Cooperation structures within and between border guard authorities in the countries directly bordering the Black Sea

Turkey

Second Meeting of the Budapest Process Working Group on the Black Sea Region

Sofia, 9-10 February 2011
Turkey has: 
**2.949 km land and 6.339 km sea borders**

**Main agencies responsible for border management**

- Land Forces
- National Police / Foreigners Border and Asylum Department
- Coast Guard Command
- General Directorate of Customs Enforcement
- General Directorate of Health for Border and Coastal Areas
There is no single border guard authority in Turkey.

The Bureau for the establishment of an Integrated Border Management authority and drafting the related legislation

- started its work in mid September 2008
- directly reports to Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior
As there is not single border guard authority in Turkey there is no specific cooperation structures with our neighbours.

The main tool Turkey uses in cooperation with neighbours on border issues is the bilateral border agreements.

As well as police and customs cooperation agreements.

Turkey participates in the Black Sea Littoral States Border/Coast Guard Cooperation Forum in the region.
Main Countries

• Bulgaria
• Greece
• Georgia
• Romania
With Bulgaria...

- There is an Agreement dating back to 1967 on the prevention and settlement of cross-border disputes.
With Bulgaria...

- Turkish Coast Guard and Bulgarian Border Police have a working relationship. Their Commanders/Chiefs exchange visits annually and the Coast Guard Boats have annual harbour visits.
With Bulgaria...

- Our land border with Bulgaria is rather calm when compared to our land border with Greece. And border authorities have day to day coordination mechanisms.
With Bulgaria...

- We are considering two proposals by Bulgaria - to conduct joint border patrols and - to establish a common contact centre for police and customs cooperation in Sofia.
- We have the intention of joint management of the Kapikule / Capitan Andrevo Border Crossing Point.
With Greece...

- There is an agreement from 1971 on the prevention and settlement of cross-border disputes regarding land border.
With Greece...

- We also have the Readmission Protocol with Greece dated back to 2001.
- In May 2010 our Ministers of Interiors (Minister of Citizen Protection for Greece) agreed to take steps for the better implementation of the Protocol.
With Greece...

- Three meetings have been convened since:
  - In June in Athens and in December in Ankara and
  - In July in Izmir for the opening of a seaport for readmission.
With Greece...

- The Coast Commands have a working relationship and exchange visits at the level of Commanders annually.
- Turkish and Greek border authorities recently established direct contact points both at land and sea.
With Greece...

- Together with the decisive combat of the Turkish Coast Guard the opening of the Izmir/Dikili Sea Port for readmission has contributed to the significant decrease in illegal migrations flows in the Aegean.
- Turkish law enforcement authorities have also intensified their measures to stop illegal migration at the common land border with Greece.
With Georgia...

- The Border Agreement is dated 1997.

- A unique example of cooperation: Both countries use Batumi Airport as a common domestic airport.

- We are also considering to have the joint management of the Sarp Border Crossing Point.
With Romania...

- There is an agreement on coast guard cooperation from 1992
- There is a readmission agreement dated 2004
- There is also police cooperation on usual channels
Thank you!...

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