

## **Session V: International Cooperation in Special Investigation Techniques**

There is a need for international cooperation, because of the cross-boundary character of the problems that need to be addressed, both real-life and in the virtual Internet space.

The increased use of new technologies by terrorists makes it necessary to enhance international cooperation using Special Investigation Techniques.

However, there are certain challenges that we are facing. For instance, definitions or other legislative texts are vaguely drafted, States are not all party to the relevant international conventions that facilitate the international cooperation, the nature of the techniques used is covert, and certain States lack technological capacity.

What is in any case necessary to facilitate international cooperation is trust and confidence between States and different agencies/organs. It is thus necessary to invest in networks. Furthermore, exchange of good practices is crucial in order to overcome operational as well as judicial challenges. It is also important that human rights guarantees are integrated into the instruments. The good example of the effective and successful way in which the European Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) work, could serve as a template model for other forms of co-operation.

### **Recommendations:**

To reserve adequate budget for SITs, including for international cooperation in this respect.

National mechanisms should (legally) allow international cooperation in relation to SITs.

To strengthen the models and mechanisms/techniques that are already in place, instead of inventing new ones.

To conduct joint training programmes.

To publish a guide of good practices; regionally such a guide could contribute to the harmonisation of national legislations which would simplify international cooperation

The need and urgency with which one sets up methods for intensified international cooperation, cannot be done at the expense of respect for human rights. As many relations are built on trust, a reflexion is needed with regard to methods of oversight (in reciprocity) within the different national systems and between the countries that cooperate with each other.