



PRAGUE 2016
44TH EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Closing speech

by

Mr Alexander PROKOPCHUK

INTERPOL Executive Committee Delegate for Europe

Chairman of the Conference

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INTERPOL

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President of the Police of the Czech Republic,
INTERPOL Secretary General,
Chiefs of Police,
Heads of INTERPOL National Central Bureaus,
Distinguished guests, representatives from international organizations and observers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 44th INTERPOL European Regional Conference, which I have had the honour and pleasure to preside over, is now coming to an end.

I wish to thank everyone who made this conference, in this magnificent city of Prague, a resounding success.

Above all, I would like to thank the authorities of the Czech Republic and its Minister of Interior, Mr Milan Chovanec who honoured us with his presence at the opening of the conference.

I must also acknowledge the outstanding work of the Czech Police under the leadership of its President, Major General Tomáš Tuhý.

On behalf of all participants, allow me to express to you, Major General Tuhý, our sincere gratitude for the flawless organization of this conference and the tireless dedication of the police officers and staff under your command who ensured the success of this event.

They spared no time or effort in welcoming us with the professionalism and hospitality the Czech Republic is known for, and which was also reflected in the high quality of the social programme prepared for us.

Our work during these three days has culminated in the adoption of four recommendations in the following areas:

First, the issue of Foreign Terrorist Fighters which is a serious threat in each of our countries.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2178 of 2014 was a prominent step forward in the international fight against terrorism and particularly foreign terrorist fighters, recognizing the key role of INTERPOL, including through global law enforcement information sharing, in combating this threat.

I therefore strongly urge you all – in keeping with the recommendation you have adopted on this matter – to make the fullest use possible of all the Organization's capabilities and resources in order to continue strengthening our action against this worldwide scourge.

Border security was also at the core of the work during this conference.

To tackle the criminal networks exploiting the migrant crisis which extends well beyond the borders of our region, INTERPOL, with its global reach, forms bridges between all concerned regions of the world. In close coordination with our international partners, INTERPOL offers your NCBs and law enforcement services unique means of mobilization to effectively fight against the different forms of crime – and most prominently the human smuggling networks – that thrive on this crisis.

The recommendation you adopted in this area gives new impetus to our ambition to make our borders safer.

Our work these past three days has also highlighted the need - and our will - to continually improve the coordination of our efforts and further enhance our capacities to combat the current and evolving threats of transnational organized crime, such as cybercrime and different types of trafficking, including drug trafficking on which a recommendation was also adopted.

The work of your countries' NCBs and law enforcement agencies is inseparable from the work of all the institutions, international organizations and partners here with us during this conference and which contribute everyday to this joint effort to make the world safer.

Strengthening our collaboration, developing synergies and making further progress in the area of interoperability are what give the work of the European Regional Conference its full meaning and allow us to move ahead in combating current and future criminal threats.

The INTERPOL 2020 initiative developed under the leadership of Secretary General Jürgen Stock is the cornerstone of our Organization's development in all its dimensions. I applaud the contributions you have made to the work of the working groups dedicated to this initiative and the support you have shown by adopting a specific recommendation on INTERPOL 2020.

I would like also to congratulate Andorra and Czech Republic on their election to the INTERPOL European Committee, and I thank Estonia and Hungary whose terms of office have ended this year.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, allow me to conclude by thanking – on behalf of us all – our colleagues from the Czech Republic for the outstanding organization of this 44th INTERPOL European Regional Conference, as well as the General Secretariat staff, the interpreters and the minute-takers who have contributed to the success of this event with the quality of their work.

I'm looking forward to meeting you at the 45th INTERPOL European Regional Conference next year in Austria.

I thank you for your attention and wish you a safe journey home.

Děkuji

Gracias!

Merci!

Thank you!