

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour to be here and it is my mission to break the ice of our discussions.

I am coming from Latvia, from Baltic region in the EU.

My main task today is to moderate the session on role of border management in fighting against violent extremism and cross-border organised crimes.

• You have a general description on topic of that panel and the organiser of that event have invited You to contribute with the interventions on three main topics:

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1. LAST PROGRESS - Changes in each Central Asia country's border management during the last two years (main objectives and activities, policy priorities, legislation, procedures, operations)

• 2. Cost effective solutions - What are three most important current actions of your country concerning border management that would have a positive impact in a short time?

• 3. Response to foreign fighters phenomena - What is your country doing to limit the movement of foreign terrorist fighters (concrete recent initiatives, information sharing on national or bilateral/multinational level)? What are lessons learned?

So my privilege is to invite You to share Your response and Your approach to these challenges.

My colleagues here in Bishkek have briefed me that the understanding of what is the best practice here in Asian region could be different as it is in European region. It is a different approach and there are different competent agencies.

I could say that Trust is a core element for any effective fight against illegal migration, organised crime and terrorism but just You can say what is the key element here.

That why it is critical to get Your feedback for better understanding what is good for security at that region.

Mr. Tiliks, the Regional Manager of BOMCA 9, is the Rapporteur for that session and I am sure that his professional skills will help us to make conclusions on our discussions.

So far I will go through some statements and after that I will invite You to take the floor and provide Your intervention on that.

Border control

Effective border control is a political and administrative priority now.

The President of the European Council Mr. Tusk said just some days ago:

«No-one is going to protect our borders for us. Protect our borders or be blackmailed»

There are used strong political statements talking about the border security. One of them is «To be or not to be together» or another one which is used by communists calling the European border as a European fortress.

Domino effect

Long time the theory on dependencies and interdependencies was used by critical infrastructure protection policy, but today we have a new reality. It is a time for DOMINO effect policy in border security.

It means:

1) NO effective border control – NO effective internal security system and international protection system for asylum seekers

As example of next level of domino effect is:

2) NO effective asylum system - NO effective migration and integration policy

What does it means MORE Border Security

It means the follows:

MORE improvement of legislation

MORE capacity building

MORE implementation of new technologies

MORE investments

MORE fancies in practice

It is a struggle between the two philosophies: between Open Borders policy and from another side

Absolute Sovereignty or Non-shared responsibility for border security

Border security and external security

In the context of the link between border security and external security I wanted to mention some key capabilities:

Infrastructure (improvement and development of it using the cost-effective approach)

Personal (regular trainings, appropriate motivation system)

Communication capabilities

Interoperabilities

Effective Early Warning System

Clear protocol and procedures for Crisis Management

Strategic communication skills

And also the ability to identify hybrid threats

One of the session topic is IBM. I will invite You to share the best practise on that. But just some words about Latvian IBM.

We have the IBM Strategy and it is based on 5 pillars.

Level 1 – border control (border checks and border surveillance) as defined in Schengen Border Code and the customs supervision according to the EU Custom Code including related risk analysis and criminal intelligence

Level 2 – identification and investigation of the cross-border crimes based on coordinated activities of law enforcement agencies

Level 3 – four-level access control model (measures in third countries, cooperation with neighboring countries, border control and customs control, control measures for free movement space, including

return procedure)

Level 4 – inter-institutional cooperation in border management and international cooperation

Level 5 – the border management coordination, the improvement of legal acts, human resources management and anti-corruption measures

Cross-border crime and terrorism

It is clear that criminal profit from the organised crime businesses (drugs, human trafficking, human smuggling, weapons) is used for the committing of terrorist attacks.

The analytical and operational role of border management is crucial.

I could mention just some examples from European perspective and it is a hot European Parliament decision on Passenger Name Record Data and initiative to make more systematical checks on the external border. But again in case of EU we are talking about shared responsibility. What does it mean in that region it is a one of the question for that discussion.