

**LETTER OF ADDRESS
BY MR. G. KOUNADIS
4TH CHAIRMAN OF THE JCC**

The SECI Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime represents a very successful paradigm of regional cooperation, bringing together 12 countries of South-Eastern Europe with the clear commitment of countering crime in the different ways it is manifested nowadays. Being a law enforcement international organisation for both police and customs offences, it is intrinsically involved with other major international bodies with similar mandates, such as the WCO, INTERPOL, EUROPOL and certainly the European Union. It is one of our major goals the establishment of closer links with them, by intensifying cooperation and reinforcing the institutional aspects of it. It is understood that the terms of such cooperation should be further elaborated by the interested parties, with a view to maintaining closer contacts and avoid duplication of work.

The SECI Center undergoes a really dynamic period of development, in full conformity with its mission statement, by building up its capacities to the benefit of the participating countries and the international community. By reinforcing the Center's structures we may reliably expect enhancement of its presence at the international level as well as of its effectiveness at the regional one. Its basic fields of action coincide with specific major concerns of the society as a whole, such as drug and human beings trafficking, arms proliferation, corruption, smuggling, counterfeiting, money laundering, terrorist networks, etc.

Our pride would be raised when our basic pursuits are being reached, inter-agency relations fostered, clear outcomes achieved. The Chair will strive for a renewed mandate to the SECI Center, so as new challenges to be fully reflected in it while relevant actions initiated.

I am confident that if we keep on being fully committed in exploring ways of furthering our work, the coming year would signal a renewed statement of close and productive cooperation of the SECI Center and its counterparts at national or international level.

Chairman of the Joint Cooperation Committee of the SECI Center

Georgios Kounadis