

Council of Europe
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Affairs



SUPPORT TO PROSECUTORS' NETWORK IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE Regional Project

Regional Thematic Conference on Witness Protection

Podgorica, Montenegro, 8 and 9 June 2010

*[venue]
[city], Montenegro*

Objectives:

- Review of progress in the field of witness protection since signature of the Regional Strategy on Tools Against Organised and Economic Crime¹;
- Presentation of models for regional / international co-operation in the field of witness protection and exchange of witnesses.

Expected results:

- Recommendations for further improvements of regional mechanisms for witness protection: future action

Participants:

- 4 representatives from 7 project areas, representing institutions relevant for witness protection (Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior or other as appropriate)

Council of Europe experts:

- Mr Muris Brkić, Investigator, Special War Crime Department, Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr Miro Jukić, Head of Witness Protection Department, Ministry of Interior of Croatia

Contact

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¹ Regional Strategy signed by Ministers of Interior/Security of SEE on 23 September 2005 (the Brijuni Strategy).

Draft Programme

First day – 8 June	
09:00	Registration of participants
09:15-09:45	<p>Opening and welcoming remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Representative of the State Prosecutor’s Office of Montenegro ▪ Representative of the European Commission ▪ Council of Europe: Ms Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele, Head of Information Society and Protection of Integrity of Persons Division
09:45 -11:00	<p>Council of Europe CARDS POLICE project and witness protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council of Europe ▪ CARDS Police project expert <p>Witness Protection from Brijuni strategy to present day: developments, achievements and drawbacks -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contributions by representatives from Project Areas
11:00-11:20	Coffee Break
11:20-12:15	Contributions from project areas (continued)
12:15-12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conclusions
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:50	<p>Model of regional / international co-operation in the field of witness protection / exchange of witnesses (CETS 173, 182, Council of Europe recommendations, EU instruments, UNTOC, other)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council of Europe expert(s)
14:50 – 15:40	<p>Legislative preconditions for exchange of witnesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council of Europe expert(s) as moderator(s) ▪ Contributions from project areas (domestic legal framework, regional/bilateral agreements)
15:40 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:30	<p>Practical preconditions for exchange of witnesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council of Europe expert(s) ▪ Contributions from project areas (available forms of protection, possibilities that can be offered to the witnesses questioned on request of another state)
19:30	Official dinner

Second day – 9 June	
09:00 – 10:50	<p>Recommendations for further improvements of regional mechanisms for witness protection: future action in SEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moderator - Council of Europe expert / Secretariat ▪ Representatives from project areas
10:50-11:10	Coffee break
11:10 – 12:15	<p>Conclusions and recommendations for follow up Closing statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council of Europe expert(s) / Secretariat ▪ Representatives from project areas

Tentative: witness protection practice in EU countries (including international relocation)