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NOTE

From:	Slovenian delegation
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Kick-off Conference of the Integrative Internal Security Governance Initiative

At the 2014 Brdo Process Ministerial Conference, Slovenia received support for the development of an Integrative and Complementary Approach in the Fight against Terrorism and Violent Extremism in the Western Balkans, the Western Balkans counter terrorism initiative, (hereinafter WBCTi).

During 2015, the WBCTi was successfully established as an EU initiative: it garnered support of the EU Member States, institutions and agencies, other international partners as well as countries of the Western Balkans. At the December 2015 Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting, the approach was applied by way of formal adoption of the *Council Conclusions on the Integrative and Complementary Approach to Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism in the Western Balkans*¹.

As the implementation of the WBCTi continued, the EU Member States supported the extension of this model approach to two other areas of internal security, namely border security and countering serious and organised crime. The concept of Integrative Internal Security Governance (hereinafter IISG) in the Western Balkans was developed and formally introduced at the EU level with the adoption of the *Council Conclusions on strengthening the EU internal security's external dimension in the Western Balkans including via the Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG)*². The Conclusions also received support of the ministers of the Western Balkan Region at the EU–Western Balkans JHA Forum in December 2016.

¹ 11625/3/15

² 14597/16

The IISG constitutes a policy-level approach that aims to assist the Western Balkan countries in internal security development in a coordinated and functionally integrated manner – in that it not only coordinates the efforts and investments for external (including EU) assistance, but also integrates relevant regional or other instruments and tools to improve their functionality and long-term sustainability.

The IISG Council Conclusions state that an existing and relevant regional high-level forum could be invited to adopt or endorse the proposed actions. As the IISG is ready to move to a higher level by establishing its formal structure, the kick-off conference of the IISG is being convened.

The kick-off conference will be hosted by the Brdo Process platform and will take place on 8 September 2017 in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia. A copy of the invitation to this event is attached in the Annex.

The kick-off conference will provide an opportunity to formally endorse the beginning of the implementation process of this important initiative as well as determine the mandate and leaders of the IISG Support Group together with the high representatives of all stakeholders in the process, i.e. EU and international actors, regional organizations and other partners.



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Dear Colleagues,

As you are probably aware, during 2016 Slovenia alongside other partners has placed considerable emphasis on developing a comprehensive and integrative approach in the field of internal security in the Western Balkan region. As a result of these efforts, the Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG) Initiative was launched and received support of the EU in the form of Council Conclusions and the support of the Western Balkan countries at the EU-Western Balkans JHA Forum, both in December 2016.

As a representative of the Brdo Process platform, where the initiative was first conceptualized and later launched, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that the IISG is ready to move to a higher level by establishing its formal structure.

Since the very beginning of its functioning almost two decades ago, the Brdo Process has served as a forum for discussing the most pressing issues in the field of internal security with the Western Balkans. The momentum of this cooperation, including other relevant partners active in the region, needs to be sustained and broadened. This is why Slovenia is convinced that the Brdo Process is the most adequate platform to host the evolving IISG Initiative.

I would like to invite you to the Kick-off Conference of the Integrative Internal Security Governance Initiative, which will take place on 8 September 2017 in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia. The Conference will provide an opportunity to present the detailed description of the objectives of the initiative and also to explain and discuss the roles of partners.

Please find enclosed the agenda, registration form and practical information. The relevant materials for the discussion will be sent out in due time.

We kindly ask that you send your registration to m.dosenovic@dcaf.ch no later than 11 August 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Vesna Györkös Žnidar
Minister of Interior