

Meeting minutes and conclusions from the on-line meeting of the Executive Board of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors

23. february 2021., Zoom platform

Meeting of the Executive Board was held on-line, in the composition determined in accordance with the conclusions from the 5. meeting of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors, as well as from the meeting of the Executive Board held on 12.11.2020., and the participants were Ms. Vilma Ruskovska, Chief Prosecutor of the Basic Public Prosecutor's Office for Criminal Prosecution of Organized Crime and Corruption, Mr. Kozmin Daniel Halalau, Prosecutor, Directorate for Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism (D.I.I.C.O.T), Mr. Saša Čadenović, Deputy of the Special prosecutor of the Republic of Montenegro, as well as Mr. Miljko Radisavljević, Head of Secretariat of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors. Beside the members of the Board participants were also Mr. Michele Del Prete, Deputy Prosecutor, National Anti-Mafia and counterterrorism Directorate (DNA), Mr. Mladen Nenadić, Prosecutor for Organized Crime of the Republic of Serbia, Ms. Jasmina Milanovic Danic, Deputy Prosecutor for Organized Crime, Ms. Dragana Stojanović and Ms. Milica Vujanić Đorđević, contact point of Secretariat, as well as the representatives of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, Deniz Macolani, Deputy Head, Strategic Police Matters Unit/Transnational Threats Department, Ms. Marina Markov, National Programme Officer, Ms. Kristina Evgo, Senior Organised Crime Adviser, Security Co-operation Department, as well as Ms. Iris Pilka, Programme Officer/ Economic Co-operation and Governance, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA).

The Head of the Secretariat Miljko Radisavljević suggested that the following issues be considered:

1. Organisation of the 6. meeting of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors – mode of meeting, topics, duration
2. Possible joint activities in 2021.
3. Future host of the Secretariat
4. Other

Bearing in mind that there were no proposals to amend or to change the agenda, Head of the Secretariat suggested that the presentations be moved to the items on the agenda.

The first item on the agenda was **Organisation of the 6. meeting of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors – mode of meeting, topics, duration.**

Mr. Mladen Nenadić, Prosecutor for Organized Crime of the Republic of Serbia, considers that holding a 6. meeting of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors in March is too early, bearing in mind that it is already the end of February, and that it is realistic to have a meeting at the earliest in April, with the fact that maybe we should think to hold the meeting even later, in order to be held in vivo, considering situation due to Covid 19 pandemic, which is still ongoing. Regarding proposed topics for the meeting, considers that all of them are interesting and dominant in the work of all the members of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors, and that final decision regarding choice of topics for the 6. meeting should make the Executive Board. However, he pointed

out that one of the topics is very interesting, and it is the topic that colleagues from Greek Prosecutor's Office – Larisa suggested, named „Criminal Offence as service“ – and he is of opinion that it would be very useful for all the participants if that topic would be supported with the case study and the concrete examples, after which all of the above would be discussed. Regarding the duration of the meeting itself, he considers that, due to large number of the participants during the on line meeting, before scheduling the meeting, IT experts should be consulted, so that the meeting could be held undisturbed.

Representatives of the OSCE stated on this agenda item that the meeting should be organized in April and it should be limited in duration on 1 day – morning and afternoon session, with not more than 2 topics in the agenda – one in the morning and one in the afternoon session, in order to present the topics in the best possible way and to have enough time to discuss them at a deeper level. Also, they suggested that two meetings be considered in this year, instead of one a year, as has been the case so far, and all in order to discuss more topics, in which the participants are interested. They pointed out that the topics maybe should be sublimated and process two topics in one, however, at the end, they concluded that it would be too broad and lead to insufficiently detailed analysis of any of the topics.

Ms. Vilma Ruskovska, Chief Prosecutor of the Republic of the North Macedonia pointed out that not more than two topics should be on the agenda, and she agreed with the proposition from colleagues from Montenegro that one of the topics should be transfer of cash across the border, as a modality of a cash transfer obtained by committing a criminal offence, because that topic is very interesting in the Republic of the North Macedonia, bearing in mind that it is noticed lately that a large number of persons open non-resident accounts in that country, withdraw cash from those accounts and than that money transfer across borders. She added that she considers that April would be good time to hold the meeting.

Mr. Cosmin Daniel Halalau, Prosecutor D.I.I.C.O.T., highlighted that all the topics are interesting for discussion, but he thinks, as colleagues, that it should be important to restrict the number of topics, because it is very important to „learn the subject“ and analyse it in detail, and all in order to leave something useful to the participants for further work after the meeting. He considers, as far as he is concerned, that meeting could be held in the March also, but the last word should have colleagues from Montenegro, regarding the fact that they are hosts. Regarding the duration of the meeting, he pointed out that meeting can last up to three days, but it would be too much, and two days would be just enough.

Mr. Saša Čadenović, Deputy of the Special Prosecutor of the Republic of Montenegro, stated that the date of the meeting was to be moved to April, to monitor the situation related to Covid 19 pandemic, and all for the eventual meeting in vivo. Regarding the topics and their number, he considers that the number of topics should be restricted and choose some topic which is interesting and common for all the participants. Several of the participants suggested as a topic confiscation of proceeds of crime and he agrees that specifically that topic should be included in the agenda, but he thinks that it is more important to talk about firearms smuggling, which was the proposal from the Montenegro Prosecutor's Office, with cigarette smuggling, because numerous criminal offenses against life and body, especially in the last few years, are associated with smuggled weapons, and by preventing the smuggling of weapons, criminal offences against life and body would also be prevented. Also, firearms smuggling and religious fanaticism lead to terrorism, therefore from this aspect it is important to emphasize the importance of discussing the topic. Except as stated, it is also

important to discuss about the large amounts of money that is transferred across the border, because it is very dangerous, but also about use of various networks and crypto currencies for committing criminal offences, especially criminal offence Money Laundering, which was the proposal of the Montenegro, Croatia and Greece. He pointed out that the topics should be specified and narrow, to be better discussed.

Mr. Mikele Del Prete, Deputy Prosecutor, National Anti-Mafia and counterterrorism Directorate (DNA), pointed out that he agrees with the restriction of the topics for the Conference meeting and that it should be two, a maximum of three topics. All proposed topics are very important and he considers that shall be time to discuss in details about all of those, but it is important to restrict their number for presentation on each meeting. He thinks that meeting should be postponed for April, so that everything would be organized properly. Also, he considers that duration for the presentation of each topic should be restricted to 20 minutes per topic, so that it would be enough time for discussion. Except that, he pointed out, that it is the best solution that meeting lasts for 1 day in two sessions – morning and afternoon session.

Mr Miljko Radisavljevic, Head of Secretariat, pointed out that the number of topics for the meeting should definitely be limited, and it would be good to organize two meetings this year, one on line and one in vivo, to discuss multiple topics. Regarding 6. meeting he believes that the meeting should last one day and in two sessions – morning and afternoon session. The organization of the work would be as follows:

- The meeting would be one day
- It would be divided in two sessions – morning and afternoon
- Two topics would be discussed – one at each session
- Each topic would have its own introductory speaker and presenter
- The introductory speakers would present their views first, then the other country would present their presentation and views of the topic, followed by a discussion
- Presentations would be limited to 20 minutes
- Introductory speakers would be Montenegro on the money laundering topic, and Croatia on the confiscation of proceeds of crime topic
- Presenters would be the Republic of North Macedonia on the money laundering topic and Italy for confiscation of proceeds of crime topic.

He pointed out that, in this state of affairs, Croatia should be offered to declare whether it accepts the role of introductory speaker on the confiscation of proceeds of crime topic, such as the Republic of North Macedonia (bearing in mind that representative of that state, Ms. Vilma Rskovska left the meeting of the Executive board due to urgent business obligations). If these participants refuse, the Executive Board would have the possibility to offer that activity to someone else. Also, he added that it should be considered that first meeting in April should be on line, and the next one, let's say in October should be in vivo, and that host would be Montenegro. All those present agreed with what was said.

The second item on the agenda was **Possible joint activities in 2021..**

Mr. Miljko Radisavljevic, Head of Secretariat, pointed out that perhaps it would be good to think in the direction of making an analysis, which would include all countries in the region, and which would refer to the confiscation of proceeds of crime. Also, he considers that the most important activity of the Permanent Conference is continuous operation on expanding the members network, and in that direction he suggested that it should be discussed on the 6. meeting of the Permanent Conference.

Mr. Mikele Del Prete, Deputy Prosecutor, National Anti-Mafia and counterterrorism Directorate (DNA), pointed out that it is possible to make such an analysis but for something like that it is needed to check the level of cooperation during the 2020. Also, he considers that it is very important to expand the network and include more member states, and that in that direction, in addition to Austria, which was discussed at the previous meeting of the Executive Board, action should be taken in terms of new members joining and signing Declaration of Intent by the Secretariat and in relation to Slovakia.

Ms. Deniz Macolani, representative of the OSCE, brought out on this agenda item that it would be possible to make such an analysis and that it should be concern crimes of a transnational character. Also, she considers that action should be taken in terms of new members joining and in relation to Germany, and even in relation to USA and Central America, and in that sense Bolivia, Peru and Venecuela.

Mr. Saša Čadenović, Deputy of the Special Prosecutor of the Republic of Montenegro, stated that he have a proposition that every member state make it's own view of cooperation, not only with state members of the Permanent Conference, but also with all other states, in order to draw conclusions about the wider work, in terms of communication methods and types of cooperation. He believes that one more Executive Board meeting should be held between two meetings of the Permanent Conference in this year, and all in order to sublimate the activities of the conference on the expansion of the network.

The third item on the agenda was **Future host of the Secretariat**.

Mr. Miljko Radisavljevic, Head of the Secretariat, pointed aut that it is very important to choose a new headquarter for the Secretariat, given that four-year term of the previous headquarter in Belgrade expires. He believes that it is also one of the questions that should be discussed on the meeting of the Permanent Conference. However, he pointed out, that in his opinion, the next headquarter of the Secretariat should be in Italy.

Ms. Marina Markov, National Programme Officer, pointed out that it should be offered to all the member states opportunity to have the headquarter of the Secretariat in their country and then see which country expresses interest in the above, and after that between the interested member state choose headquarter for the next four years. She praised Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime and the Secretariat for its work so far, and especially website of the Permanent Conference, on which you can find many important documents, which can be found not only member states but all interested. She stated that the OSCE would continue to support the Conference.

Ms. Deniz Macolani, representative of the OSCE, stated that she is grateful to the Republic of Serbia for running the Secretariat during this difficult period for all, that is during the pandemic, and expressed the view that the OSCE would continue to provide logistical and financial support to the country that decided to take over the headquarter of the Secretariat, and she believes that it should be some Balkan country, and Italy will continue to provide support.

Ms. Jasmina Milanović Ganić, Deputy Prosecutor for Organized Crime of the Republic of Serbia, expressed an opinion that mentioned analysis should be made between two meetings of the Conference and then conclusions can be made about new member states. According to the experience of the Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime, she believes that invitation should be sent to the Czech, because in that state there is many criminal cases in which Serbian citizens are involved, engaged in criminal activities. Also, she believes that invitation should be sent to Turkey, especially bearing in mind situation, which refers to so called „Balkan route“ and smuggling of the narcotics. She pointed out that so far member states have not made applications for mutual cooperation, filling in the form, which can be found in the website of the Permanent Conference, therefore a way should be found to encourage members to report mutual cooperation. She especially thanked the OSCE and Ms. Marina Markov, because she believes that without them the Permanent Conference would not be possible in the best possible way.

After discussion of the Executive Board members and consideration of all agenda items **Executive Board adopted the following conclusions:**

- 1. 6. Permanent Conference of the of Organized Crime Prosecutors will be held on-line, for one day and that in two sessions – morning and afternoon. On each session will be discussed one topic. First topic will be MONEY LAUNDERING, and second topic will be CONFISCATION OF PROCEEDS OF CRIME. Introductory speaker for the first topic will be Montenegro, and for the second topic Croatia will be offered introductory speaker status. For the first topic the presenter status will be offered to Republic of North Macedonia, while for the second topic the presenter status will have Italy.**
- 2. The date of the 6. Permanent Conference of the of Organized Crime Prosecutors will be determined at a later date, with the Secretariat offering as possible dates to the members 15., 22. or 28.04.2021..**
- 3. Two Conferences will be held in 2021. with the proviso that the Conference in April will be held on line, while, and depending on the situation regarding Covid 19 pandemic, the second Conference will be held in October (but the exact date will be determined later, as well as the maintenance mods).**
- 4. Between two Conferences one meeting of the Executive Board will be held, on which the time of the next Conference will be discussed, as well as the topics that will be discussed at the Conference.**
- 5. The host of the second Conference in October 2021. will be Montenegro, if the conditions for holding the in vivo Conference are met.**

Head of Secretariat
of the Permanent Conference of Organized Crime Prosecutors
Miljko Radisavljević