“Organised crime is growing in scale and sophistication, responsible for sustaining a buoyant international trade in illicit drugs and other commodities, propagating dangerous new threats across the Internet, and generating exceptionally high criminal profits.

Most threats to internal security are generated outside the EU,.......the Western Balkans carry particular significance.”

The State of Internal Security in the EU – A Joint report by Europol, Eurojust and Frontex 31 March 2010
EUROPOL Operations Department

O.1 Operational Centre and Coordination
O.2 Analysis and Knowledge
O.3 Criminal Finances and Technology
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O.6 OC Networks Western Europe
O.7 OC Networks North East Europe
O.8 OC Networks South East Europe
O.9 Terrorist Financing Tracking Programme (TFTP)
Well established and often sophisticated organised crime groups (OCG) and networks

Family / clan based structures and traditional criminal groups and networks

Main activities: Drug trafficking, Trafficking Human Beings, Facilitated Illegal Immigration, Weapons trafficking, Cigarette smuggling, Counterfeit Currency

Activities of Western Balkans OCG are dealt with at Europol within the framework of AWF Copper
Current intelligence suggests that Russian speaking organised crime groups and crime groups from the Baltic States have no intentions in respect of establishing themselves in the Balkans region.

The existence of well established indigenous groups and the lack of new opportunities are factors in the lack of a real or influential presence of Russian speaking and Baltic State crime groups in the region.
90 tons of heroin required annually to supply illicit heroin consumer markets in the EU

Around 100 tons of heroin (mainly from Afghanistan) is moved through the Balkan region every year

The bulk of heroin destined for Europe is believed to transit Bulgaria with several possibilities for further distribution

Central (original) route - from Bulgaria via the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania to Italy or Austria

Southern route from Bulgaria via the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania to Italy

Northern route from Bulgaria via Romania, Hungary or Ukraine to the Czech Republic or Poland and then to Austria or Germany
Serbian groups are primarily active in Bulgaria while Kosovan groups are active in Bulgaria and in Greece.

A common feature of most OCGs active in the supply and distribution of heroin is that their networks operate in many countries in the Balkan region.

Albanian-speaking OCGs control a significant part of the heroin trade in a number of EU MS.

Heroin smuggling and trafficking from Turkey to Europe is mainly in the hands of OCGs comprised of Turkish nationals or other nationals with Turkish or Kurdish origin.

Turkish OCGs have established contacts with associated criminal groups e.g. Albanian-speaking OCGs or Bulgarian OCGs.
SEE and Western Balkans is region of both origin and transit for illegal immigrants
EU is a favoured destination

The ease of abuse of visa regimes is a major pull factor

Well established and developed OCGs act as facilitators and providers of services e.g. safe houses, border crossing escorts

Afghans are the most frequently reported nationality of illegal immigrants in the EU with most transiting the Balkans e.g.

Afghanistan - Pakistan/Iran – Iraq – Turkey – Greece - Macedonia – Serbia – Hungary - Austria

Turkey-Bulgaria –Romania / Serbia - Hungary
Large illicit stockpiles in SEE considered as main source of imported heavy firearms into criminal markets across EU

The existence of vast amounts of undocumented weapons circulating in all Balkan states and Kosovo region is a major concern

Stockpiles located in unconventional warehouses or caves
Majority of firearms trafficked to the EU as ‘little and often’ shipments

Increasing demand due to rise in use of firearms by OCGs in EU
AK 47 can be purchased from between €200 and €4000*
‘The Headlines’

Inter-Western Balkans region (internal) trafficking, primarily of children for forced labour or other forced services, including begging is increasing.

The most frequently reported nationalities of identified and detained suspects in EU investigations are Albanian, Bulgarian, Chinese, Hungarian, Nigerian and Romanian.

Victims exploited in all 27 EU MS for both sexual and labour exploitation confirming hypothesis that THB exists in all EU Member States.

The reported trafficking of minors is increasing and this may be linked to the trafficking networks using children as a tactical (disruptive) measure.
Current JITs linked to South East Europe:

Operation Golf / Europa – Trafficking of Roma children to UK (other MS also identified) for commission of street crime offences and benefit fraud

Operation Inspector – Trafficking of Bulgarian nationals (adults and children) to UK for commission of theft (pick pocketing) on London Underground system, “the Tube”

Support for DCAF and Police Cooperation Convention (PCC) SEE JIT awareness training for judges, magistrates and prosecutors

- Ljubljana 29 September – 1 October 2010
- Sofia 27 – 29 October 2010
- Bucharest 23 – 25 November 2010
The scale of organised crime in the EU is considerable, its proceeds and assets enabling organised crime and terrorist groups to engage in diverse illegal activities in multiple locations. Moreover, the same key routes are used for multiple, interdependent criminal activities.

An effective response should address the problem in a holistic way, recognising its transnational features and its growing complexity. A common integrated architecture is required, promoting joint operations between state authorities and international agencies against the highest priority threats.

This architecture would also reinforce regional efforts to arrest the development of key criminal hubs in and around the EU.
Thank You

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