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Motto:

*"Tell me and I will forget
Teach me and I will remember
Explain me and I will learn
Involve me and I will act"*

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITY REPORT

All the results of the SECI Regional Center during 2001 have been obtained by a small number of persons with limited financial resources. In this regard, some clarifications should be made:

A. Currently, within the SECI Regional Center 15 liaison officers carry out their activities (seven from Police and eight from Customs), whose staying expenses and salaries are supported by the seconding countries which they represent. Also, the Center has nine employees (three Management, four Executive Secretariat, one IT expert and one Administrator).

The liaison officers represent the core of the SECI Regional Center, and they must be offered appropriate conditions for carrying out their daily activities, to get better results in the fight against organized crime, and also to help diminish the criminality in the region.

In February will be signed the "Agreement on Communication Connectivity for Exchange of Information between Interpol, SECI Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime, and the Government of Romania". This will lead to a safer and more protected communication inside the Center. Thus, the liaison officers of the nine countries with permanent observer status will be determined to request more information exchanges through the Center, leading to major successes in the fight against organized crime. Holland, Poland and Russia will soon join the current permanent observers, as the Joint Cooperation Committee (the Committee) of the Center will approve their requests for this status.

B. Regarding the financial resources of the Center's activity in 2001, activity that we are now analyzing, the USD 400,000 budget approved by the Committee was supported by the member countries in shares proportional to their GDP. Beside this amount, we can include in the category "Other sources" the Romanian support, amounting to over three million dollars for the construction, furniture endowment, IT equipment, and utilities (electricity, water, heating) of the Center.

The United States Government also supported the Center with USD 100,000 for the start up, as well as with IT equipment in value of about USD 400,000. The Center did not have any other external financial resources.

Very few of us realize that the fight against organized crime is more efficient when it is led on its breeding ground, instead of counteracting the effects caused by such crimes on the territories of the so called "target countries". Beside the advantages of the operational activities, which began to show the importance of the Center for its member countries, it offers a financial advantage also it is much easier and cheaper to send a sole liaison officer to the Center, from where the whole region is supervised, than to send 11 liaison officers in 11 different countries.

If in 2002 we have more liaison officers, we will start the activity of four new Task Forces, and surely we will have more complex operational cases under the coordination of the Center. All of these imply meetings, travels, conferences, seminars, training's, analyses, involving additional expenses.

Considering the unexpected growth of the operational activity, we need an analysis unit or, to begin, one or two analysts. Also, for the same reasons, we need:

- more computers for the liaison officers who are going to join the Center;
- a separate network and appropriate equipment for direct and rapid connection between the Center and the National Focal Points;
- a sound system for the new training room;
- equipment for simultaneous translations;
- appropriate equipment for video-conferences with all the member countries;
- one or two cars, and one minibus;
- modern software in order to perform case analysis;
- mobile phones for the liaison officers;
- additional financing for telecommunication, travels, and for promotional activities, as the Center needs to be better known, and represented in all the important international events.

Unlike other initiatives, which are only in the stage of projects and plans, the SECI Center is in this area of Europe the only actual and operational international organization presently functioning and showing results, as it follows from its reports. It is a paradox that draft projects benefit of substantial financial support, while the actual activities of the SECI Center are supported by the limited budgets of the SECI states, although the beneficiaries of its activity are not only the South Eastern European states, but states outside the region as well.

FACTS 2001

1. LEGAL STATUS (approved documents and regulations of the Center)

- SECI Agreement; Ratification process completed, all 11 countries ratified the SECI Agreement / Slovenia has reservations upon operational and financial matters /; arrangements for the ratification process in Yugoslavia have already begun.
- Headquarters Agreement;
- Rules of Procedure of the Joint Cooperation Committee;
- Rules of Organization and Operation of the Center;
- General Standards and Procedures for the Information Processing;
- Security manual;
- Rules on control, access, and deletion of information;
- General guidelines for the Task Forces;
- Memorandums of Understanding with IOM, EULEC;
- Interim Agreement with INTERPOL for communication connectivity;
- Declaration for suppression of terrorism with Resolution to assist the USA in investigation processes.

2. OPERATIONAL STATUS

- | | |
|--|---|
| ➤ Liaison officers from Police / seven / | ➤ Liaison officers from Customs / eight / |
| ✓ Albania; | ✓ Albania; |
| ✓ Bulgaria; | ✓ Bulgaria; |
| ✓ Greece; | ✓ Bosnia and Herzegovina; |
| ✓ Hungary; | ✓ Hungary; |
| ✓ Macedonia; | ✓ Macedonia; |
| ✓ Romania; | ✓ Moldova; |
| ✓ Turkey. | ✓ Romania; |
| | ✓ Turkey. |

3. ACTIVE TASK FORCES AND PLANNED TASK FORCES

- TF on trafficking in human beings / RO /
 - ✓ More than 250 information were exchanged;
 - ✓ Four regional operations;
 - ✓ A project for witness protection has been initiated;
 - ✓ Active cooperation with FBI, USAINS, Austria, and Stability Pact TF for trafficking in human beings was established.

- TF on Drug Trafficking / BG /
 - ✓ Regional operation with nine countries including observers;
 - ✓ Close cooperation with DEA from the US.

- TF on Commercial frauds / CRO /
 - ✓ Regional operation for combating smuggling of cigarettes;
 - ✓ Movement reports

- TF on Customs Valuation fraud / AL /
 - ✓ A list of commodities that are going to be in the focus of this task force was established (textile, vegetable and fruits, toys, used cars, coffee, cement, constructing iron, cigarettes, petrol, electronics, alcohol).

- TF on Financial and Computer Crime / MK /
 - ✓ preparatory phase delivery of a Questionnaire for detection of regional needs, and letter of invitation to the first task Force meeting for member countries, observers, and other relevant institutions as well as involvement of the public prosecutors;
 - ✓ Close cooperation with US Secret Service.

- TF on Trafficking in Small Arms / AL /
 - ✓ preparatory phase - upon recommendations from the EU priorities and conclusions on the UN Conference;
 - ✓ Control of manufacture, trafficking, circulation, brokering, trade
 - ✓ Tracing, collection and destruction of such offences, as well as suppressing of the financing used for the procuring of small arms and other related materials.

- Working group for improvement of the Resolution for terrorism / SECI Center /
 - ✓ Exchange information on organized crime related to terrorism, legal assistance and assist the USA in the investigations related to the Region.

4. BUDGET - USD 400,000

- Contribution satisfied by eight countries excluding Bosnia, Herzegovina and Slovenia;
- It was used for:
 - Administrative measures for training's, conferences, meetings, travels, human resources management, communication and IT processing;
 - Secretariat logistical support for meetings as well as the flow of internal and external correspondence (724 documents sent and 864 received), and assistance in International projects;
 - Maintenance of the notification from the parties and registration of SECI Center members;
 - Petty cash.

5. IT status

- INTERNET connection;
- Installation and set up of the new equipment /USA AID USD 400,000;
- Creation of the WEB page of the Center - www.secicenter.org

WITH WHOM WE COOPERATED?

- Observers: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, USA, UK, and Ukraine.
- INTERPOL / interim agreement on communication connectivity /;
- WCO;
- Stability Pact;
- UN Commissions;
- EUROPOL;
- OSCE.