

National Service for Combating Organized Crime
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The Dutch National Prosecutors' Office and the Dutch National Investigation Service expressed their appreciation of the excellent cooperation with Bulgarian National Service for combating organized crime



On a special pressconference in NSCOC Mr. Remko van Toren – representative of the National Prosecutor's office of Netherlands and the chief of the National police in South-East Netherlands Mr. Yan Bursma expressed their appreciation and satisfaction of the useful co-operation extended by Bulgarian National service for combating organized crime in connection on a recent joint operation.

“The result of this co-operation has been the successful dismantling of a criminal organization, dealing with the smuggling of weapons and cigarettes. Together with other international partners the Dutch and Bulgarian services played key roles in this investigation” – said Mr. van Toren.

In the first week of January 2005 the Dutch police arrested seven suspects in this investigation. It is believed that this organization has been active since 2000 in smuggling cigarettes to the United Kingdom. Transit countries used by the smugglers were Greece, Belgium, Malaysia and the Netherlands. The criminals used varied cover loads to hide the illicit cargoes. For the last two months the police and customs officers in the UK have intercepted several illegal transports and seized 25 million cigarettes. Estimates vary but it is believed that each week the potential profits were around 250.000 English Pounds. This investigation started about a year ago, due to an intercepted weapon transport in which the Bulgarian police seized two anti-tank weapons with ammunition.



During this operation very close contacts were maintained between Bulgarian NSCOC and Britain police officers. In the Netherlands the police arrested two suspects of Bosnian origin, one Bulgarian citizen and four Dutch citizens in connection of this seizure. The Dutch experts

suppose that there are more participants in this group.



Dutch investigators made house searches on eleven different addresses in several places in the Netherlands. They seized cars, computers and also one of the houses, which the organization had purchased with the proceeds of their crimes. “This operation reveals the value of international co-operation. Again we would like to express our appreciation for the excellent way of co-operation with the Bulgarian authorities, and we look

forward to continue our co-operation in the future”
– the Dutch experts concluded.

