

## **Cooperation Group of South-East European Airports on fighting drug trafficking via air (AIRSEE)**

### **Joint declaration**

We the participants of the Cooperation Group of South-East European Airports, on the occasion of the AIRSEE High-Level Seminar which took place on 9 October 2024, in Sofia, Bulgaria,

REFFERING to 10 years of successful cooperation and the strengths of the group, such as strong partnerships and personal contacts, real-time cooperation and immediate joint actions, fast and secure exchange of information, as described in the 2022 report on assessment of its work,

RECALLING the need to strengthen cooperation among law enforcement agencies at the airports, especially police and customs, at the national and regional level,

CONSIDERING that ever-growing illicit drug trafficking activities pose a serious threat to public health and security,

CONVINCED that it is necessary to reinforce cooperation between airport law enforcement agencies of South-East European countries by laying down the procedures under which responsible agencies act jointly and exchange data concerning illicit drug trafficking activities,

HAVE AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING:

TO CONTINUE the work of the AIRSEE group, building on the results of the last 10 years and the recommendations of the related assessment report,

TO REINFORCE the role of this group as a regional platform for discussion on emerging trends and modus operandi, transfer of knowledge and good practices, exploration of new ways of cooperation, and coordinated actions for countering drug trafficking,

TO STREAMLINE working methods by development and harmonisation of tools and systems to improve drug detection in South-East European airports,

TO ENHANCE the operational capacities through specific technical meetings in various formats following specific requests by the participating countries or identified immediate needs by the group,

TO CONTINUE the conduct of joint operations targeting illicit drug supply and related assets, and establishing common indicators for identifying trends and risks at the regional level,

TO IMPROVE the operational results related to fight against illicit drug trafficking by timely exchange of operational information,

Given its unique role in supporting cooperation in our region, we request the Pompidou Group to continue supporting the AIRSEE group by facilitating meetings and other activities where possible and feasible.