

**39th European Regional Conference**  
**Address by Mr Veselin Veljovic, Police Director**  
**26 May 2010, Budva, Montenegro**

Dear Prime Minister,  
INTERPOL President,  
your Excellencies,  
esteemed ministers,  
dear colleagues,  
ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor and a privilege to greet you and welcome you to Montenegro at the official opening of the 39th INTERPOL European Regional Conference.

I wish to use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to the INTERPOL President and Secretary General as well as their associates for the assistance they have provided during the preparations and organization of the Conference.

The European Regional Conference is attended by approximately 200 delegates from 49 countries of Europe.

Let me remind you that immediately after regaining its independence, in mid 2006, Montenegro worked intensively on becoming an INTERPOL member state.

With very constructive assistance and support from the Secretary General and his closest associates, at the 75th INTERPOL General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro in 2006 Montenegro was admitted into full-fledged membership of the International Criminal Police Organization, as its 185th member state.

We were the first state to be unanimously admitted into this renowned international organization of criminal police forces.

The INTERPOL National Central Bureau in Podgorica is equipped with modern resources, which are essential for professional operations.

In less than four years, NCB Podgorica has achieved significant results.

I have to emphasize the fact that we have located 115 persons wanted by the National Central Bureaus of other states on international notices in connection with serious criminal offences.

Significant results have been achieved in the application of the MIND system and the implementation of the Pink Panthers project, which is coordinated by the project team at the General Secretariat in Lyon.

Montenegro is a significant factor of stability and security in South East Europe, which INTERPOL also contributes to through its engagement via interagency, regional and international cooperation.

Thus, in 2009, the Montenegrin police force achieved its best working results in the past 10 years and Montenegro is now recognized as one of the safest countries in the region.

In line with strategic Government priorities, the Police Directorate has focused significant attention on the quality and strength of regional and international police cooperation.

The Montenegrin police force is a member of the SECI center and SEPCA, which are regional security organizations. There is a series of signed bilateral and multilateral agreements on police cooperation with the countries of the region, European Union member states and other states.

However, I recognize the on-going need to strengthen regional police cooperation exclusively in the areas of professional communication and mutual work in the fight against organized and transnational crime, corruption, drugs, terrorism and other security challenges and dangers.

Esteemed conference participants,

The police force of Montenegro calls for active professional cooperation and proceedings concerning the instrument of mutual legal assistance and extradition of fugitives who have committed serious criminal offences.

I am of the opinion that it is important to consider the possibilities of an initiative to amend constitutional and legal regulations and to consider the cession of cases to the judicial authorities of the states in which the fugitives are.

Today the Police Directorate of Montenegro and EUROPOL will sign a Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of a Secure Communication Link.

Thus, we will confirm our commitment to further developing and strengthening police cooperation with European states.

Apart from the strategic commitment for the development of regional and international cooperation, the Montenegrin national police force is implementing a series of other activities in meeting norms and standards for joining NATO and the European Union.

Integration is a strategic commitment and they are implemented through a dynamic reform process of the police organization.

Let me emphasize that we have very concrete and good quality support in that process. Suggestions have been received from the Delegation of the European Union, the OSCE, diplomatic and consular missions and other relevant domestic and foreign entities.

Within the current reform and integration processes, the Police Directorate has realized a series of projects with the main goal of strengthening educational, material, technical and operational police capacities.

It is unfailingly followed by the adoption of modern standards, good practices and methodologies which are applied by the police forces of EU member states in their work.

The progress achieved at this level and the improvements implemented in all the fields and levels of police operations and cooperation with the police forces of other states, place us among the ranks of professional and trustworthy partners in facing the most difficult security issues, risks and challenges.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I hereby express my personal and professional satisfaction that the 39th INTERPOL European Regional Conference will be held in Budva, a town which has gained a reputation as the Mediterranean tourist jewel.

It is with special respect that I express my gratitude to the INTERPOL General Secretariat for the honor and trust you have shown to Montenegro in deciding we should host this Conference.

I believe that such a decision by the General Secretariat is confirmation that Montenegro is a safe country and that it is an acknowledgment of the results achieved by the Police Directorate of Montenegro.

I am convinced that during the Conference we will clearly specify and define priorities, goals, methods of their implementation and achievements, especially as regards the defining of strategic and operational decisions for strengthening cooperation between the European states.

I believe that the European Committee, as an INTERPOL authority whose members will be selected at this Conference, will implement the decisions reached at the Conference in a professional manner and in the interest of strengthening European security.

It is a highly demanding job, which carries great responsibility, and has no alternative when it comes to the European security.

I wish our esteemed guests a pleasant stay in Montenegro, and I wish all conference participants success in their work as well.

I am convinced that during your stay in Montenegro you will have an opportunity to see a part of its natural beauty and that you will also take back with you to your countries impressions about our hospitality, tradition and culture.

Thank you for your attention.