



GENERAL INSPECTORATE OF ROMANIAN POLICE



**Meeting of the Salzburg Forum Police Chiefs
24 – 25 May 2018, Bucharest, Romania**

COMMON CONCLUSIONS

The Police Chiefs of the Salzburg Forum Member States met under the Romanian Presidency on 24 – 25 May 2018 in Bucharest, Romania. Representatives of the Salzburg Forum Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) took part in the meeting.

As President of the Salzburg Forum, Romania reaffirmed the commitment jointly assumed with the Hungarian and Polish Trio partners, namely to continue strengthening the internal security by identifying and promoting common interests in this field.

Taking into consideration that the *Salzburg Forum Vision 2020* provides that lobbying and cooperation within the EU is one of the main functions of the Salzburg Forum, and also that two of its three strategic directions are based on the priorities set at EU level, Romania shared with the Salzburg Forum partners some of the envisaged topics for discussion during its incoming Presidency of the EU Council (first semester 2019).

Thus, the first working session explored the tools for *enhancing police cooperation and adapting it to the particularities of multicultural communities at MS*. The other working sessions shaped ideas on the newly proposed concept: “*actionable information*” through *law enforcement intelligence analysis processes, digital data and digital evidence in the crime scene investigation and general police work*.

In addition to the agenda, at Austria’s proposal, the Police Chiefs acknowledged the significance of the current migration situation in the Western Balkans and agreed on the need for better preparedness and enhanced cooperation. Romania gave a presentation on the measures taken by the Romanian Police, according to its national competences, in order to fight migrant trafficking. It also stressed that Romania, as the Presidency of the Salzburg Forum, attaches great importance to managing migration. Thus, a dedicated high-level meeting, Border Police Heads of the Salzburg Forum was organised in Sibiu, Romania, during 26-27 of April 2018 and an Expert Meeting on Migration will follow in 7-8 June 2018.

1. Enhancing police cooperation and adapting it to the particularities of multicultural communities at MS level





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Romania's experience on bilateral cooperation showed that activities can be carried out in a much more efficient manner by deploying police officers on the territory of the Member States, for extended periods of time, therefore tailoring police response to the specifics of a multicultural community and obtaining more visible results in the fight against cross-border crime.

The Romanian Presidency invited the Salzburg Forum Police Chiefs to reflect on the possibility to build upon the instrument provided by "PRŪM Decisions", namely to deploy officers and set up joint operations, by extending the initial competences of operational support officers towards a preventive dimension. Also, it proposed two options for funding at EU level: the development of national programs under the ISF Police fund and the creation of a much more flexible financial framework, dedicated to this type of missions and dynamically accessible.

The majority of the Salzburg Forum Member States confirmed using the instrument provided for in Article 17 of Council Decision 2008/616/JHA and also in article 18 of the same Decision, using bilateral agreements in order to detail the terms of deployment.

Most MS favoured the creation of a more flexible financial framework, dedicated to this type of mission, although ISEC was also indicated as the proper financing framework. Austria stated that the current situation is satisfactory and does not see any need for change.

Conclusions:

- 1) The general aim of the operational support officers should be to prevent, not only to address committed crimes.
- 2) Most Member States do see added value in promoting this kind of cooperation and dedicated EU financing would be an incentive.
- 3) Based on the valuable feed-back of the Salzburg Forum Member States, Romania will refine its proposal and further discuss it during its Presidency of the EU Council.





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2. Actionable information through: a) Law enforcement intelligence analysis process; b) Digital data; c) Digital evidence in the crime scene investigation and general police work.

In a digital age, the Romanian Presidency of the Salzburg Forum brought to the attention of the police Chiefs an innovative concept in law enforcement: "**Policing in a connected world - Novel actionable information**". *The actionable information* is based on information analysis, providing adequate technology for field police officers and also on the timely transmission of the information necessary for a successful intervention in any incident.

The Romanian Presidency of the Salzburg Forum proposed the drafting of new policy instrument stating the need for standardised concepts for information analysis at EU level, improved data correlation and more efficient use of available tools, all aiming to improve further cooperation.

The Police Chiefs agreed on the need to develop a unified approach regarding law enforcement intelligence analysis at EU level and recommended that the most appropriate instrument should take the form of Guidelines, given the specifics of implementation at Member States level.

Also, the Police Chiefs acknowledged the need for common training curricula at EU level, and recognised the important role of CEPOL and Europol for sharing knowledge, lessons learned and best practices. Also, to benefit from scientific results in this field would be a great advantage.

It was also stressed that the operational analysis units should have access to all information sources. Therefore, Police Chiefs support the Interoperability Proposal, currently under negotiation at EU level, convinced that it will facilitate and speed up the access to the information needed.

Furthermore, given that the Policy Cycle identifies implements and evaluates the results of the EU actions in order to address the main threats for security, the Police Chiefs welcomed the discussion within COSI on improving the visibility of the Policy Cycle and the reporting mechanism of the Operational Action Plans, initiated by the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council. We hope that this will increase the added value of the Policy Cycle for the purposes of intelligence analysis.





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Conclusions:

1. The Police Chiefs from the Salzburg Forum Member States see the increased presence of digital data in citizens' life as a challenge for law enforcement authorities. At the same time, the use of digital data could be turned to the advantage of law enforcement authorities, in order to more efficiently prevent and combat crime.
2. Information Analysis should represent a priority at EU level - Council Conclusions stating the need for further action at EU level would be a solution;
3. An uniform approach in collection, processing and analysing data and also on the use of technologies would facilitate further cooperation between Member States;
4. A group of experts on this domain should be set up in order to draft common guidelines at EU level;
5. The European Commission and relevant EU Agencies need to be involved in the process of standardization and training in the field of information analysis.

The Police Chiefs from the Salzburg Forum Member States agreed to put forth these Conclusions for approval to the Salzburg Forum ministers on the Ministerial Conference in June 2018.

