

Dear Mr President, Ladies and Gentleman,

I salute you all as the president of the International Police Organization IPO, a non-governmental and non-profit organization which, through education and scientific work, intends to implement theoretical and practical means of bringing civilian and security structures closer to each other. First and foremost let me congratulate the President on election and his team on great success in organizing the event under very challenging circumstances.

It is a great privilege to present my opinion on the issues of transnational organized crime in front of such a gathering.

I decided to dedicate this short speech to the problem of illegal production and trafficking of narcotics. The supply of the European Union drug market with South American cocaine by organized criminal groups from Southeast Europe best reflects the character of transnational organized crime. One gets the impression that more and more drug busts have been made in recent years, and that an increasing number of organized criminal groups are being broken up by the direct strikes of the law enforcement agencies, and also in mutual disputes and reckonings of the criminal groups themselves.

Assassinations in mutual clashes between two drug cartels from Montenegro are taking place all over the world, the Kavački Clan and the Škaljarski Clan. To add to the paradox, these were the two most organized criminal groups in Europe, and certainly among the largest in the world, while they come from the suburban town of Skaljari and the village of Kavac, which are part of the municipality of Kotor, and according to the latest census it only has thirteen thousand five one hundred and ten inhabital residents.

Their confrontations have reduced their influence and control over the market, but it has led to the situation where they have been replaced by the new organized criminal groups.

In Spain, there is a growing presence of members of criminal groups from Southeast Europe, such as Albania, Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The criminal groups from these countries are located mainly in strategic zones for travel across the Atlantic Ocean, such as the Canary Islands, the northern province of Galicia and the southern coast of Spain. The groups that operate there are responsible for a large part of cocaine trafficking and import to the Europe soil.

The Spanish Civil Guard recently intercepted a sailboat sailing under the flag of Croatia, in which cocaine with a market value of 40 million euros was found and confiscated.

This cocaine was intended for the market of the European Union, and the operation codenamed Falkuša was carried out by Spanish law enforcement agencies with the support of: Europol, DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration - Office in Zagreb), British NCA (National Crime Agency), Dutch National Police and the police of Republika Srpska (one of the two constitutional entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina).

This represents one of the brightest examples of how international cooperation between police and other law enforcement agencies can provide an adequate response to the growing level of organization of transnational criminal groups, but also prevent the emergence and further strengthening of new organized criminal groups.

The strengths and key points of the fight against transnational organized criminal groups is in the global response through unreserved cooperation and mutual support of all security agencies in the world, with a special emphasis on the exchange of criminal intelligence data and information.

Thank you all for you attention,

Ilija Životić