



## **Conclusions Baltic Sea Task Force**

### **Strategic Meeting**

16 – 17 November 2015, Saint-Petersburg, Russia

Personal representatives of the Heads of the Governments of the Baltic Sea Region Task Force on Organized Crime (BSTF), gathered for the Strategic Meeting on 16 – 17 November 2015 in Saint-Petersburg (Russia):

JOINED the European minute of silence in relation to terrorist acts in Paris in the night of 13/14 November 2015 and honoured the memory of the victims of the crash of the Russian airplane in Egypt on 31 October 2015.

TAKE NOTE of the exchange of opinions regarding the activity of organized criminal groups and REAFFIRM the Member States' commitment to cooperate in combating serious and organized crime in any form and manifestation.

APPROVE the actions on implementing the working program of the Russian Chairmanship in the Group in 2015 and the results achieved during the first year of the Chairmanship of the Russian Federation.

NOTE that many Europol's and Interpol's operational tools and services are of particular relevance and interest for the BSTF Member States and URGE Member States to make full use of them.

REQUEST the Operative Committee (OPC) to further use the Europol Platform of Experts, developed at Europol, as a tool of information sharing between the countries.

NOTE WITH CONCERN that the development trends of the organized crime show its interrelations with international extremist and terrorist organizations and PLAN to discuss this problem during next meetings.

TAKE NOTE IN THIS REGARD of the necessity to create a comprehensive approach to organize international counteraction to organized crime in order to implement the Regional Strategy of the BSTF.

NOTE the similarity of approaches of the Member States in defining national priorities in the sphere of combating organized crime, and their readiness to continue cooperation within the framework of the Regional Strategy of the BSTF.

SHARE in its basic terms the road map on combating organized crime in all its forms and manifestations, other serious crimes and customs offences in the Baltic Sea region and REQUEST the Operative Committee to improve and implement it comprehensively.

WELCOME the work of the expert group on combating illegal drug trafficking in the Baltic Sea region acting under the auspices of the Operative Committee.

CHARGE the Operative Committee with studying the possibilities to create an expert community of the customs agencies of the Baltic Sea region states under the auspices of national coordinators.

REQUEST all Member States to join Russia and Latvia in resolving issues of providing the group's activity in renewing its mandate after 2016 and SUPPORT the intention of Latvia to assume chairmanship of the Group of personal representatives for the period of 2017-2018.

TAKE NOTE of the Working program of the Russian chairmanship for 2016 and WELCOME the suggestion of Russia to organize three meetings of the Operative Committee in 2016, one strategic meeting in the end of the year, as well as one jubilee event dedicated to the 20-th anniversary of the Group.