1. **Basic Information**

1.1. **Desiree Number** CZ00-07-01  
**Twinning Number** CZ2000/IB/JH/01

1.2. **Title** Strengthening the Fight against Organised Crime

1.3. **Sector** Justice and Home Affairs

1.4. **Location** Ministry of the Interior and Police Presidium, Czech Republic

2. **Objectives**

2.1. **Wider Objectives**
- To consolidate a functioning democratic system, including respect for the rule of law.

2.2. **Immediate Objectives**
- To strengthen the law enforcement institutions dealing with the fight against organised crime

2.3. **Accession Partnership / NPAA Priorities**

The Accession Partnership (December 1999) identifies the following priorities:

- **Short-term** – implementing policy on organised crime, corruption (legislation, implementing structures, sufficiently qualified staff, better co-operation between institutions) and economic crime;
- **Medium-term** – upgrading law enforcement bodies and ensuring better co-ordination among them, continuing the fight against organised crime, trafficking in women and children, drugs trafficking and corruption.

The NPAA (May 1999) highlights the following priorities:

- **Short-term** priorities: the observation and evaluation of the acquis in the police co-operation and fight against organised crime and proposing measures ensuring the compliance with legal, institutional and technical requirements for accession to the EU.
- **Medium-term** priorities: to meet the commitments ensuing from the acquis communautaire as being scrutinised; improving and elaborating methodical procedures for the obtaining of information on organised crime, including the building of a central records system and regarding tactics and methodology, the detection of individual forms of organised crime; improving technical equipment; improving the international police co-operation, covering the fight against the drug trafficking, corruption, organised crime and money laundering by the way of specialised training in exchanging information in this field,
- to fulfil the most important principles of the Pre-accession Pact on Organised Crime between the Member States of the EU and the Applicant Countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Cyprus.

3. **Description**

3.1. **Background / Justification**

The Government of the Czech Republic pays special attention to issues of the fight against organised crime. Since 1995 it has been developing and constantly up-dating its strategy, for the last time by its Resolution No. 673 of 29 October 1997 on the Updated Strategy of Combating Organised Crime, a document setting down priorities of action against this negative social phenomenon (see enclosure).

A comprehensive analysis of fulfilling the tasks contained in this document will be prepared by the Ministry of the Interior by the end of this year and, on the basis of this, a new Government strategy in this area should be prepared by the end of 2001.
The Ministry of the Interior drafted the new Act on Police, which is supposed to come into force on January 1, 2001 together with the amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The new legislation reflects, among others, requirements following from the future integration of the Czech Republic into the EU setting down prerequisites for meeting the obligations following from the Europol Convention, Schengen agreements and other items of the acquis. (cross border pursuit and surveillance, exchange of information etc.)

Regarding the question of combating organised crimes and crime connected with information technologies (Internet), the draft new Act on Police will bring provisions which should improve conditions for police work in this field. The new Act will set up a new organisational structure of the Police which should ensure effective management and better co-operation among all units.

In 1999, a special law on witness protection was drafted that should provide the Police of the Czech Republic with new instruments to protect witnesses in the most serious cases of organised crime. New measures will include physical witness protection, protection of witness life-environment, moving witnesses in the area of the Czech Republic or abroad, social help, cover documents and complete change of identity for witnesses. This draft of the new law will be submitted to the Government in 2000 and is expected to enter into force in 2001. Witness protection programme is reflected in the draft NPAA 2000 - short term priorities.

Taking into account Phare support approved for 1999, which is of highly specialised and rather technical character, Phare 2000 project should focus on the assistance in evaluating and further developing of the overall Government strategy of combating organised crime to be carried out with the help of a long-term PAA on the one hand, and on the assistance in applying concrete policy instruments – the witness protection programme and strengthening institutions in their fight against organised crime on the other, both involving institution building part (short-term experts) and investment.

### 3.2. Linked Activities

Fight against organised crime is among the top priorities of the Czech Government. A list of documents relating to the Government’s effort in this area is enclosed as Annex 4 to this Fiche. Issues of combating organised crime are included in the following projects approved within Phare 1998 and Phare 1999:

- No. CZ 9810-02 **Strengthening of the Institutions of Law Enforcement / Asylum Institutions** includes a professional training program for Police officers and the Ministry of the Interior staff in problems of combating organised crime;
- No. CZ 9904.01.03 - **Strengthening Institutions in their Fight against Organised Crime** is focused on improvement of analytical methodology of investigation and thus strengthening the fight against organised crime (mainly drugs, illegal treatment of nuclear materials, protection against terrorism etc.). The project should ensure the strengthening of protection against organised crime by a supply of technologies for DNA databases, development of a drug profiling database, laboratories for investigation of banknote forgery, for identification of stolen vehicles etc.

### 3.3. Results / Outputs

The Outputs to be delivered and Guaranteed Results achieved via this Project include:

(1) **Assistance in the Evaluation and Further Development of the Government Policy of Fighting Organised Crime**
- proposals for updated policy for the next few years and improved conceptual work by the end of 2001
• improved working structure of the police departments dealing with organised crime, close co-operation and exchange of information among them
• intensified international contacts through the organisation of seminars, and study visits as necessary
• improved application of the principles of the Pre-accession Pact on Organised Crime
• achieving full compliance with the acquis of the EU and its Member States by the end of the project
• harmonised policy with the current trends within the EU

(2) **Witness Protection Program**
• providing the Ministry of the Interior and the Police of the Czech Republic with know how on up-to-date methods of witness protection
• establishing a specialised police unit dealing with the protection of witnesses by the end of 2001
• effective investigation methods supported by adequate equipment
• trained staff will ensure effective implementation of witness protection program.

(3) **Strengthening Institutions in their Fight against Internet Crime**
• achieving a higher standard of crime detecting and investigating as regards the Internet crime
• reinforcing the system for detection of Internet Crime in the central analytical intelligence unit of the Organised Crime Section by the end of 2001
• trained staff will ensure strengthening of the fight against Internet crime
• acquiring information on foreign legislation, strategies in fighting Internet crime and relevant legal responsibilities.
• improvement of the technical facilities and training in the area of Internet crime.

3.4. **Activities / Inputs**
The Project’s three components will be contracted via:
• a Twinning Package (Institution Building activities, components 1-3),
• a tender in Investment in Institution Building (Investment activities, component 3 only).

The key Inputs to be provided via the **Twinning and Training Package** includes:
• A **1 year Pre-Accession Adviser**, to be stationed at the Ministry of the Interior,
• A series of **Short-Term Experts** (approximately 20 person-months),
• **Other services and intangible supplies** including development of information management systems, IT requirements, study visits (conferences, seminars, visits to the Member States as warranted , etc.).

The PAA should have a good knowledge of overall strategy of fight against organised crime (10 years of practical experience at a specialised police unit dealing with organised crime) and experience in developing and implementing strategies and legislation relating to this kind of crime. He/she should be familiar with Police organisation structures in the EU Member States. In respect of issues of the witness protection he/she should be complemented by experts with a thorough knowledge of legislation as well as practical implementation of witness protection including the organisation and work of specialised units dealing with witness protection. He/she will arrange short-time experts for individual seminars etc., and therefore he/she should have good management skills. He/she must be fluent in English or, if possible, in Czech.

The Project consists of two components:
Twinning and Training Component – CZ 2000/IB/JH/01: (1 M€)

(1) Assistance in the evaluation and further development of the Government policy of fighting organised crime

It aims at assistance in evaluating the existing strategies, in disclosing possible gaps in the existing Government strategy and proposing their solutions, in harmonising the policy with the current trends within the EU and in practical application of its measures. The component will also focus on establishing contacts, closer international co-operation, support to the Organised Crime Section and support to the application of the principles of the Pre-accession Pact on Organised Crime.

After the analysis of the current strategies, which will be carried out by the Ministry of the Interior by the end of the year 2000 and will be made available to the Twinning Team, the PAA/Twinners will take part in the development of the updated policy of fighting organised crime, putting it in line with current trends in the EU, providing consultations and recommending types of training for the Police.

The Twinning Team will arrange lectures on practical application of the EU acquis in this field, on Europol, on international co-operation and exchange of information, training of the Police officers with the EU specialists, seminars on legal background concerning organised crime in different states, structures of the Police bodies combating organised crime, practical experience in concrete cases.

The PAA should assist in the implementation of the Government policy. He/she will provide contacts for further co-operation with particular units and also arrange training and seminars on the application of principles of the Pre-accession Pact on Organised Crime concerning practical results, experience and ways of co-operation among states and among their various Police or administrative bodies and institutions.

(2) Witness Protection Program – part of twinning package

In 1999, a special new law on witness protection was drafted that should provide the Police of the Czech Republic with new instruments to protect witnesses in the most serious cases of organised crime. This draft new law will be submitted to the Government in 2000 and its adoption by the Czech Parliament is expected still in 2000. On the basis of this law a new police unit dealing with witness protection should be established within the Directorate of the Criminal Police. The Unit is expected to become an independent unit within the Police Presidium as soon as the new law enters into force (2001). The programme will be implemented in close co-operation with the Ministry of Justice.

The necessity of improved protection of witnesses follows from the Pre-accession Pact on Organised Crime as well as from other items of the acquis:

• Resolution of the Council of 23 November 1995 on the protection of witnesses in the fight against international organised crime,
• the Council Resolution of 20 December 1996 on individuals who co-operate with the judicial process in the fight against international organised crime,
• the EU Program OCTOPUS II which recommended to the Member States to develop special programs for protection of witnesses during and after investigation in the most serious cases of organised crime.

The Institution Building part of this component will consist in:

• specialised training in methods of witness protection which will include standard Member States' practice in this field,
• training in methods of penetration of persons and receiving information from the environment of interest in connection with the protection of persons (protective intelligence),
• seminars / study visits of the Czech Police officers at foreign services in the EU dealing with witness protection in order to exchange experience,

which will be provided by Short – term twinning experts

(3) Strengthening Institutions in their Fight Against Internet Crime – part of Twinning package

It aims at supporting the policy relating to the fight against Internet crime and at logistic support to the central analytical intelligence unit of the Organised Crime Section of the Police Presidium.

The Institution Building part of this component will consist in:

• training and education in using new investigation methods, intensive training and workshops on two aspects: technical possibilities and legal evaluation of all aspects of the Internet phenomena in the Member States,

• lectures on the attitude of the EU towards American demands in the field of Internet crime, seminars on terminology used by different analysts,

• pre-prepared forms for sending questions to providers etc. in English,

• analyses of structures of Police units working on the Internet crime,

• workshops/ seminars / study visits of the Czech Police officers at similar units dealing with the fight against Internet crime in the EU Member States,

Investment in Institution Building

The Investment part of this component (Phare allocation of 0.2 MEUR) consists in:

• supply of equipment to reinforce systems for detection of Internet crime and reconstruction of the local area computer network of the Organised Crime Section - Analytical Unit

• special software support for central analytical intelligence unit of the Organised Crime Section

The investment requirements will be based on technical assessment of equipment needs. Preparation of technical specifications for subsequent Phare tendering will be carried out in close co-operation between the relevant Czech professionals and independent EU experts by the date of tender.

4. Institutional Framework

The project will be implemented in close collaboration between the Ministry of the Interior and the Police Presidium, and part of the project in co-operation with the Ministry of Justice as well, especially within the area of training in the witness protection program. Overall co-ordinator and counterpart for the PAA is the Management and Organisation Department, Ministry of Interior.

The strategy of combating organised crime is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior, Management and Organisation Department.

Protection of witnesses is the responsibility of the Police of the Czech Republic. There is no provision yet in the Czech legislation authorising the Czech Police to provide special protection to vulnerable targets including witnesses. The Czech Police can provide just simple physical protection for which the Protective Service of the Police is responsible. In the year 2000, in connection with the preparation of the new legislation, a new police unit will be established within the Directorate of the Criminal Police to provide witness protection. After the new law enters into force (2001), the unit is expected to become an independent unit of the Police Presidium controlled by the First Deputy Police President.
In the fight against Internet and organised crime, the nation-wide responsibility for tackling serious crime on Internet and other kinds of serious crimes, such as trafficking in drugs, arms, explosives and nuclear materials, the smuggling of illegal immigrants, organised prostitution, counterfeiting, activities of criminal gangs, violent crime and terrorism rests with the Organised Crime Section, which is subject to the Directorate of the Criminal Police. The Organised Crime Section, with its headquarters in Prague and six regional offices, is supervised by the First Deputy Police President.

5. **Budget (in MEUR)**

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<th>Investment Support</th>
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<th>National Co-financing</th>
<th>IFI</th>
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6. **Implementation Arrangements**

6.1. **Implementing Agency**

The CFCU is the Implementing Agency responsible for tendering, contracting and accounting. Responsibility for technical preparation and control (and the counterpart for the PAA) will remain with the Ministry of the Interior.

6.2. **Twinning – CZ 2000/IB/JH/01**

The Ministry of the Interior, Department for Management and Organisation (Mr. Petr Solský), Nad Štolou 3, Prague 7, tel. +420 2 61432698, fax +420 2 61433507, e-mail solsky@mvcr.cz

6.3. **Non-standard Aspects**: DIS rules and procedures will be followed.

6.4. **Contracts**:
- Twinning and Training contract = 1.0 M €
- Investment in Institutional Building = 0.2 M €

7. **Implementation Schedule**

Start of Twinning Selection: 3Q/00  
Start of Equipment Tendering: 1Q/01
Start of Twinning Activity: 2Q/01  
Start of Equipment Delivery: 2Q/01
Project Completion: 1Q/02  
Finalisation of Supply: 2Q/02

8. **Equal Opportunity**

Equal opportunity principles and practices in ensuring equitable gender participation in the Project will be guaranteed.

9. **Environment**  
N/A

10. **Rates of Return**  
N/A

11. **Investment Criteria**

The investment components of this Project all relate directly to Institution Building activities.
Catalytic effect: combating organised crime is among priorities both of the Czech Government and the European Union. This project relates to priorities set up in the Accession Partnership and the National Program for the Adoption of Acquis.

Co-financing: the project will be co-financed from the Czech national budget.

Project readiness: All investment is to be tendered immediately. Specifications will be reviewed by independent experts within the framework of twinning where possible and appropriate.

Sustainability: Government policy of fighting organised crime should continue to be used even after the accession and should form a basis for further updating of policies and strategies. The witness protection will be established as well as the systematic fight against Internet-related crime. Technology supplied for training will remain in use in further practise.

12. Conditionality and Sequencing

The proposed 2000 Phare project is tied-up to Phare 1998 and 1999 projects.

Detailed equipment supply specification for the subprojects (2) and (3) will be provided on the basis of the needs analysis to be prepared in close co-operation with relevant Czech professionals and EU experts. Technical specifications will be prepared by the end of 2000 and will be accessed by EU experts before tender. Phare funding is related to the adoption of a new law on Police and a new law on witness protection.

The new draft Act on Police reflects, among others, requirements following from the future integration of the Czech Republic into the EU setting down prerequisites for meeting the obligations following from the Europol Convention, Schengen agreements and other items of the acquis. (cross border pursuit and surveillance, exchange of information etc.)

Regarding the question of combating organised crimes and crime connected with information technologies (Internet), the draft new Act on Police will bring provisions which should improve conditions for police work in this field. The new Act will set up a new organisational structure of the Police which should ensure effective management and better co-operation among all units.

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Annexes to Project Fiche

1. Logframe Matrix
2. Detailed Implementation Chart
3. Cumulative Contracting and Disbursement Schedule for the Project (MEUR)
4. List of Documents Related to Linked Activities (Section 3.2.)
## Strengthening the Fight against Organised Crime

**Project Number:** CZ00-07-01  
**Date of Drafting:** 02/2000  
**Contracting Period Expires:** 31/10/02  
**Disbursement Period Expires:** 31/10/03  
**Total Budget:** 2.2 MEUR  
**Phare Contribution:** 1.2 MEUR

### Wider Objective
- To consolidate a functioning democratic system, including respect for the rule of law
- Improve the work of the Czech Police in the field of organised crime;  
- Achievement of compatibility with the EC legislation  
- Evaluation of the EC Regular Report on Czech Republic’s progress toward accession (in the field of organised crime)  
- Evaluation of the progress in the implementation of the Pre-accession Pact on Organised Crime with the applicant countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Cyprus

### Immediate Objectives
- To strengthen the law enforcement institutions dealing with the fight against organised crime
  - Co-ordinated procedure in the fight against organised crime  
  - Higher level of technical equipment  
  - Well trained and flexible staff  
  - More effective co-operation between law enforcement institutions  
  - Working committees and groups  
  - Evaluation reports of the ministry and Phare reports

### Outputs
- Improvement of investigation and prosecution of the organised crime,  
- Updated Government policy on combating organised crime,  
- Reduction of crime rate,  
- Strong Organised Crime Section of the Czech Police,  
- Increased efficiency of technical equipment,  
- Application of effective methods complying with the experience of the EU states,  
- Well-trained staff of the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech Police;  
- Quick access to information on organised crime

### Inputs

### Logframe Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wider Objective</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>Information Sources</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
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| - To consolidate a functioning democratic system, including respect for the rule of law | - Improve the work of the Czech Police in the field of organised crime;  
- Achievement of compatibility with the EC legislation | - Evaluation of the EC Regular Report on Czech Republic’s progress toward accession (in the field of organised crime)  
- Evaluation of the progress in the implementation of the Pre-accession Pact on Organised Crime with the applicant countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Cyprus | Lack of financial resources to cover all needs |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immediate Objectives</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>Sources of Information</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
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</table>
| To strengthen the law enforcement institutions dealing with the fight against organised crime | - Co-ordinated procedure in the fight against organised crime  
- Higher level of technical equipment  
- Well trained and flexible staff  
- More effective co-operation between law enforcement institutions | - Working committees and groups  
- Evaluation reports of the ministry and Phare reports | Lack of co-ordination of equipment installation and training activities; Inadequate trainers |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>Sources of Information</th>
<th>Assumptions and Risks</th>
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</table>
| - Improvement of investigation and prosecution of the organised crime,  
- Updated Government policy on combating organised crime,  
- Reduction of crime rate,  
- Strong Organised Crime Section of the Czech Police,  
- Increased efficiency of technical equipment,  
- Application of effective methods complying with the experience of the EU states,  
- Well-trained staff of the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech Police;  
- Quick access to information on organised crime | Technical equipment installed and in use  
Implemented educational programs | Working committees and groups  
Evaluation of the project fiche | insufficient educational programs insufficiently co-ordinated activities of the relevant Institutions |
- Training and advice in the areas of the evaluation and further development of the government policy of fighting organised crime; the development of the witness protection programme; strengthening institutions in their fight against internet crime.
- Provision of equipment to the organised crime section - analytical unit

| EU investment into information technologies and financial participation of the Czech Republic |
## Detailed Implementation Chart for the Project

### Twinning and Training Package

- **Launch Twinning request to Member States (June 2000)**
- **Selection of MS(s) for twinning**
- **Elaboration of twinning covenant**
- **Submit Twinning covenant to Commission & Steering Committee for approval**
- **Twinning Package commences**

### Investment Component

- **Tender Launch**
- **Contract(s) Signature**

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**Annex 2**
## Cumulative Contracting and Disbursement Schedule for the Project (M €)

### Cumulative Quarterly Contracting Schedule (M €)

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### Cumulative Quarterly Disbursement Schedule (M €)

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List of Documents Related to Linked Activities (Section 3.2.)

Fight against organised crime is a top priority of the Czech Government. The Government effort in this area has been supported by the following important documents.

- **Updated Strategy of Combating Organised Crime** (Government Resolution No. 673 of 29 October 1997): The document lays down concrete tasks for the relevant state administration bodies in order to improve the effectiveness of the fight against organised crime. The tasks relate to fighting bank fraud and bank crimes, corruption, drugs, motor vehicle thefts etc.

- **Concept of Fight against Intellectual Property Crimes** (Government Resolution No. 330 of 14 April 1999)

- **National/Government Program of Combating Corruption** (Government Resolution No. 125 of 17 February 1999)

- **The Government Drug Policy Concept and Program for the Period 1998 – 2000** (Government Resolution No. 111 of 23 February 1998): It is a three-year program defining the policies aimed at reduction of demand for and offer of drugs. Individual ministerial strategies are based on this Program, e.g. Anti-Drug Strategy of the Ministry of the Interior and of the Police of the Czech Republic.

The Government Program will be assessed in 2000 and the results will be used in developing of a new Government (and follow-up ministerial) Anti-Drug Program. It will include, as part of the acquis, applicable items of the EU Action Plan to Combat Drugs. The Ministry of Interior will also take part in building up the Drug National Focal Point. This project was proposed by the Council of Department Representatives and the Interdepartmental Anti-Drug Committee as part of the National project for anti-drug policy supported by the National Program Phare 2000. The Organised Crime Section and its department dealing with drugs are among members of the Interdepartmental Anti-Drug Committee.

- **Bilateral agreements** on police co-operation with a number of countries including most of the EU Member States.
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Appendix - Tasks
1. Introduction

Organized crime is a universal security risk, the expansion of which may de-stabilize the economic system worldwide and the political system in some states. The main objective of organized crime is to gain easy and maximum possible proceeds, on the one hand, and to win social and political influence, on the other. State borders and laws are ignored by organized crime, which develops its own, parallel structures. Members of the organized criminal groups consider themselves as prominent and superior persons and they use any means including brutality in order to reach their objectives.

That is why the Parliament, the Government and the public of the Czech Republic pay much attention to organized crime. The Time Schedule of the Government Activities in the Field of Internal Security and Public Order (the Governmental Resolution No. 577 of 13 November 1996) entrusted the Minister of the Interior with the evaluating of the fulfillment of tasks charged to ministers by the Governmental Resolution No. 296 of 15 May 1996 based on the document "Organized Crime and Effective Policy to Combat Such Type of Criminal Activity", and with proposing, if appropriate, to update the previously approved strategy of combating organized crime. Based on this Resolution, the present Updated Strategy of Combating Organized Crime has been developed.

After evaluating fulfillment of the Governmental Resolution No. 296, it was evident that most of its tasks were fulfilled. The outstanding tasks, fulfilled partially or unfulfilled, were updated in the document "Time Schedule of the Government Activities to Combat Organized Crime", approved by the Czech Government in its Resolution No. 673 of 29 October 1997.

The present document's section named "Organized Crime in the Czech Republic in the Period from 1 January 1996 to 30 June 1997 and the Trends of Its Evolution" deals with changes recently encountered in organized crime in the Czech Republic. Based on these changes, new tasks have been set forth to Government members and to the Director of the BIS (Security Information Service).

2. General Features of Organized Crime

Organized crime is a specific type of extensive criminal activity being committed systematically and over a long period of time by an organized criminal group. The distinguishing features of organized crime are the specialization of individual members in different activities and the scheme-based action. Organized crime aims at obtaining easy, high profits and social as well as political advantages and influence. It shows up many features formally identical to regular business activities with one exception: business activity, to the contrary of organized crime, anticipates observing operative legislation. The criminal proceeds, as a rule, are not spent in full for covering personal consumption and operational costs of the criminal activity, the surplus being rather invested into legal areas of maintaining and increasing of material goods, particularly to business activities. Organized crime does not limit itself within the borders of the states its bosses come from. If there is no unsatisfied demand for goods or services within the territory in which a group is operating, such demand is created artificially by, for instance, making drugs and psychotropic substances available to the population on a mass scale.

The executive units of criminal gangs usually associate together on ethnical, language or any other sociological relationships. They seek VIPs in localities in which they operate who then support their activities either for reward or under extortion. Frequently, highly qualified experts are abused by the organized criminal groups' bosses for the activities committed by them.

Organized criminal gangs may have different structures, from a relatively free association up to a perfect organization with its own organizational rules, strictly defined duties and powers of each member and even with internal directions such as penal or social welfare codes. The more perfect the organization, the more strict the discipline and conspiracy. It has become quite common to call any organized gang featuring high level of organization and ambition for gaining political power a Mafia.

By means of gaining political power, Mafias seek to take control over the key economic sectors and to build a framework of immunity for their activities which normally would be considered punishable according to natural sense of social justice.

From the point of view of organized crime evolution, the following stages may be distinguished:


II. Stabilization. Significantly extending the range of criminal activities aimed at considerable increase of profits with the support of a well established background and contact network. Delimiting spheres of influence against
other organized criminal gangs, defense of such spheres. Improving internal organization. Starting to systematically use external associates. Starting legal business activities based on laundered financial sources.

IV. III. Consolidation. Becoming rooted in various business lines, significantly expanding the criminal activity. Seeking to increase influence in society and politics using prevalingly illegal means. Systematically utilizing corrupted civil servants and politicians to push through their own interests. Affecting mass media.

V. IV. Integration. Integrating into social and political structures. Some of those get under the control of a Mafia, thus enabling the Mafia to control a certain portion of social and political activities. Legalization of proceeds by making deposits in banks and by means of public investments. Taking control over significant part of mass media.

V. V. Globalization. The state and mass media get entirely under the control of Mafia.

The European Union uses the following basic criteria to distinguish between the organized crime and other forms of criminal activity:

1. Collaboration of more than two persons.
2. Suspicion in committing serious criminal offenses.
3. Pursuit of profit and/or power.
4. Every individual in the gang is charged with specific tasks.
5. Operation has a long-term character.
6. Some form of discipline and control within the organization.
7. Criminal activity is committed at international level.
8. Use of violence and other means of intimidation.
9. Making use of existing economic and trade structures for own benefit.
10. Gang is engaged in processes of money laundering.
11. Exerting influence upon politics, the media, public administration, judicial authorities or the economy.

If the first three items above are found to be positive together with at least three other items of this list, the activity is classified as organized crime.

3. Priorities in Combating Organized Crime

The criterion upon which the criminal gangs choose a specific kind of criminal activity to be committed is the easiness of reaching maximum profit and winning maximum social and political influence. Scarcely do they specialize in one specific kind of activity, and if so, they may later change such specialization. That is why combating specific kinds of criminal activities cannot be the key to fight organized crime at national as well as international level. Monitoring and dismantling of the criminal groups, instead, is of cardinal importance.

Foreign organized groups are responsible for ever an increasing portion of criminal offenses committed in the Czech Republic, making international organizations of criminal groups more and more significant. Therefore, international coordination and cooperation play the decisive role in fighting organized crime.

In order to achieve this essential goal, it is important to pay attention to the following priorities:

3.1 Obtaining Important Knowledge about Organized Criminal Groups and Their Members

In order to be successful, the fight against organized crime has to focus on dismantling organized criminal groups.

The effectivity of this is pre-conditioned by good knowledge of the organized criminal group concerned. Therefore, the Police seek to discover their structure, internal organizational norms, management system, scope of activity, level of technical, capital as well as other material equipment and support, professional level of the managerial and executive staff including service personnel, contact network, areas and routes of operation, as well as to localize their bases. Also, knowledge of public opinion about their activity is of great importance.

Apart from usual personal data and criminal history, it is important to know the positions the criminal organization members take in the gang’s hierarchy, the social and/or political influence they have and their social contacts. Of great significance is also knowledge of their behavior in normal and extreme circumstances as well as their ways of covering.
3.2 Collecting Data on Drug and Psychotropic Substances, on Illegal Trafficking in Them and on Service Rendering

Over a long-term horizon, the knowledge of manufacturing, storing, transport, distribution and sale of drug and psychotropic substances and their precursors have proved to be the most important.

Of great importance is also knowledge of illegal trafficking in arms, explosives, nuclear materials and dangerous waste.

Recently, organized trafficking in stolen cars and abuse of aliens’ labor under conditions obviously disadvantageous for them and, as a rule, extorted under the threat of violence, have gained increasing significance. Organized prostitution has been a continuous problem, frequently making use of persons forcibly transported from abroad.

3.3 Exchange of Knowledge on Organized Crime at National and Particularly International Level

As organized crime does not recognize any borders, international exchange of intelligence on its operation is essential. The precondition is to keep intelligence secret at all levels including national level. In order to be able to guarantee the secrecy of intelligence, it is necessary not only to adopt relevant legislation but, in particular, to have enforcement instruments.

A most urgent task today is to achieve, as quickly as possible, maximum information flow between the states of the Eastern and Western blocks. This requires compatibility in the area of concealment of information, technical support of intelligence receipt, filing and processing, as well as appropriate professional level of personnel, including language capabilities.

Liaison officers play an irreplaceable role in international information exchange.

3.4 Coordinated Assessment of the Relevance of Information and Information Flows Relating to Organized Crime

Organized crime operates on chosen transnational territories and routes. That is why quick and flexible national and international knowledge exchange should take place regarding their activities and intentions, followed by co-ordinated assessment. Such feedback information might increase the efficiency of collecting information with regard to its relevancy, and make information flow better focused.

At the initial stage, it would be appropriate to create a co-ordination center at the national level.

3.5 Preventing Movement of Organized Criminals, Their Associates, Illegal Merchandise and Illegal Migrants over the Organized Crime Routes

This includes monitoring of the peculiar traffic routes used for transportation of illegally obtained goods, slaved people and their armed escorts. The routes run regardless of state borders, customs rules or any interests of the states concerned.

To be functional, the routes must get logistic support from local population. It is therefore necessary not only to take co-ordinated measures at the concerned states’ borders against the entry of undesirable persons and the import and export of prohibited and stolen goods, but also to focus on having - even in the framework of international co-operation - joint methods of combating domestic groups and individuals who provide support and logistics background to organized crime.

3.6 Setting Limitations to Money Laundering

The most effective weapon against organized crime is to make financial resources unavailable. For this, preventing of money laundering is of key importance.

To realize such measure, it is essential to know the origin of such money. It is, however, very difficult to obtain such knowledge, as money launderers seek to make the money travel throughout the world quickly so as to lose any linkage with the crime. All of the above mentioned priorities are of extreme importance for discovering the dirty money origin.

In addition, setting limits to money laundering requires to have appropriate legislation, as well as personnel and technical equipment for its enforcement. Above all, an intransigent attitude of financial institutions’ officials as well as citizens is important in order to actively resist this dangerous phenomenon.

It is necessary to have in mind that the laundered money is invested into legal economy, spreading the infection of economy interwoven with organized crime, with all its highly negative consequences. This enables Mafia to gain political power, to take control over key economic sectors and to create legislative framework of immunity for activities which, under natural sense of justice, would be considered as punishable.
3.7 Preventing Organized Crime from Penetrating into the State Administration

Firstly, it is necessary to effectively fight corruption of public administration staff and officials. A corrupted state administration, called cleptocracy, enables Mafia to gain political power, while spending relatively negligible sums of money.

It is therefore very important to take proper care when hiring employees for the state administration execution, particularly those who have access to significant information or are competent to make decisions. Such positions should not be taken by persons who had already proved to be disloyal or who tend to be easily extortable.

3.8 Truly Informing the Public about Organized Crime and Efficiency of Measures to Combat It

The public opinion on organized crime operation is often based on action films or TV serials. No wonder such opinion is distorted. On one hand, the danger of organized crime is exaggerated, on the other, certain expressive demonstrations of organized crime are not assumed dangerous and people do not properly defend themselves even in cases they could do so (such as not taking part in the so-called pyramid games).

Film and TV production, too, may contribute to creating a xenophobic climate in the society. Basing on a sort of "national pride", many people consider organized crime as something produced exclusively by foreigners. To get money, many Czech citizens assist foreigners in their criminal activities, thereby contributing to the spreading of organized crime. They provide all sorts of services, operating as informers, sending invitation letters, providing accommodation, establishing and formally operating legalizing companies, or even closing fictive marriages or letting foreigners declare paternity.

It is therefore necessary that any opportunity be used to explain in the mass media the real state of organized crime in the Czech Republic as well as measures which are necessary to be taken to confront it.

3.9 Coordinating Repressive Measures against Organized Crime

The process of collecting and evaluating information on organized crime would not be sufficiently effective without international co-operation and, analogously, it would not be possible to efficiently fight international organized crime without co-ordinating multinational solutions and policies against organized crime.

It follows from international experience that one of the most efficient forms of co-operation is the system of liaison officers.

4. Organized Crime in the Czech Republic in the Period from 1 January 1996 to 30 June 1997 and the Trends of Its Evolution

The Czech Police encountered all forms of organized crime: organizing of and assisting in crimes; violent crimes including racketeering; illegal trafficking in arms, explosives and nuclear materials, as well as in human beings; procuring; illegal employment of aliens; smuggling of people; illegal handling of drugs and psychotropic substances and their precursors; forgery and alteration of bank notes; forgery of documents, public instruments, telephone cards, payment instruments and revenue stamps; money laundering; frauds; taxes, fees and other duties evasion.

Influence spheres delimitation among criminal organizations, their linkage to the domestic criminal groups and their specialization have achieved the stage of consolidation (see Section 2). Most criminal groups concentrate on setting up an independent "gray" economy, granting credits to Czech entrepreneurs who had got into troubles. Growth of the professional level of offenders is obvious. Numbers of violent criminal offenses as well as the number of offenders have constantly been increasing, together with professional level of racketeers. The latency of offenses against property has increased. Less and less usable traces are left by the offenders. Pressure is being made on witnesses and judiciary.

In addition to the domestic organized gangs (including citizens of Slovakia), groups of the former USSR and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, Poland, Vietnam, China, Korea and other countries of South-East Asia, Turkey, countries of Western Europe, the Arab countries and Nigeria operate in the Czech territory.

The domestic organized criminal groups focus on economic crimes. The most frequent offenses are fraud, embezzlement, harming to creditors, tax, fee and other duties cutting, breach of regulations on circulation of goods from and to abroad. In addition, violent offenses and such offenses as receiving and dealing of stolen goods, extortion, bribery, procuring are being committed. In respect of extortion, the most frequent is the out-of-court exacting of money in the business sphere, stimulated to a great extent by low effectiveness of judicial authorities if debts are exacted by way of court. Some security agencies provide their companies' names to cover this kind of extortion.
Organized criminal groups from the former USSR commit criminal offenses of wide range. Amongst the most serious are: trafficking in arms, trafficking in psychotropic and drug substances and their precursors, legalizing criminal proceeds, procuring and smuggling of people, racketeering, car thefts. The former USSR citizens establish fictive cover companies in the Czech Republic, buy real estates from the profit of such companies and seek to penetrate into economic and political spheres of the Czech Republic. Their operation cover the whole territory, with prevalence in Prague and West Bohemian spas. Prevailing nationalities are Russians and Ukrainians, Caucasian nations being also numerous. In addition to their Russian citizenship, the Russians often have citizenship of Israel or the USA They have quickly succeeded in gaining support from numerous Czech citizens, thereby obtaining a good orientation in the Czech environment. Moreover, they have linked with the domestic organized criminal groups. The Russians have acquired background in the Czech Republic and the dominant position in organized crime.

Citizens of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia focus on trafficking in psychotropic and drug substances, smuggling of people over state borders and car thefts. Information has been obtained about Kosovo-Albanians involved in trafficking in drug and psychotropic substances.

Organized criminal groups of South-East Asia put great emphasize on concealing their criminal activities and on perfect material and technical support. Members of this ethnic community refuse to collaborate with the Police and they live in close cohesiveness. These factors make police work extremely difficult. The most active of these criminal groups are Chinese “Triads”. They are perfectly organized and their criminal activity is being committed at highly professional level. They use the Vietnamese as service providers, frequently for “dirty work”. The following violent offenses have so far appeared: abduction, extortion, smuggling of people, distribution of drugs and unstamped cigarettes, and legalizing of criminal proceeds.

As for the Western Europe, traditionally active are Italian criminal organizations. Their activities include illegal trafficking in arms, money laundering and car thefts.

German citizens are engaged in organized criminal groups trafficking with human beings and in arms, as well as in forgery and alteration of means of payment.

Organized groups from Bulgaria and Poland have been active in stealing, transporting and legalizing of stolen vehicles, in violent crime and trafficking in drug and psychotropic substances.

Members of organized criminal groups of Romania commit mainly pocket-picking, but they are also engaged in drugs, cars and goods smuggling and arranging of illegal migration of persons.

Members of organized criminal groups of Arab nationality commit offenses particularly in the area of trafficking in arms, drug and psychotropic substances and smuggling of all kinds of goods.

Organized criminal groups of Nigerians are engaged in transiting large quantities of drug and psychotropic substances and in financial frauds.

The international organized crime's penetration to and establishment in the territory of the Czech Republic is facilitated by the willingness of Czech citizens to collaborate with them for reward. Czech citizens render various services to criminals, working as informers, sending them invitation letters upon their instructions, providing accommodation, founding and formally managing legalizing companies, or even entering into fictive marriages and allowing foreigners to declare paternity. Thus, the aliens easily acquire Czech state citizenship.

Recently, a new trend has emerged of organized criminals and their associates from abroad establishing themselves in the territory of the Czech Republic, managing legal businesses based on forfeited properties of the Czech entrepreneurs. They acquire such properties by granting Czech businessmen credits if the same cannot fulfill their liabilities towards business partners or pay debts to the banks. Their plants, workshops or real estates are accepted as guarantees. In many cases, the domestic businessman is not able to pay off his debts and his guarantee is confiscated by the criminals.

This infiltration process into the legal economy is further facilitated by an overall low level of business ethics, bad payment morale and distrust of financial institutions (due to bank "tunneling").

The establishment process of criminals from abroad predestines the danger of xenophobia and racist mood culmination amongst the domestic population against all immigrants.

As far as violent crime and racketeering is concerned, the most active are the citizens of the former USSR. They operate in stable groups with rigid structures and strict rules. The following groups are known:

1. The Daghestan Group, taking "tolls" from ex-USSR citizens transiting through the territory of the Czech Republic, particularly on the route Rozvadov - Prague - Jihlava. In some cases, the victims were robbed of their cars and money.
3.2. The Ukrainian Groups, extorting building companies’ owners of the former USSR offering them “protection”. The rowdies who commit armed assaults at tourists from the former USSR in the areas of Prague Wenceslas Square and Central Railway Station are also members of these groups.

4.3. Russian Groups, extorting owners of casinos, erotic clubs as well as businessmen all over the Czech Republic. Some of these groups are linked to their compatriots living in the USA and have huge amounts of money at their disposal.

4.4. Tchetchenian groups, extorting owners of hotels, casinos and erotic clubs. Because of their inclination for an outrage violence, they are the most feared ones.

   Racketeering of persons of Asian origin is also committed by Chinese and citizens of South-East Asian countries. They behave extremely cruelly and brutally. Despite of that, the victims refuse to give statements. Language barrier, also, is a great problem.

   Certain indications of organized crime have also been noted in extortion committed by Czech offenders.

   During 1996, ninety two offenses of violence were detected which were a direct produce of organized crime. Of those eighteen were murders, eight robberies with violence, two cases of hostage taking, twenty eight cases of bodily harm and twenty six cases of curbing personal freedom. During the first six months of 1997, the Section of Violent Crime of the Organized Crime Unit investigated one murder, two facts of murder preparation, ten robberies with violence, two facts of favouritism under § 166 of Czech Penal Code, fifteen cases of extortion, one case of curbing personal freedom, one case of violation of home freedom, four thefts, two frauds, one case of embezzlement, one case of hampering execution of an official decision and one case of abuse of public authority power.

   Due to its geographical, legislative and executive conditions as well as low prices for services such as illegal transport of drug and psychotropic substances by couriers, the Czech Republic has become an important center of international organizing of trafficking in heroin and cannabis products and other drug and psychotropic substances. For reward, many Czech citizens voluntarily keep flats, telephones and means of transport to be used by organized criminals. There has been a stable increase in the number of citizens directly associated with activities related to illegal handling of drug and psychotropic substances and their precursors. Another significant moment typical to organized crime is the interweaving of the drug scene with prostitution.

   Offer in drugs and psychotropic substances, particularly heroin, was higher than the demand in the monitored period. Thus, creation of a target group of persons was initiated who experimented with these substances available at exclusively low prices. Out of this group, persons addicted to drugs and psychotropic substances are recruiting to whom the drugs are sold at prices usual on illegal market.

   Seven home laboratories producing pervitine have been detected, 2000 g of ephedrine, 2370 g of heroin, 550 g of cocaine, 1000 g of marijuana and unspecified quantities of pervitine and heroin in doses by individual dealers have been seized. The Czech Police have contributed to the seizures of 610 g of pervitine, 2000 pills of ephedrine and 71 kg heroin abroad.

   The development in the Czech Republic drug scene is assumed to continue as follows: immigrants from Lebanon and Palestine will become involved in illegal trafficking in drug and psychotropic substances; numbers of persons addicted to heroin and synthetically produced drug and psychotropic substances will be increasing; drugs distributing companies will be started; new, open scenes will be created; violence will be used in settling disputes for territories and spheres of influence; laboratories producing synthetic drug and psychotropic substances will be started and operated.

   The Czech Republic has been changing from a transit to a target country in trafficking in human beings, smuggling of people, organized prostitution and illegal employment of foreigners. Also, numbers of smuggled persons and illegal immigrants have continued to grow. The total number of 216 offenses were detected in this area.

   Amongst the detained smuggled persons prevailed the citizens of the Union Republic of Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, China and Macedonia. The organizing of smuggling of persons has been made more and more perfect. In organized prostitution, young girls and women of the Czech Republic have been enticed or forcibly transported to the Western European countries, Crete, Canary Islands or Singapore and forced to prostitution. Most of organized procuring has taken place in the towns of Prague and Brno and in the North Bohemia Region. There exists a serious problem of minor girls being sold and forced to prostitution with the use of violence, and subsequently being sold to other procurers. A typical phenomenon incidental to this has been the addiction of the victims to drugs and psychotropic substances.
Mass illegal employment of foreigners takes place under the cloak of tourism, with the usage of false vouchers and invitations to visit, through fictive marriages to the Czech citizens or through declaring, for reward, the paternity of a child who has already had the Czech state citizenship.

Some of the "re-exports" of arms and military material into third countries represent a highly dangerous criminal activity, being committed in highly qualified and organized manner.

A usual scheme is as follows: a subject authorized to exporting arms and military material applies, in an official way, at the License Administration of the Czech Industry and Trade Ministry for being granted a license to export material to a certain country, submitting the End User Certificate. The Police knowledge, however, indicate that the final destination to areas in crisis or under embargo cannot be excluded. It is very difficult to prove the share of Czech businessmen on such illegal transactions. That is why such subjects, in effect, are not criminally prosecuted.

Recently, attempts have been found out to export prohibited, short-barreled firearms, declared as unfit for use. In April 1997, an attempt to export twenty pieces of SA 83/91 model and forty pieces of ÆZ-75 FULL AUTOMATIC pistol was stopped. The arms were destined for a customer in Germany. In accordance with the German law on "Control of weapons of war", the arms needed to be made unfit for use. It was conclusively proved, however, that the arms were made unfit contrary to the law and may have been used again for shooting after a simple modification.

There has been a continuous interest for illegal obtaining of efficient means of committing violent crimes, such as plastic explosive agents, explosives, special and personal weapons or trap explosive systems. The Czech Army units at home and abroad have been among potential resources. Industrial explosive agents have been obtained through robberies of railway shipments or depots.

Remarkably increasing tendencies have been evident in attacks against persons and property by means of explosions and trapping explosive systems, in connection with extortion, racketeering or other illegal activities. Twenty five explosions took place during the first six months of 1997, which is equal to the whole year of 1996.

Fifty explosions were ascertained, eight of which were detected. Five persons were killed, sixteen severely and fourteen lightly injured. Incurred damage exceeded forty million Czech crowns.

Illegal trafficking in radioactive materials (Osmium 187, Uranium 235, Strontium 98, Plutonium) is extremely dangerous. It takes place in conjunction with the trade in the Czech Republic. Similarly dangerous is the interest of former officers of the Soviet Army, coming to the Czech Republic as tourists or on business, to purchase lands in the former military zones of the Soviet Army where military material had been hidden during the Soviet Army's presence in the Czech territory. They seek to sale such material in the black market.

During the monitored period, forty one offenses of illegal trafficking in arms and eight cases of illegal trafficking in radioactive materials were found out.

A growth can be seen in criminal activities connected with the usage of stolen payment cards and misuse of payment cards through electronic payment terminals or with rubber or false cheques, drafts, foreign bank guarantees, state bonds and other payment instruments. Number of bank frauds, generally, has increased, and capital market crimes have emerged.

In collaboration with foreign experts, a case was investigated of submitting bank cheques amounting to USD 80 mill. with counterfeited signatures of authorized bank officials. An attempt was recorded to acquire a short-term bank credit from abroad amounting to CZK 7 billion to be repaid in two years' time in one instalment. The credit was to be guaranteed by a submerged and unused opencast slate mine.

While there has been no increase in the area of counterfeited or altered bank notes of foreign and domestic currency, the situation in counterfeiting documents, public instruments, telephone cards, payment instruments and stamps is completely different. The Czech Republic is becoming very well known for this. Most of the forgery is exported to the Western Europe finding outlet first of all due to its low price. This reality has to be taken into account when accessing European security, economic and political structures. Forgery leads to the flourishing of latent crimes of economic character which are difficult to detect and especially difficult to document. Extreme financial losses are being incurred to the state budget, which might jeopardize the national economy.

Eighty seven cases were investigated in the area of financial crimes. During the first six months of 1997, six cases of money laundering under § 251 of the Czech Penal Code were investigated and prosecuted as the offense of concealing the origin of a thing obtained through criminal activity.

Forgery distributors are expected to be interested in the Czech currency after the accession into European Union and NATO. It is assumed that the quality of forgery will increase, containing more and more imitations of
security elements. Increase in numbers of counterfeiting workshops in the Czech Republic can be expected. In respect of foreign currency, the Czech Republic will probably continue to be a transit country through which big forgery shipments of USD, DEM or ITL will be transported to the states of the former USSR, Poland and to Asia. As far as documents, public instruments, telephone cards, payment instruments and stamps are concerned, an increase in the types and quantities is assumed to be not only exported to the Western Europe, but also to be used for committing offenses of economic character within the Czech Republic.

An increase in organized criminal activity is expected in financial operations camouflage through the founding of subsidiaries with subsequent frequent changes of their owners; in the area of pension funds, construction savings banks, insurance institutions; and in misusing of confidential information relating to the starting of funds and transformation of funds into holding companies.

The process of legalization proceeds of crime has made a rapid headway in unifying personally, structurally and technically the low-level links of organized criminal gangs operating in the territory of the Czech Republic, and linking them with gangs abroad.

For the years to come a strong increase is expected in financial crimes committed in collaboration with international crime. New financial frauds are expected to emerge in the Czech territory including those connected with intermediation of foreign credits, project financing and interchanging of capital for bank guarantees. Also, fictive money laundering (fictive exchange transfer), fictive trading in metals, oil, securities, bank guarantees, exchange etc. may be expected. In addition, frauds in letters of credits, credits and bank transfers may appear. A dangerous tendency has been rising towards personal linkages between management of certain bank institutions and their shareholders, the investment or travel agencies. Through hazardous loans, purchase and sale of shares, the lobbying groups seek to outflow cash from such banks or companies. It is in fact a process of controlled bankruptcy. This phenomenon is known as the "tunneling".

A continuous increasing tendency is seen in excise tax and VAT evasion. This criminal activity is extremely dangerous if connected with corruption. An overall number of 1214 offenses of excise tax or VAT evasions were found out, having incurred total damage of CZK 3.123 billion. Of them 1187 were detected.

Cases of corruption, seeking to influence state authorities, took place first of all in the field of public procurement, public tenders or criminal proceedings. Twenty nine cases of corruption acts were solved and prosecuted as the offense of abusing public authority power or the offenses of bribes giving and taking.

The public is strongly disturbed by the ever growing numbers of thefts of double-track motor vehicles. Most of the stolen vehicles are sold abroad. Illegal transport, modifications and sale of stolen vehicles are directed by organized gangs. According to their territorial spheres of interests, the gangs can be divided into groups coming from Italy and ex-Yugoslavia (operating in Prague and Brno), Bulgaria (in Prague and Northern Bohemia Region), Poland (in Northern Bohemia and Northern Moravia), the Ukraine and Russia (operating in the whole territory of the Czech Republic). When evaluating motor vehicles thefts rate, a growing latency of insurance frauds must be taken into account. It is estimated that approximately thirty per cent of total number of car thefts may be assigned to insurance frauds.

The most busy routes of transporting the stolen vehicles are the north-east route via Poland to Belarus, Lithuania, the Ukraine and Russia and the east route via Slovakia to the Ukraine or Poland. Less busy is the south-east route via Slovakia to Hungary, Romania, ex-Yugoslavia or Bulgaria. The stolen vehicles are usually driven by hired drivers over official border crossing points, equipped with false documents, altered VINs or engine numbers or false lending agreements with notary's verification. Quick and strong off-road automobiles of various makes often cross the "green" border without any documents.

For organized crime, trafficking in stolen works of art, antiques or archeological findings (often stolen by means of illegal usage of metal detectors) is also very profitable. Cultural treasury of the Czech Republic has strongly attracted organized crime. This is evidenced by a considerable increase in damage incurred as a result of works-of-art thefts, which amounted to 46 787 000 CZK in the first six months of 1997, being more than in the whole year 1996 (CZK 39 914 000).

5. Conclusion

Organized crime, the origins of which date far back to the past, especially intensified its activity in the USA at the turn of 19th and 20th centuries. More lately, it has become a world-wide problem and has been expanding ever since. Its impetus upon the population keeps to be grave. Organized crime is capable of making use of the achievements of human intelligence, of technology innovations and scientific discoveries and to abuse them, if it proves to be profitable. On the one hand, the brutality of offenses committed because of the organized crime has been constantly growing while on the other hand organized crime seeks to transfer its activities to the legal business sphere.
The Czech Republic could not avoid being affected by organized crime. On the contrary, as follows from the present Updated Policy to combat this highly dangerous social phenomenon, this issue must be given a constant attention.
APPENDIX

In its Resolution No. 673 of 29 October 1997, the Czech Government adopted the "Time Schedule of the Government Activities to Combat Organized Crime up to the Year 2000".

1. Preconditions for security forces acting in order to combat organized crime, in particular for the protection of population safety are as follows:

1.1. Legislation

1.1.1. To make inventory of the draft legislation for means to strengthen combating organized crime and to submit to the Minister of Justice proposals of strengthening the means of combating the organized crime through material and adjective criminal law.

1.1.2. When drafting new law on the Police of the Czech Republic, special attention should be paid to combating organized crime by means of the authorization to use operational and investigative means, operation technique and other means as may be appropriate.

1.1.3. To prepare interministerial agreement on creating conditions for stationing of liaison officers from the Ministry of the Interior abroad.

1.1.4. To submit to the Government the draft law on Private Security Activities.

1.2. Organization

1.2.1. To delegate an expert from each ministry to the working group for drafting comprehensive measures for the effective camouflage of agent identity and for submitting proposal to the Government on solving issues relating to effective camouflage of agent identity.

1.2.2. To set up a working group to develop a policy of improving the visa process and border control of persons, to develop time schedule of appropriate measures including budgetary requirements and to implement the policy.

1.2.3. To harmonize interministerial norms and generally applicable legislation on archiving accounting documents relating to firearms and to ensure archiving of files on sale, cancellation and liquidation of firearms previously used or stored by the Army of the Czech Republic and by the Ministry of Defense.

2. Versatile Direct Combating Organized Crime

2.1. To propose system measures for the restraining of movement of organized criminals, their associates, illegal goods and illegal migrants over the known organized crime routes.

2.2. To propose policy of offensive methods of revealing corruption in public administration.

2.3. To propose policy of combating organized car thefts.

3. Setting Maximum Limitations to Illegal Acquisition by Organized Crime of Financial and Material Resources and Facilities to Legalize the Same

3.1. To develop methodology of the Czech Police policy in the area of precursors abuse.

3.2. To verify effectivity of the integrated system of protection of movable cultural heritage (incl. archeological findings) and to propose measures to improve it.

3.3. To assess the activity of the Financial Analytical Unit of the Ministry of Finance in fulfilling tasks under Act no. 69/1996 "On Some Measures Against Legalizing Proceeds of Crime”.

3.4. To propose legislative solutions which would lead to more effective judicial executions (incl. exacting debts by way of court).

3.5. To strictly observe the license procedure conditions for granting permits to export arms and military material with the annual assessment of its effectivity.

4. Acquisition, Processing, Analysis and Usage of Data on Persons and Objects Which May Relate to Organized Crime

4.1. To propose policy of acquiring information on organized crime and its co-ordinated assessment.

4.2. To prepare closing of intergovernmental agreements on liaison officers accreditation with Russian federation and the Ukraine, or any other state if appropriate.
4.3. To put into operation information center for collecting, analyzing and evaluating data concerning movement of foreigners.

4.4. To finish putting into operation of a single, easily accessible and reliable data base of:

a) population register
b) wanted and missed persons
c) vehicles incl. stolen ones, as well as stolen and missed trailers and caravans
d) arms incl. stolen, lost or found ones, as well as stolen or missed arms licenses, arms certificates and arms passports
e) stolen or missed registered blank forms
f) stolen or missed identity cards, travel documents and driver's licenses
g) stolen bank notes
h) other stolen objects.

4.5. To put into operation the central filing system of basic knowledge and information on violating the legislation in the area of economic crime.

4.6. To submit to the Government the draft law on telecommunications, establishing the following obligations to the operators of telecommunication networks:

a) to ensure meeting of all requirements as provided by the Annex to the Resolution of the Council of Europe of 17 January 1995 on the legal tapping in telecommunications - Document No 496Y1104(01).
b) to provide subscriber numbers data base for the needs of public administration and to have appropriate facilities available in order to guarantee rendering such service for the Czech Police, the Security Information Service, Military Intelligence Service, the Customs Authority to enable them to meet the legislative tasks of the public administration.

5. Protection of Intelligence against Abuse by Organized Crime Incl. Safety of Witnesses and Other Sources of Information

5.1. To assess ways of utilization of §55 paragraph 2 of the Penal Code concerning the witness protection.

5.2. To prepare law on setting up independent office based on the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Persons with Regard to the Automated Processing of Personal Data (1981).

6. Preventing Undesirable Persons from Entering the Czech Republic Territory

6.1. To develop a time schedule of measures to be taken for the implementation of the Czech visa policy.

6.2. To make annual updates of the visa policy of the Czech Republic and of the time schedule of measures for its implementation with regard to the visa practice of EU States and to submit reports to the Government on fulfilling this task.

6.3. To submit analyses to the Ministry of the Interior regarding requirements on updating the visa policy in respect of safety.

6.4. To evaluate effectiveness of technical equipment of the Prague Ruzyne Airport in order to ensure proper check of persons arriving to the Czech Republic from the countries with the visa duty and, if appropriate, to propose measures to improve it.

6.5. To approve proposal of legislative, organizational, technical and financial measures for the starting of the information system pilot project for screening of applicants for the Czech visa at the embassies of the Czech Republic in Paris, Warsaw and Wien and in the border crossing points of Praha-Ruzyne and Dolní Dvorište. To ensure compatibility of electronic data transmission systems between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Information Center of the Alien and Border Police Directorate for collecting, analyzing and evaluating data on the movement of foreigners.

6.6. To start building and trial operation of the information system pilot project for screening of applicants for the Czech visa at the embassies of the Czech Republic in Paris, Warsaw and Wien and in the border crossing points of Praha-Ruzyne and Dolní Dvorište.

6.7. To evaluate the trial operation of the information system pilot project for screening of applicants for the Czech visa at the embassies of the Czech Republic in Paris, Warsaw and Wien and in the border crossing points of Praha-Ruzyne and Dolní Dvorište.
6.8. To start operation of the information system pilot project for screening of applicants for the Czech visa at the embassies of the Czech Republic in Paris, Warsaw and Wien and in the border crossing points of Praha-Ruzyne and Dolní Dvorište.

6.9. To evaluate the information system pilot project for screening of applicants for the Czech visa and propose time schedule of steps for starting operation of the whole system incl. submitting requirements for funds allocation to realize the whole project.

6.10. To put into operation the whole information system of checking applicants for the Czech visa.

6.11. To implement issuance of machine-readable travel documents in the Czech Republic.

6.12. To equip offices of the Alien Police Service and the Police Administrative Activities Service as well as border crossing points with the system of machine reading, processing and transmitting of the travel documents data.

6.13. To propose measures for elimination of negative phenomena accompanying the institute of "Invitation for a Foreigner to Visit the Czech Republic".