The Links between Terrorism and Organized Crime

Dates 04 – 05 November 2013
Code IRC-01-W
Venue Antalya, Turkey

Background Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) notes with concern the close connection between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, money-laundering, illegal arms-trafficking and illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials, and in this regard emphasizes the need to enhance coordination of efforts on national, sub-regional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen a global response to this serious challenge and threat to international security (paragraph 4).

Terrorism and organized crime are linked in numerous ways. Terrorists frequently use ordinary crime in order to finance their activities and, in some cases, the lure of profit from ordinary crime may even take priority over the “terrorist agenda.” Ordinary criminal organizations have also been known to adopt terrorist means. Terrorists and criminal groups may purposefully link up in order to multiply their forces and many modern organizations represent “hybrids” between terrorist and ordinary criminal groups.

Three workshops have been held so far, each focusing on a different aspect of the topic: national strategies and coordination mechanisms (Sarajevo, October 2010), regional cooperation in combating terrorism financing (Belgrade, June 2011) and countering violent extremism (Istanbul, October 2012).

This year’s workshop is aimed at sharing good practices and challenges regarding links between terrorism and organized crime. This event is jointly organized by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC), Turkish National Police (TNP), Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and International Center for Terrorism and Transnational Crime (UTSAM).
The purpose of the workshop is to provide a forum in which representatives of South-East European countries, international, regional and sub-regional organizations and mechanisms can discuss regional trends in addressing the links between terrorism and organized crime and share their respective good practices and challenges in that regard, with the overall aim of enhancing regional cooperation in this area.

The objectives are:
- To improve possibilities of detecting and investigating suspected terrorists;
- To compare the advantages and disadvantages of investigating and prosecuting terrorist groups for ordinary crimes and potential impacts that doing so may have on victims of terrorism;
- To explore to which extent the measures effective in preventing or detecting ordinary crime are also effective in addressing terrorism and how “terrorism” should be defined in domestic legislation in order to distinguish it from ordinary crime;
- To discuss practical steps and views on the topic with the aim of building anti-terrorism capacities of a country;
- To promote measures of preventing organized crime and combating terrorism;
- To share information, views and experiences on the achievements and future challenges.

Participants
One participant per RACVIAC Member country. The participants should be national representatives at a decision-making level or experts representing respective Ministries/Agencies/Organizations dealing with the workshop subject matter.

Methodology
The workshop will last for two days and it will comprise presentations and discussions. The working language will be English. At the end of each session interactive discussions will be held.

Point of Contact: Ms Marija Žužek, E-mail: mzuzek@racviac.org; Tel: + 385 1 333 0830 Fax: + 385 1 333 0839.