



EUROPEAN UNION EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union

Skopje, 13 February 2013

**Closing event on the IPA 2008 project:
"Technical Assistance to the implementation of TETRA
phase 2 and Supply of Police Digital Radio Communication
System"**

[SVR Skopje]

Speaking points
Ambassador Aivo Orav
Head of the EU Delegation

Dear Minister Jankuloska,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me a pleasure that today we jointly present the extended digital radio communication system for the Ministry of Interior, funded by the European Union.

The assistance provided by the European Union aims to enhance policing standards and making police more effective and accountable force. The police reform is certainly one of the most challenging tasks that a government can undertake on its path towards EU integration.

For that reason, the European Union has been actively involved in supporting the police reform process by providing technical assistance in accordance with the EU standards and best practices, as well as by purchasing necessary equipment.

The idea of a secure national digital radio communication system was born almost ten years ago. In 2004, the EU experts performed a comprehensive review of existing data-communication facilities, and based on their recommendations, 20 Border Crossing points were linked in a communication network.

In the next phase, EU invested 9 million EUR for development of a national digital radio system for the police, known as TETRA phase 1. The creation of a secure nation-wide public network, consisted of 38 base stations, offered reliability and coverage, as well enabled improved inter- and cross-agency cooperation.

Today, we are marking the successful integration of the existing system with the newly acquired equipment from TETRA phase 2, worth 5 million EUR. Within this project, 26 base stations were built around the country.

The EU will continue its support to the Ministry of Interior in the next financial cycle, funding the TETRA third phase with 4.5 million EUR. So, the overall EU support in this segment would amount up to 21 million EUR.

At the end, I would also like to emphasize that the commitment of the national authorities to drive this process forward is of crucial importance. Given the nature of the pre-accession assistance, the Government has an active role in shaping the projects according to their needs. The ownership of the process is a guarantee for a long-lasting impact and sustainability of the achieved results.

Thank you very much for your attention.