## МЕЃУНАРОДНА НАУЧНА КОНФЕРЕНЦИЈА

# БАЛКАНОТ МЕЃУ МИНАТОТО И ИДНИНАТА: БЕЗБЕДНОСТ, РЕШАВАЊЕ НА КОНФЛИКТИ И ЕВРОАТЛАНТСКА ИНТЕГРАЦИ

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

# THE BALKANS BETWEEN PAST AND FUTURE: SECURITY, CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND EURO-ATLANTIC INTEGRATION

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## NATIONAL BORDER SECURITY AS A CONDITION FOR EURO-INTEGRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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#### Abstract

This work is contribution in border security development, searching necessary elements for efficient border securing, realising regional security and achieving necessary conditions for successful Euro integration of the Republic of Macedonia. National border security is international agenda priority, with clear decisions and guidance of security policy and achieving needed level of national security.

Now days we have new challenges, which can be deal with, only by following guidance of the international community and adapting needs and standards in order bigger efficiency in enforcing security policy and goals. Even by transform system, national border security in period of 1991-2004, functioned by the previous system, where main actor were Ministries of Defence and Interior.

New trends on security field put on guidance for equalising of measurements and their activation local, regional, and international level, true establishing effective legal frame, technical equipment, logistic support of border security, effective IT and monitoring system, inter agency cooperation and other activities initiated by European security institutions.

In this work also are deter necessary projects valuable for establishing of secure of the borders, problems and challenges, capacity developing for operational planning, making analysis of risks and threats and jeopardizing, necessary operational-tactical procedures for effective cooperation achieving on international level, as and achieving EU standards of this area, but first of all more quality living for people of the Republic of Macedonia.

Key words: border security, border police, integrated border managing, regional security, euro-integration, border cooperation

#### Legal basis and review of the transfer for border safety

The condition of the state border represents a factor of internal safety of the Republic of Macedonia and a guarantee for the safety of the citizens, determinate in more strategic documents. The development of border safety represents one of the most significant segments also to the National conception for safety and defense from year 2003, where the need for construction is highlighted with proper capacities and unique procedures for cooperation and mutual help with the neighbors, region and international community.

The first big steps in the creation of effective System for border safety are taken in year 2003 where in Ohrid with initiative of the partner organizations: Europe Union, NATO, OBSE and the Stability Pact at the "Conference of border safety and management" resulted with the documents of "Common platform for cooperation" and "Road forward" where in the next years represented the basis for establishment of an effective system for border safety<sup>1</sup>.

With a solution of the Government of Republic of Macedonia on the 29.12.2005 an Inter-ministerial work group is formed for integrated border control as a carrier of the activities for implementation for integrated border control (IGU), developed two very important documents – National strategy for Integrated Border control, adopted on the 22 of December 2003 and the Action plan for integrated border control, adopted on the 06 of October year 2005. In the year of 2006 a Nation Commission is formed for integrated border control with an additional increase of efficiency.

In parallel with these activities, during 2004 and 2005 were carried out structural reforms in the national system for border safety - began with the transfer of responsibilities for securing the state border of the Ministry of Defense to the Ministry of Interior. In May 2004, was formed the Regional Center for Border Affairs (JUG) and were transferred competences for securing the state border part to Greece.

The process continued with taking the responsibilities at the part of state border to Bulgaria (01.09.2004), at the north part of state border to Serbia and Kosovo (20.12.2004 and 01.05.2005) where the same is completing a few months before the prescribed time limit, with taking the responsibilities with the part to Albania (29.08.2005).

This process was accompanied by the transfer of appropriate staff of the Army of Republic of Macedonia, the Ministry of Interior - Border Police,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The control of the state border and border security is obligation of the MoD, MVR, Strategic plan of MVR 2009-2011, Skopje 2008

<sup>2</sup> Government of the Republic of Macedonia, National conception of safety and defence Skopje, 2003;

<sup>3</sup> White Paper on the achievements in the field of border security of the Republic of Macedonia, February2010, Skopje IGU- integrated border control

which was planned, organized <sup>4</sup>and implemented the necessary basic training, and with its completion the provision of state borders completely transferred into the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior and created the necessary prerequisites for the further implementation of planned reforms in border security.

Given the commitment to establish a system of border security which though it will be effective it will be in line with EU standards, it was necessary to carry out interventions in the areas of national law relating to border operations and to harmonize with European regulations. In close cooperation with international partners, the existing legislation which covers border operations was expanded and largely synchronized with EU legislation, which was provided an adequate legal basis for the creation of an efficient system of border security. Today, border police work is legally regulated by: Law of Internal Affairs (pic. Paper of R.M numb. 92 from 24.07.2009), the Law for Police (from 11.11.2006), Law for Border Control (from 07.01.2011) and the Law for Foreigners (from 01.01.2008). Within the tasks of the organs and services, adequate importance and contribution to the provision of national borders have: National Strategy for IGU from 22.12.2003; Action Plan for IGU from 06.10.2005 with changes and additions from 29.12.2005; The Strategic Plan of Ministry of Interior 2009-2011; Strategy to implement the model of risk analysis in the area of oversight b/s; Action Plan for the implementation of risk analysis model in the area of oversight b/s.

So far, the activities undertaken in the field of providing the necessary legal basis enabling efficient border operations by applying harmonized standard operating procedures for carrying out border checks and securing of the state border in accordance with EU recommendations and best practices. Development of border security is the outlook for the state and its position on the local and regional level. Development within the framework of commitment to Euro-Atlantic and join the collective security systems, affirmed the commitment to maintain "open, but well-controlled borders", i.e. enabling a quick and smooth flow of passengers, vehicles and goods at border crossings, and at the same time and quality control requirements for regular entry and exit from the country and effectively prevent attempts for illegal entry and exit, human trafficking, smuggling, and all other types of cross-border crime. Among some of the tasks that relate with the analysis of possible threats to the security of the territory of Republic of Macedonia are: prevention and detection of crimes and offenses

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>White Paper on the achievements in the field of border security of the Republic of Macedonia, February 2010, Skopje Border control law, official newspaper of RM number 171 page 4 of 30.12.2010 IGU - integrated border control

and detection and apprehension of the perpetrators; prevention and detection of illegal crossing of the state border and illegal migration; protection of life, health, personal safety, property, the environment and the prevention and detection of other threats to public order, legal order and national security.<sup>5</sup>

#### Prerequisites and operations of national border security

Training is one of the conditions for successful transfer of responsibility for security of the state border. Developed conducted a "Continuing and advanced Training Program", by applying the "training - trainer" approach, i.e. the training of so-called multipliers and decentralized training - job training, as one of the most effective ways to transfer knowledge. Of particular benefit in developing training plans and programs for an international cooperation - bilateral cooperation and participation in international programs.

Part of the border security members had the opportunity to exchange experiences and to learn about the planning and implementation of training standards in EU Member States. As part of the training and initiatives to improve the education, can be distinguished "Border Security Program DCAF", and cooperation with international organizations and European agencies (OSCE mission in Macedonia, International Organization for Migration-IOM, FRONTEX, ICMPD, and others).

Efficiency of border operations largely depends on the equipment of the same. Technical equipment is a continuous process that is not at all simple and, above all, requires large financial resources, so for these reasons it is his careful planning. The selection of equipment which is investing, in addition to the standard parameters: the necessary quantity and quality, the price, the suitability of weather and field conditions in which they will be used..., lately great importance has another very important factor - the equipment is in compliance with European standards of border operations and, if possible, be compatible with the equipment used in the region, particularly in the construction and modernization of information and <sup>7</sup>telecommunications infrastructure. In the planning of the technical equipment needed is a long term strategy, clear vision and knowledge of international trends in this area. Among the standards necessary for the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Article 2 of the Law on State Border Surveillance (consolidated text), Official newspaper of RM number 88 from 16.07.2009.

<sup>6</sup> White Paper on the achievements in the field of border security of the Republic of Macedonia, February 2010, Skopje

<sup>7</sup> White Paper on the achievements in the field of border security of the Republic of Macedonia, February 2010, Skopje Border control law, official newspaper of RM number 171 page 4 of 30.12.2010

smooth functioning of the border police, procurement activities are directed towards individual and join technical equipment for border control and security of the state border, strengthening telecommunications and information infrastructure and renovation of facilities.

## **Technical equipment infrastructure**

With the admission of highly sophisticated equipment for surveillance of the state border and border control in the past period is significantly strengthened operational capacity of the border police. Supplied equipment is the result of planned and realized financial assets from the budget of the Ministry of Interior - Border Police, but also as a result of quantitative and qualitative extremely important received donations of equipment from foreign partner organizations and programs designed to support the material and technical capacity of the border police.

In this view, it is worth mentioning the extraordinary contribution of the CARDS program of the European Agency for Reconstruction, ICITAP and EXBS programs of the U.S. Embassy in the Republic of Macedonia, the OSCE Mission, Swiss Army, and other partner organizations. In the area of technical equipment of border control police stations in the past has been significantly improved with the purchase of the following equipment: VSC video spectral comparator - Modern appliances for detecting false documents , all border crossings of the first category have this equipment in the Republic of Macedonia, with intention in the next period to be supplied for each border crossing; Mini set for drug discovery - All border crossing in Macedonia are equipped with a mini set for drug discovery; detectors carbon dioxide - CO2 - <sup>8</sup>All border crossings in Macedonia are equipped with a device for the detection of increased concentrations of CO2 in the luggage and cargo spaces of vehicles; radiation detectors - Equipped border crossings, and pagers for the detection of elevated levels of radiation; Buster K910V - Device to control the consistency of materials, designed to detect hidden cavities in vehicles and loads - Modern unit with fitted key border crossings in the Republic. Macedonia; NSIITK 3 - Review Kit for vehicles which are equipped all border crossings of the first category in R. Macedonia; Modern endoscopes with its own light source, and others.

Computerization of police stations to secure the state border is a long-term process that takes place continuously, and in the use of night observation devices (long-range thermal cameras, handheld thermal cameras

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 8}$  Border control law, official newspaper of RM number 171 page 4 of 30.12.2010, Skopje  $\,$  ,

Source - www.igu.gov.mk official web page of National Commission of IGU.

and binoculars for night observation). The said funds are highly sophisticated technical means for night observation with different technical characteristics and working principle. Performing duties within the scope of the border are not possible without binoculars for daytime observation, GPS devices, Buoyancy facilities and marine engines) which significantly improved the capacity of police stations responsible for control of the water boundaries of the Republic. Macedonia. Border control in the winter terms, standards suggests the use of snowmobile snow to enhance the mobility of certain police stations in winter. In terms of exchange of information and better information base, border security services must possess PCs: to increase the administrative capacity. In this regard the modernization is to improve the situation with training resources, such as PCs, laptops, projectors, and other means by which increase the capacity of the border police in terms of the provision of adequate training and mobile its members at any time and any place.

In the field of telecommunications and information technology, to mark the realized projects relating to: the establishment of a new system for the control of passengers and vehicles, establishing a system for video surveillance of border control police stations, the establishment of a police digital radio system and establishment of the Integrated border control Information System.

Passengers and vehicles control system (SKPV) is intended for data communication between different locations of the state border and is a means to a better and more efficient supervision of the state border, border control, workflow management and prevention of cross-border crime and illegal migration while facilitating the movement of people and goods. Also, the system provides additional control, monitoring, record keeping, administration and reporting of the state border.

Border crossings are fully equipped with the most modern computer equipment and proper application for border control. The application allows for direct data entry from scanned passport in the database and control of persons<sup>9</sup>.

Despite the increased border security, data collection and archiving, the system provides enhanced border police work through monitoring and management status of workstations, monitoring the performance of police officers and review alarms and management processes to resolve these alarms, and provides passenger registration and check-in database SKPV automatically check whether the country of his nationality passenger has the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Official Jurnal of RM number 75 from 15.06.2012 "Rules on how to carry out border checks and border surveillance" adopted by the Minister of Interior of the day 06.06.2012 Skopje, www.igu.gov.mk official web page of National Commission of IGU.

visa regime, automatic checking of visa (if required), check and search vehicles categories of drivers and passengers, and their authentication database SKPV authentication of persons at the stops.

Police station video surveillance system for border control at the central level is associated with the National Co-ordination Centre for Integrated Border Management. Digital data are available for review at least 20 days. In police stations can be performed review of the events, but not to save the data of a certain media such as: CD, hard drive, etc., thus preventing the possibility of misuse. Data recording is possible only at the central level.

### Further development and standards

With the operation of police digital radio system (TETRA) provide reliable and secure communication of police authorities by most modern digital communication system based on the principle of closed cellular network. The system represents a sophisticated, reliable and secure communications infrastructure according to the highest European standards, which allows for coordinating the activities of the police and have the ability to encrypt communications as a measure of protection from unauthorized tapping.

So far are installed 38 base stations, dispatcher stations for command and control of field units, and more than 5,000 digital stations for vehicles, premises and on duty handheld digital stations, which guarantees the operation of a large number of police officers at the same time. At present, the system covers 45% of the country's territory. The implementation of the second phase will achieve coverage of about 80% of the country's territory, and in accordance with the new National Strategy and Action Plan for the development of the established system of integrated border management, full (optimal) digital radio signal coverage should be provided by the end of 2014. Also, it should be noted that the system is interoperable, that allows communication with the neighboring border services.

Integrated Border Management Information System (ISIGU) is operational from 26.03.2009 and has used the National Border Management Coordination Center, which through it realizes high coordination measures and activities in the Integrated Border Management System, data exchanges and information between government organs and institutions that have responsibilities in the Integrated Border Management System, creates a coordination exercise and assess emergency situations at the border and makes coordination in cross-border cooperation<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> National Strategy on Integrated Border Management (2003), Skopje;

<sup>11</sup> www.igu.gov.mk official web page of National Commission of IGU.

This system provides a platform for exchange of information while monitoring the situation at the border crossings and developing a database for border management, which included coordinated approach and exchange of information between national authorities responsible for border management. In addition, a system of organized and coordinated actions of state organs and institutions involved in integrated border management in overseeing the legality of the entry and exit of persons, goods and means of transport, the prevention and detection of organized crime prevention people and offenders and all kinds of smuggling across the borders, control and prevention of transmission of substances and infectious diseases that threaten people and goods.

Most of the police stations to secure the state border are located in facilities by the Ministry of Interior for the Border Police were taken in the process of transfer of responsibilities from the Ministry of Defense - Army of the Republic of Macedonia, in accordance with the National Strategy for Integrated border Management and Action Plan for its implementation. For successful operation of border security, building infrastructure is necessary. In this context, the former facilities ARM (current border guards), which were built in the period 1960 -1980, fully updated to the standards and requirements for a well functioning police stations. In addition to police stations, carried out the necessary building interventions and detention facilities for accommodation and stay irregular people, illegal migrants, victims of trafficking, minors and others.

## Conclusion

Although today we are in a time of intense globalization and integration, current trends and challenges cause national border security still holds its political and functional importance, and its efficiency or inefficiency is a significant factor in the total national capacity of each country.

Hence, the process of establishing an efficient system of border security in accordance with European standards further gained weight and was even more challenging not only for the border police but to the Ministry of Interior and all other Ministries responsible for border operations. From today's perspective, it can be concluded that the overall process was arduous, but successful. The best indicator of the results that border guards exercise in its operations, and that are easy to measure, and in the past - remarkable. Especially pleased with the fact that they are recognized by the relevant international factors and finally, the progress in this field was an important factor in the process of liberalization, and then the removal of the visa regime with the European Union. Of course, the Interior Ministry and border guards will not end here. Now, when the process of establishing a system of border security is completed, attention will be given its strengthening and capacity building of border guards through the full implementation of the European standards in

the field of border operations.

The main tools in this process, in addition to the existing national strategies and action plans need to be front and intensive cooperation with FRONTEX, continuing to actively participate in "Border Security Program" DCAF, ICITAP and EXBS U.S. Government programs and other programs that cover this area.

Starting from the fact that "a chain is strong as strong its weakest link" in this process will not be neglected any area border operations and will work to strengthen the capacities of each.

Maybe at first glance goals look ambitious and hardly achievable, but the experience and progress in the past gives us the right to believe that by further engaging the full capacity of the Ministry of Interior and with the support of our proven international friends, they successfully will be realized.

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