



PCC SEE

Skopje, 30 November 2021

CoM 02/21

From:

To:

Subject: Conclusions of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Committee of Ministers

This document has been prepared by the North Macedonian Chairmanship-in-Office and the Secretariat of the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe.



22ND MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS
UNDER THE
POLICE COOPERATION CONVENTION FOR SOUTHEAST EUROPE
SKOPJE, NORTH MACEDONIA, 30 NOVEMBER 2021

CONCLUSIONS

The authorized representatives from the Contracting Parties to the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe (hereinafter referred to as the "PCC SEE") being the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Croatia, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee of Ministers"),

Gathered for the twenty-second time under Article 33 of the PCC SEE,

Recognizing the efforts made so far to strengthen law enforcement cooperation in order to implement the PCC SEE,

Bearing in mind that the threats stemming from the illegal migration pressure continue to pose a security challenge for the PCC SEE region, it remains essential that further measures are taken to protect and control our borders in order to overcome these challenges,

Acknowledging the contribution of the PCC SEE *Plus* implementation process to the area of cross-border law enforcement cooperation and to the efforts undertaken by the six Non-EU Contracting Parties in their accession to the European Union,

Emphasizing that the PCC SEE Contracting Parties cooperating in the implementation process of the PCC SEE should make further efforts to promote the implementation of the common multilateral legal framework and to further strengthen practical operational cooperation,

Recognizing that the completion of the signing of the Protocol amending the PCC Prüm Agreement, which is essential for compliance with EU standards, is in the common interest of the PCC SEE Contracting Parties,

Reaffirming that further efforts should be taken by the Contracting Parties to advance the implementation of their two shared multilateral legal frameworks in view of further strengthening operational cooperation in practice,

Acknowledging the importance of enhancement of cooperation and information exchange among the Common Contact Centres (CCCs) established by the PCC SEE Contracting Parties in order to meet necessary operational demands,

Recognizing that the Accession clause of the PCC Prüm Agreement needs to be amended in order to address the present concerns in terms of the current provisions thereof leaving the accession to the PCC Prüm Agreement open to any party,

Considering that, given the ongoing migration pressure throughout the Eastern Mediterranean migration route, close cross-border cooperation on the entire migration route needs to be continued and further enhanced, particularly in relation to illegal immigration and return of foreign terrorist fighters,

Highlighting the sufficient and solid legal basis as imperative for an effective and efficient cooperation, the Contracting Parties should also consider foreseeing additional measures, agreements or projects in order to further enhance and reinforce the legal basis for an even more practicable and result-oriented cooperation,

Conveying gratitude to the European Commission and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Italy for continuous and substantial support to the PCC SEE implementation process,

Exhibiting gratitude to DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), the Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Austria, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia, the Royal Government of Norway, and the Government of Liechtenstein for supporting the PCC SEE implementation process, for supporting financially the activities and work of the PCC SEE Secretariat (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretariat”),

Thanking the Secretariat for the continued facilitation in implementing the strategic and operational priorities of the PCC SEE *Plus* process, as well as for seeking collaborative and funding opportunities for enhancing the implementation of specific PCC SEE provisions and achieving a timely automated exchange of DNA, dactyloscopic and vehicle registration data in the PCC SEE region in practice,

Have agreed on the following:



PCC SEE

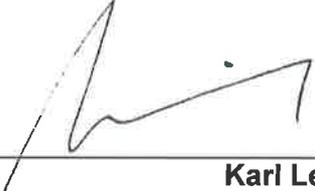
Conclusions of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Committee of Ministers

30 November 2021

(CoM 02/21)

1. The Committee of Ministers (list of representatives can be found in Annex 1) welcomes that most of the Contracting Parties to the PCC Prüm Agreement have signed the text of the Protocol amending the PCC Prüm Agreement, in order to start the automated exchange of data and to close the ongoing EU infringement procedures initiated by the European Commission against the four EU Member States. Thereafter, the Committee of Ministers invites the PCC SEE Contracting Parties that have not yet signed the PCC Prüm Agreement to take the necessary steps in view of a timely cooperation across the entire PCC SEE region.
2. As the number of migrants arriving illegally on the Eastern Mediterranean route is expected to increase, the PCC SEE Contracting Parties will continue to cooperate and provide effective support to each other in tackling illegal migration and effectively detecting related crimes, and to strengthen border control, as far as possible with the involvement of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX).
3. The Committee of Ministers also supports all regional cooperation being the integral and essential part of the Western Balkan's integration into the European Union, including the continued development under the umbrellas of the Salzburg Forum, the Brdo Process and the cooperation in the framework of the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC), in order to form a clear European perspective which ensures Europe's security, prosperity and stability.
4. The Committee of Ministers invites the Secretariat to continue to support the PCC SEE Contracting Parties in a more effective implementation of the objectives of both the PCC SEE and PCC Prüm legal frameworks.
5. The Committee of the Ministers supports the enhancement of cooperation and information exchange among non-neighbouring CCCs and encourages the interested PCC SEE Contracting Parties to take further steps.

6. The PCC SEE Expert Working Group (EWG) obtained the official mandate to negotiate the Accession clause to the PCC SEE Prüm Agreement by the Committee of the Ministers, noting that the official negotiations should also include the respective representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs.
7. The Committee of the Ministers urges PCC SEE Contracting Parties to enhance cooperation among themselves, and with Eurojust, Europol and other relevant law enforcement agencies, particularly in terms of the cross-border cooperation related to the illegal immigration and the return of foreign terrorist fighters, as well as to enact concrete measures to maximize the security for the citizens in the region and in the EU.
8. The Committee of the Ministers invites PCC SEE Contracting Parties to implement the currently available legal documents that are sufficient for effective and efficient cooperation, and also the foreseen measures aiming at the enhancement thereof, as well as to make additional agreements or projects in order to reinforce the legal basis for an even more practicable and result-oriented cooperation.

For the Committee of Ministers	For the PCC SEE Secretariat
	
<p style="text-align: center;">Oliver Spasovski</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Karl Lesjak</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Minister of Interior of the Republic of North Macedonia</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Head of the PCC SEE Secretariat</p>

**List of authorised national representatives from the
Contracting Parties at the 22nd Meeting of the Committee of Ministers
Skopje, 30 November 2021**

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

Mr Besfort LAMALLARI, *Deputy Minister of Interior*

REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

Mr Johann BEZDEKA, *Head of Group Border and Aliens Police, Federal Ministry of the Interior*

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Mr Nedeljko JOVIĆ, *Deputy Minister of Security*

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Mr Ventsislav KATINOV, *Deputy Minister of Interior*

REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Mr Žarko KATIĆ, *State Secretary, Ministry of Interior*

HUNGARY

Mr Mátyás HEGYALJAI, *Deputy State Secretary for EU and International Relations, Ministry of Interior*

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Mr Serghei DIACONU, *State Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs*

MONTENEGRO

Mr Zoran MILJANIĆ, *State Secretary, Ministry of the Interior*

REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

H.E. Mr Oliver SPASOVSKI, *Minister of Interior*

ROMANIA

Mr Aurelian PĂDURARU, *State Secretary*

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Mr Milosav MILIČKOVIĆ, *State Secretary, Ministry of Interior*

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

Mr Samo DROBEŽ, *Secretary, European Affairs and International Cooperation Service, Ministry of the Interior*