

Intervention Speech at the 7th Anniversary of the SECI Center

26th of May, 2006 – Bucharest, Romania

Mrs. Vincenza IACONO

INTERPOL General Secretariat Representative

Good morning Ladies and gentlemen,

Mr Ronald Noble, The Interpol Secretary General, is unable to be here today and it is therefore my pleasure to represent Interpol and the European Subdirectorate.

On behalf of the Secretary General I would like to thank the Director of SECI Centre for his invitation to participate in this meeting and congratulate him today during this celebration of the 7th Anniversary of the SECI Centre.

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite the Director of SECI Center to renew his visit at the General Secretariat. It would be a great pleasure for us to host him again.

Interpol is committed to helping the SECI Centre achieve its primary objective of improving regional cooperation in combating trans-border crime. In order to achieve this objective, we realize the enhancing coordination between law enforcement agencies of participating states is essential. Furthermore, considering the global aspects of trans-border crime, cooperation with countries outside the region and representatives of international organizations is crucial

Interpol has permanent advisory status in the SECI Regional centre together with the WCO. The permanent participation of Interpol and WCO in the decision and policy-making process of the SECI Centre ensures a continuous coordination in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

The cooperation network of the SECI Centre is represented by agreements and memoranda signed with numerous partners: Interpol, the Romanian Government and the SECI regional Centre signed an agreement on communication connectivity for exchange of information between the parties.

All SECI Member countries are Interpol member countries and are connected to I/24/7 our global police communication system, which provides a worldwide encrypted and secure communications network to Interpol member countries.

During the last few years Interpol has focused its efforts in providing police operational support to member countries within the three following core activities areas:

1. A secure global communication system;
2. Databases of critical police information; and
3. Operational police support services

The police operational support has been reinforced with the implementation of a 24 hour a day/7 days a week Command and Coordination Centre, which supports the needs of our National Central Bureaus.

However, we all realize that Interpol is not alone in the field of international law enforcement cooperation. We must work closely with a wide range of international and regional organizations throughout the world, such as Europol, the Baltic Sea Task Force, United Nation Mission in Kosovo, European Union Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Stability Pact and, of course, SECI.

We are very proud of our achievements concerning our cooperation with SECI. Interpol and SECI have signed a cooperation agreement which enables SECI Liaison Officers to exchange information with Interpol's General Secretariat and with the concerned Interpol National Central Bureau through the I-24/7 network, after having received the authorization of their NCB.

A technical agreement was signed in the end of 2004 on the basis of which the SECI LO could be connected to IP General Secretariat via I-24/7 and exchange information.

Each mail sent by a Seci LO shall be copied to the respective NCB.

Each SECI Member country has to give prior written authorisation to the SECI LO for such a connection.

Unfortunately only three countries have responded positively

I want to seize this opportunity to emphasize the great importance of supporting and speeding up the process aiming at giving full effectiveness to this agreement so fulfilling its main purpose, the exchange of crucial information.

I also want to stress that the Interpol is exclusively intended to provide a secure tool to exchange information.

This will consent to Interpol to fully support Seci's mission of combating transborder crime.

In the framework of our cooperation with SECI I want to underline the regular participation of IPSC Specialized Officer in SECI meetings dealing with the specialized crime areas such as the Joint meeting of SECI Center Task force on Stolen Vehicles, the 11th Meeting of the SECI Anti drug trafficking task force etc.....

SECI attendance of regular Interpol meetings, such as ERC and vice versa.

I would finally like to mention the recent commitment of our OLA of offering legal expertise related to the processing of information, in the framework of a draft Convention SECI. In this context some experts have been tasked to examine the issue and to offer the experience and competencies of Interpol in the field. A mission of the tasked team from Interpol took place in Bucharest in the end of March 2006

Thank you for this opportunity to express our thanks for having made it possible our efficient cooperation and for the future efforts we are sure will be done to further develop our partnership having in mind the achievement of tangible results in fighting any kind of serious international crime.

I would also thank the distinguished delegates for their kind and close attention.