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**BRIEF OVERVIEW OF MIGRATION CHALLENGES AND POTENTIAL
THREATS IN CHOSEN PARTS OF THE CIS REGION**

It is my honour to be here in the beautiful city of Pécs and take part, on behalf of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), in the 6th Conference on Crisis Management this year, which focuses on border control in emergency situations. This is the second time in a row that ICMPD has the pleasure of taking part in this important event organized by the Hungarian Border Guards' Scientific Association and the Military Scientific Association, under the auspices of the Minister of Justice, the University of Pécs and the Defence Scientific Academy. Using this opportunity, I would like to greet and congratulate the Hungarian Border Guards Service on its 100th anniversary.

ICMPD, an inter-governmental organization with its Headquarters in Vienna, was addressed by organizers of this conference to contribute with a presentation, which would reflect ICMPD's experience in the field of border management in the region of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Indeed, ICMPD has gained such experience within the wider context of illegal migration during the implementation of a project from March 2004 to June 2005 entitled, *Re-direction of the Budapest Process to the CIS Region*, which was financed by the European Commission (budget-line HLWG B7-667). As a result of these efforts, the *Overview of Migration Systems in the CIS Countries* was published in the beginning of 2006. It is my honour to hand over this publication to organizers of this conference with the belief that it will enrich their library and support them in their work.

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), as it is referred to in my presentation, covers the following twelve of the fifteen former states of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR): Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

In addition to the experience in the CIS region gained during the above-mentioned project, ICMPD furthers its activities in the field of border management in Central Asia through its involvement in the European Commission's programme BOMCA (Border Management in Central Asia). Under the 4th phase of the programme, ICMPD has been subcontracted by the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), which is the implementing partner of the programme, to implement Project 1 and Project 3 of a total of 10 projects of BOMCA 4. Project 1 concentrates on legal assistance to four Central Asian states (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), while Project 3 is aimed at the training of border staff in all five Central Asian states (the four previously mentioned plus Turkmenistan). The implementation of the two projects is based on ICMPD experience in the Western Balkans and the main task is to promote the concept of Integrated Border Management, primarily focusing on the inter-agency cooperation between national authorities involved in border management (i.e. border services, customs services, sanitary,

phytosanitary and other relevant authorities depending on the system in each specific country). Inter-agency cooperation, together with intra-agency cooperation and international cooperation form the three pillars of the Integrated Border Management (IBM) concept.

The linkage between sharing the experience gained by ICMPD in the CIS region and the topic of today's conference lies in the external border of the European Union. The external border of EU, after the accession of 10 new Member States on 1 May 2004, moved to the east. This means that the new external border with the CIS region now has to be strengthened by the new EU MS. Previously the only border of the EU with the CIS region was the Finnish-Russian border. Currently, the EU shares a border with Russia (Kaliningrad), Belarus and Ukraine. These countries of the CIS, together with its other states (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia), have also been included into the New Neighbourhood of the EU.

Taking into account that the CIS region is one with considerable migration potential, being the region of origin and transit of illegal migrants to EU MS, the situation in the CIS countries should be carefully analysed by the EU and its MS. In order to prevent and combat potential pressures on border services and societies of the EU MS, it is necessary to identify and be prepared for these threats. Effective measures could also be taken in close cooperation with the CIS states and their relevant authorities. As the CIS region, with its approximately 270 million inhabitants, is also a transit country for illegal migrants from such countries as China, India, Afghanistan, Pakistan or even African nations, certain types of cooperation should also be considered with regional international organizations, which are already fighting irregular migration and its negative aspects. Such organizations are mainly the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) or the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) with its Anti-terrorism Centre in Tashkent. Among the aims of these organizations, it is also possible to find structures dealing not only with border management, but also for example, with fighting against terrorism, which has also become an important issue in the CIS region.

For military and border specialists, analysts and scientists, it is well known that potential threats to the security of the EU and its MS potential risk for the security of the EU and its MS should be analyzed, and if possible, eliminated within their earliest phases. The CIS region is, unfortunately, still a place, where several unresolved conflicts remain, and to various extents, they also represent a potential threat for CIS states as well as, in potential wider consequences, also to the EU. It has to be said that despite the intensive efforts from the side of the international community, problematic situations prevail e.g. in Transnistria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh. In addition, there is a persistent threat of terrorism in its various forms throughout the region (e.g. terrorist attacks in Dubrovka, Beslan, planes leaving the Airport Domodedovo; efforts of terrorist groups originating from the Ferghana Valley to create an Islamic state in the Central Asian region etc.). These aspects exist hand in hand with other forms of crimes such as, *inter alia*, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of drugs, weapons and radioactive materials. The dire economic situation of most of the CIS states fuels illegal labour migration and corruption.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the at that time so called Newly Independent States, faced the first task of creating entirely new borders, which didn't exist during the Soviet period. Up to this day, not all of the borders have been delimited and demarcated. Also, in some countries the structures responsible for the protection of borders have maintained the Soviet style of border protection and remain military structures under the national security services. Information related to border management is not fully accessible in all states and statistical data are, by some countries, henceforth considered to be a state secret.

These fledgling Border services of the CIS states faced such challenges as the need to delimit and demarcate the longest land border in the world between Russia and Kazakhstan, the length of which is almost 7.000 kilometres. A prominent challenge and potential threat to stability in the CIS region, mainly in Central Asia, is the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. This border had been protected by the Russian border forces until 2005 when Russia withdrew from the border and handed over the responsibility to Tajikistan. At present, Tajikistan receives support in their efforts to protect this precarious border from the EU through BOMCA, USA, UK and Russia. Afghanistan is the largest producer of drugs and the trafficking routes lead through Central Asia into Russia and further west. This drug smuggling is closely related to all types of crime including military attacks of organized criminal groups on Border Crossing Points, oftentimes resulting in the border staff being taken as hostages.

The Central Asian region is also volatile in regard to the Ferghana Valley, which is historically a sensitive territory with a rich mixture of ethnicities. The Ferghana Valley, a territory of 12.000 sq km, has 1/3 of the population of Uzbekistan and 1/5 of population of Central Asia. In addition, the valley lies in the territory of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and the borders have not been fully delimited and demarcated. Also the existence of several enclaves causes certain tensions between the states, including shooting between border services. This, combined with the Islamic radicalism, crime, unemployment, economic and ecological instability in the Ferghana Valley, makes it a potential hot spot. EurAsEC has been calling for the creation of an early warning and early response mechanism in the Central Asian region as the Ferghana Valley is being seen by this organization as a potential time-bomb, which might in the future cause significant destabilization of the entire region or even the collapse of Central Asian states accompanied by hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

To conclude, I wish to say that the work of border services not only in the CIS region but also in the EU is a challenging one and it shouldn't be forgotten that it should be carried out in an effective way, which should facilitate the free legal movement of persons and goods while simultaneously preventing illegal migration. It shouldn't be forgotten that a border is not a one-sided issue and that there are always two sides of each border, both of which should communicate, cooperate and support each other in their efforts. Having said that, I would like to stress once again the importance of the three pillars of the Integrated Border Management (IBM) concept: intra-service, inter-service and international cooperation.