

TRANSITION FROM SECI CENTRE TO SELEC

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Abstract: Prevention of organized crime, illicit trafficking and the fight against corruption figure prominently among the key priorities set in the latest Enlargement Paper Strategy presented by the European Commission in November 2010. A renewed focus and attention is to be placed on these areas aiming at achieving the maximum results on the ground and enhancing the rule of law. The benefits should become obvious for the citizens of the countries of the Southeast European region and for the European Union at large. For these reasons, the European Commission gives a considerable importance to the support of regional security initiatives in the enlargement countries. In its approach, the Commission is guided by the consideration of the core importance of justice, freedom and security for the European perspective of the region. The IPA1 Multi-Beneficiary project aims at strengthening the operational capacities of the transformation from SECI Centre as Southeast European Cooperative Initiative to the SELEC as Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre to fight against trans-border crime. The EU-funded project will not only improve the strategic, organizational and financial transformation development of the SECI Centre to the SELEC, but will also develop the expertise and capacities of the SELEC to receive strategic and operational analytical support and provided by the EUROPOL. The European Commission shares the EU's vision for the relationship between the EUROPOL and the SELEC which is based on the following principles: the driving role of the EUROPOL as the EU body for the fight against the serious crime included in the Preamble of the SELEC Convention, the need to avoid duplication of roles and tasks and the principle of complementarity. The authors' attention is directed regarding the phenomenon of transition from SECI Centre to SELEC as expression of common European goal of tackling more effectively trans-border crime.

Keywords: SECI Centre, SELEC, EUROPOL, international police cooperation, Southeast Europe, Western Balkans, European Union.