

21 May 2015

INTERPOL Europe meeting develops regional collaboration against transnational crime

BUCHAREST, Romania – INTERPOL's 43rd European Regional Conference has closed with senior law enforcement officials endorsing a set of measures to intensify regional cooperation and develop responses to transnational crime.

Highlighting the important role of Europe in promoting global security, law enforcement issues including terrorism, foreign fighters, cybercrime, illegal migration and financial crime were discussed at the three-day (19-21 May) meeting by some 150 delegates from 52 countries and 13 international organizations.

In addition to approving INTERPOL's European Business Plan, other key measures endorsed by the delegates included recommendations to:

- Increase information sharing on foreign fighters and disrupt their travel through the use of INTERPOL's notices, Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database and border control operations;
- Enhance the fight against cybercrime through information exchange, use of INTERPOL's tools to support investigations, awareness raising and joint law enforcement actions;
- Increase use of the INTERPOL Illicit Arms Records and tracing Management System (iARMS) by regularly adding records and searching the database.

Closing the conference, Inspector General of the Romanian Police, Petre Toba, praised the efforts of all the participating countries in generating strategies for tackling the criminal phenomena threatening the European region's security.

"I would like to convey the commitment of the Romanian Police – and of all the law enforcement agencies in Romania – to preventing and combating transnational crime in order to ensure the safety and security of all citizens," said Mr Toba.

Filippo Dispenza, Delegate for Europe with INTERPOL's Executive Committee and Chairman of the conference, said strengthening partnerships and joint law enforcement activities throughout Europe is an ongoing priority, as it is the only way to effectively combat transnational crime.

"At a time when terrorist attacks have struck several of our member countries, and when crime easily crosses national and regional borders, it is now more than ever essential to generate a coordinated response to these criminal acts and threats," said Mr Dispenza.

The conference closed with delegates selecting the Czech Republic as host country for the 44th INTERPOL European Regional Conference in 2016.