

**Intervention speech at the 7th Anniversary of the SECI Center – May 26,
2006 – Bucharest, Romania**

Mr. Mirko VRTACNIK – SEEPAG Coordinator

On behalf of SEEPAG Prosecutorial Advisory Group I congratulate you on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the SECI Center. I appreciate the efforts you have done combating organized crime. Slovenian Supreme State Prosecution Office has tried to support your activities as it has been possible. This was the reason why we took over the presidency of SEEPAG at the beginning of this year.

The first presidency was devoted to Serbia and Montenegro. They did a lot of useful work. They organized four meetings and on December 2004 the basic documents General Guidelines and Recommendations for establishing Prosecutorial Focal Points were adopted. According to the provisions of General Guidelines, the presidency will be every year in the hands of other member states.

We are preparing the 5th conference of SEEPAG in Ljubljana. Conference will take place in Ljubljana on 19 - 20 of June. The theme will be “Witness Protection.”

The witness protection is so important because it is not only legal possibility how to ensure act of testifying different individuals freely and without fear, harm and intimidation but also the method of the work of law enforcement organs to ensure enough admissible and reliable evidences against the perpetrators of serious criminal offences.

We decided to organize this conference like an expert meeting with the study of regulations and practices in every member state to encourage law enforcement bodies to use the protection of endangered persons and to give him the information and knowledge about the possible international cooperation.

SECI Centre, its officials and staff have given a lot of support to our institution and I hope that Supreme State Prosecution Office of the Republic Slovenia will fulfil your expectations.

I wish you further successful work and thank you for your attention.