachel Chetham, Head of Security and Countering Serious and Organised Crime. Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office ➤ ITALIAN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SECURITY representatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I-CAN Project - Antonio Montanaro</i> (Central Directorate of Criminal Police)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fight against drug trafficking along the Balkan Route – Salvatore Leotta (Central Directorate of Anti-Drug Services); • Illegal trafficking activities in the Balkan area, with a particular focus on the protection of cultural heritage - Alfio Gullotta (Carabinieri General HQ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adnan Dlakić, Advisor, Sector for Fight Against Terrorism, Organized Crime and Drugs Abuse, Ministry of Security, Bosnia and Herzegovina ➤ Florie Hajra - Head of Division against Organized Crime and Fatos Makolli - Director of Directorate against Organized Crime, Kosovo* ➤ Dejan Radusinović, Head of Group for International operational police cooperation, Department for International operational police cooperation, Montenegro ➤ Kristina Evgo, Head of Sector for criminal intelligence and analysis, Ministry of Interior, North Macedonia ➤ Predrag Lajić, Head of Department for the Suppression of Organized Drug Smuggling, Service for Combating Organized Crime, Ministry of Interior, Serbia
15:05-15:35	<p>Q & A session - PANEL III</p> <p>Discussion and Wrap up of DAY 1</p>
<p>DAY 2 20 November 2020</p>	
10:00-11:15	<p>Panel IV: Cybercrime: A new challenge to security in the Western Balkans</p>
<p>Panel Guidelines:</p>	<p>The most recent Internet Organized Crime Threat Assessment (IOCTA), reveals that cybercrime is becoming more aggressive and confrontational. Additionally, COVID is being increasingly considered the largest-ever cyber security threat. Limitations to public life moved some criminal activities to online settings, putting our privacy, our bank details, our money at risk. Europol report Pandemic profiteering warns that criminals have used the COVID-19 crisis to carry out social engineering attacks themed around the pandemic to distribute various malware packages. Cybercriminals are also likely to seek to exploit an increasing number of attack vectors as a greater number of employers institute telework and allow connections to their organizations' systems. Another risk is the terrorist use of the internet and threats against ICT.</p> <p>So it is fundamental for the Governments to reinforce legislative and technical actions to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to respond to a data breach should one occur. This is especially relevant in these moments when most of employees are working remotely and the public services are entirely shifted online.</p> <p>As cybercrime is the most transnational of all crimes, efficient regional and international cooperation is required. There is an increasing need to strengthen cross-boundary and international operational cooperation between law enforcement and judicial authorities in investigations and prosecutions of cybercrime, also with a view to combating the online exploitation of the vulnerable.</p> <p><i>The session will focus on the following issues:</i> <i>Building effective regional law enforcement and judicial cooperation; Developing cyber-defence policy and capabilities in cooperation with national authorities and private partners; State of play of cybercrime legislation in WB, and good practices regarding cybercrime legislation; Regional efforts in fighting online fraud;</i></p>

	<p><i>Chair: Daniela Stradiotto</i>, Central director of Traffic, Railway and Communications Police and of the Police Special Units</p> <p><i>Co-Chair and Catalytic Intervener: Radovan Nikčević</i>, Expert on Connectivity, Regional Cooperation Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Silvia Portesi - Network and Information Security - Research and Analysis Expert European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) ➤ <i>Preventing and combating cybercrime in the Balkan Region – Riccardo Croce</i> (National Cybercrime Service); ➤ <i>Use of cryptocurrencies in the framework of Euro counterfeiting- Roberto Erra</i> (Carabinieri General Headquarters) ➤ WB6 CIRTs - Regions' Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRTs) and Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vilma Tomco, CSIRT Albania • Sabina Barakovic, CSIRT Bosnia and Herzegovina • Goran Tomkovic, Ministry of Public Administration, Montenegro • Jovan Milosavljevic, Republic Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services, Serbia • Aleksandar Acev, Agency for electronic communications - National Center for Computer Incident Response, North Macedonia
11:15-11:30	Q/A session - PANEL IV
11:30-11:45	Break
11:45-13:00	Panel V: Preventing and Countering Corruption in Public Sector
Panel Guidelines:	<p>EU annual reports show that the Western Balkans region continues to show instances of prevalent corruption, whilst progress in successfully fighting it varies across the region. The track record remains unconvincing in most of the region and far from meeting the requirements for EU membership. Strengthening the effort and tangible results in the fight against corruption are essential for a stable and transparent business environment and to mitigate the threats to democratic structures.</p> <p>However the Western Balkans region efforts in anti-corruption policies have yielded positive results, although corruption needs to be tackled in a clearer and more consistent way. Transparency International 2019 Corruption Index showed a decline in the rankings of the Western Balkans economies where each Western Balkan economy received below 50 points, taking between 63th and 106th place in a scale of 180.</p> <p>The Balkan Barometer 2020 results point out a notable surge in the perceptions of corruption across the institutional landscape in the region. More than two-thirds of the region's population is unhappy with their governments' attempts to curb corruption (71%). The parliaments and the judiciary are tied as least trusted institutions as indicated by almost 2/3 of respondents, followed by the government (63%). There is, discouragingly, a marked decrease in trust across all institutions since the previous edition of the Barometer. These sentiments should urge the region's decision makers towards concrete measures and actions that will effectively fight corruption and restore the public's confidence.</p> <p><i>This panel will discuss key challenges at regional/national level related to:</i></p>

	<p><i>Regional efforts in prevention and fight against corruption and organized crime, including money-laundering; Raising awareness and better legislation aimed at tackling corruption in the region; Regional approaches in supporting enhance of transparency in the funding of political parties and public office candidates.</i></p>
	<p>Chair: Maurizio Vallone, Director of D.I.A.-Anti-Mafia Investigative Directorate</p> <p>Co-Chair and Catalytic Intervener: Vladan Joksimovic, Head of Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat</p> <p>➤ <u>WB6 Representatives of anti-corruption agencies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rovena Pregja, Head of the Anticorruption Programs Unit, Anticorruption Directorate in the Ministry of Justice, Albania; • Mevludin Džindo, Assistant Director, Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption, Bosnia and Herzegovina; • Ivan Matic, Head of Department, Commission for the Resolution of Conflict of Interest of Croatia; • Blerim Kelmendi, Head of Department for Combating Corruption, Anti-Corruption Agency, Kosovo *; • Dusan Drakic, Head of Section for Control of Financing of Political Entities, Agency for Prevention of Corruption, Montenegro; • Biljana Ivanovska, President of the Commission for Prevention of Corruption, • Vladimir Georgiev, Vice-President of the Commission for Prevention of Corruption, North Macedonia; • Bojana Smartek, Senior Advisor for Strategic Planning and Development, Agency for Prevention of Corruption, Serbia; • Snezana Kamilovska-Trpovska, Project Coordinator, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, SELDI Executive Secretariat; • Ivana Korajlic, Executive director, Transparency International, Bosnia and Herzegovina <p>➤ <u>ITALIAN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SECURITY representatives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mafia-style infiltration of the Public Administration and of the transnational legal economic market</i> – Andrea Caputo (Carabinieri General Headquarters); • <i>Prevention and countering of corruption in the Public Administration</i> – Paolo Nicolo' (Guardia di Finanza General Headquarters)
13:00 -13:15	Q & A session - PANEL V
13:15-13:30	Break
13:30-14:45	Panel VI: Regional Cooperation in Combating Illegal Trafficking of SALW focusing on the threat of converted firearms.
Panel Guidelines:	<p>The focus will be on the threat of converted weapons and strengthening capacities in terms of legislative, institutional as well as operational and technical capacities to engage in the combat against illicit arms trafficking of blank firing weapons and their conversion.</p> <p>The new EU Strategy Against Illicit Firearms, Small Arms & Light Weapons and their</p>

	<p>Ammunition has a strong focus on Western Balkans with the commitment to support the region's efforts to reduce surplus stocks of SALW and ammunition, reduce illicit possession, and counter diversion and arms trafficking.</p> <p>The Roadmap for a sustainable solution to arms control in the Western Balkans by 2024, supported by EU, Germany and France, was adopted by the region's leaders at the 2018 London Western Balkans Summit. Ministers of interior both, from the region and the EU committed to deepening regional cooperation and agreed on the need to support and enhance the main mechanisms for cooperation. This highest level of political commitment enabled the development of a detailed regional plan with clearly defined goals, baseline and timelines, as well as jointly agreed 14 Key Performance Indicators that allow for monitoring of progress in the implementation of the Roadmap. Goal 3 aims to significantly reduce the illicit flows of Firearms, ammunition and explosives (FAE) into, within and beyond the Western Balkan by 2024.</p> <p>According to Europol 2017 Serious and Organised crime report, SALW are very often diverted from legal supply and firearms traffickers are highly adept at exploiting legal loopholes and differences in regulatory regimes between States, to divert firearms from legal suppliers. The reactivation of deactivated weapons and conversion of blank-firing firearms are among the main sources of illegal firearms trafficked in the EU. Firearms traffickers often convert blank firing firearms or reactivate deactivated firearms purchased from legal dealers based on territories applying less stringent acquisition rules, such as more permissive licensing and registration requirements. The new European Action Plan on firearms trafficking further mentions that new trends are emerging in the EU and amongst European neighbours, which often face similar challenges. These trends include changes in the conversion techniques for turning blank-firing or gas and alarm weapons into firearms and new concealment methods.</p> <p>The Western Balkan seems indeed the transit road from blank firing weapons produced in Turkey and of which a high amount is converted along the road into the European Union. <i>Key topics for discussion under this panel:</i> <i>What exactly is the threat of these firearms? How could the harmonization of the legal framework contribute to combatting this type of illegal arms trafficking? What type of cooperation and coordination is in place but also what could further be needed investigating this type of crime?</i></p>
	<p><i>Chair:</i> Stefano Gambacurta, Director of General Administration Office for the Public Security Department</p> <p><i>Co-Chair and Catalytic Intervener:</i> Jelena Bujakovic, UNDP SEESAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Martin van der Meij, Threat of converted weapons to European Union and the Western Balkans, EUROPOL ➤ Alain Lapon, Legislative framework in the area of converted weapons, UNDP SEESAC ➤ Elena Pancevska, Investigations in the field of converted firearms, Criminal Police North Macedonia, Ministry of Internal Affairs ➤ Adriana Toston Diez, Bilateral and regional cooperation in the field of converted firearms, EMPACT ➤ Floriana Sipala, Head of Unit, Organised Crime and Drug Policy, DG Home,

	<p>European Commission</p> <p>➤ ITALIAN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SECURITY representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Network for the control of small weapons, with a particular reference to the sale of small quantities of sports and/or hunting weapons to importing companies that are certified in the Balkan countries and, in particular, in Albania – Maria Josè Falcicchia</i> (Central Directorate of Criminal Police) • <i>Presentation of IPA 209 Fighting Serious and Organized Crime in the Western Balkans – Carlo Verdiglione</i> (Central Directorate of Criminal Police)
14:45-15:15	<p>Q & A session - PANEL VI</p> <p>Discussion and Wrap up of DAY 2 Concluding remarks/Closing session</p>