

Speech of colonel-general of police V.A. Kolokoltsev, Minister of the Interior of the Russian Federation, at the Ministerial meeting on topic “100 years of joint combating transnational crime”

Dear Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen!

On behalf of the Russian Federation delegation please allow me to thank you for the warm reception and congratulate all the participants of this meeting on the 100th anniversary of the international police cooperation.

This jubilee binds us to look back at the road we covered, to sum up preliminary results and to outline priorities of our further interaction.

In recent decades we have witnessed an accelerated rate of development of global integration processes, an expansion of political, economic, cultural and humanitarian links, so called common globalization. Along with that, these processes have naturally contributed to a growing international organized crime, to the emerging of crossborder criminal schemes.

The President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin set the promotion of collective international effort to counter global challenges and threats as one of the priorities of the Russian foreign policy in the sphere of security. These challenges and threats include terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime.

I believe that it is obvious for everyone present that the key to the victory over this evil is a consolidated effort of the law enforcement agencies of the world. INTERPOL as a leading international police organization plays a most important role in it.

100 years ago representatives of Russia were also at the origins of the Organization, as they took part in the First International Criminal Police Congress. The participants of this forum clearly understood that it was necessary and timely to create a universal tool of interaction allowing prompt exchange of relevant information, to seek arrest and extradition of criminals.

While the congress that laid down the foundations of the largest international law enforcement organization gathered representatives of only 24 states, today 190 countries are its members.

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It is gratifying to note that the 12 principles of police cooperation suggested in Monaco in 1914 are also valid today.

Today Russia attaches great importance to taking part in the activities of INTERPOL. Practice shows that the use of its channels allows significant increase in the efficiency of combating transnational crime and good results in searching individuals, who evade prosecution or investigation, internationally.

During 9 months of this year alone due to well coordinated work, 33 dangerous criminals were detained and extradited to Russia.

Russian and Ecuadorian police officers in coordination with partners from the USA, the Netherlands and Germany carried out an operation to detain a leader of an international criminal network that had been supplying drugs to Europe for a considerable period of time.

Together with our Austrian colleagues an active member of an organized criminal group accused of a series of homicides in Russia was arrested.

An organizer of a stable channel for smuggling cocaine by sea from Latin America was extradited from the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

These examples of success prove that interaction via INTERPOL channels promotes practical implementation of the principle of “inevitability of punishment”. Only through a joint effort will we ensure that everyone guilty be unconditionally brought to justice.

Remaining the most quick and efficient tool to transmit law enforcement information, today INTERPOL is also a successful coordinator of the fight against transnational crime. It develops and organizes various projects and operations which the Russian side takes an active part in.

As a result of cooperation within the Millennium project, several criminal networks were neutralized and liquidated at different times. Their leaders and active members were prosecuted and brought to justice.

By using unique capabilities of INTERPOL we carry out operational and preventive activities on the territory of Russia. First of all it concerns combating human trafficking, protection of cultural heritage, as well as crimes related to vehicles.

INTERPOL's information databases are used in our everyday work. With the help of the data bases of the Organization nearly 25 mln. checks of persons, vehicles and documents are carried out every year.

Dear colleagues! Speaking about combating transnational crime I can not leave out the topic of combating terrorism which is so important for our countries.

Nowadays terrorism is characterized by an enhanced application of technologies, it is constantly fed by serious ideological and financial resources.

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The Russian Federation condemns any manifestation of terrorism and is sincerely mourning its victims.

The Resolution of the UN Security Council of September 24 this year specifically notes INTERPOL's efforts in combating terrorist threats in the world.

The tools at its disposal are used by law enforcement agencies of many countries actively and successfully.

An important sphere of our cooperation with our foreign partners is safety and security during major sport events.

INTERPOL data bases were a great help to us when hosting the Summer Student Games in Kazan and Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Sochi. They were used in real time to check persons arriving to these major competitions. This practice will apply also for the World Football championship to be held in Russia in 2018.

The creation of the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation will become another important step to intensify combating criminal use of information and communication technologies. It will allow to join and coordinate law enforcement effort of different countries to fight against this threat. The Russian side is planning to take a direct part in the work of the Global Complex. I am convinced that the experience of our experts in this sphere will be useful and needed.

At the same time we have to point out that the fight against information crimes is complicated due to a lack of a full-fledged international legal framework. The existing Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime of 2001 is no longer up to date and has a number of essential shortcomings. It is evident that in modern conditions it can not provide an adequate level of coordination of international cooperation to combat such a large-scale threat. As an alternative, we support the development of a new convention to combat information crime under the auspices of the UN.

Dear colleagues! The algorithms of efficient interaction within the framework of INTERPOL articulated today, are an important proof of its enormous contribution to international security. Yet another unique feature of this organization is that it has always been outside of politics. Unconditional compliance with this principle enshrined in the Constitution is a guarantee of further success in its activities.

Police officers from around the world have a common enemy, which is transnational crime. And our task is to counter this crime uncompromisingly in all its manifestations in order to protect the rights and freedoms of our citizens. We can not allow momentary political differences to become the reason of a decline in the results of our interaction in this important sphere.

Russia being an active member of INTERPOL is ready to continue supporting its steps and initiatives, share its own experience and join efforts with our foreign partners in various spheres of combating crime.

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Therefore we have made a decision to nominate Alexander Prokopchuk, head of the Russian NCB of INTERPOL as delegate to the Executive Committee. His professional competence and skills acquired during the years of service will undoubtedly be useful for the whole international police community.

I would like to ask you to support the Russian candidate.

Ladies and gentlemen! In conclusion please allow me to reiterate my thanks to the organizers of this event for the work they have done and for the opportunity to address my colleagues from all over the world. I am sure that this meeting will give a new impetus to our joint effort in combating transnational challenges and threats.

Thank you for your attention.