

**EU- SEC Final Conference and EU-SEC II kick-off
meeting
Rome, 7-9 July 2008**

Welcoming Speech – July 8th (10.00-10.15 a.m.)

Honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the
“**Coordinating National Research Programmes and
Policies on Security at Major Events -EU-SEC II**” kick-
off meeting.

I would like to thank you the Italian Ministry of Interior,
Office of Public order for hosting this event and the
European Commission DG Enterprise and Industry for
strongly supporting this initiatives.

I would also like to thank you all for being present today, in
particular the **Chiefs of Police and their
representatives**, as well as the **officials** representing all
the **EU-SEC II partners**. I would like to express my
gratitude to you all for your participation in the project and
presence here today. This is a concrete sign of the

existing concern and strong commitment of all your countries in ensuring the highest level of security during major events in Europe.

Security at major events remains a **top priority** for host nations, attendees, participants and neighbouring countries. It is important in this instance to **elevate the standard** of analysis within research to ensure effective security implementation.

In response to the changing security environment, the EU-SEC partners have already undertaken an innovative approach to security at major events. Yesterday the final outputs regarding “Coordinating National Research Programmes Security during Major Events -EU-SEC” were presented, which will constitute the **basis** for the development of EU-SEC II.

The new regional initiative EU- SEC II will break further **ground** for the coordination of security research and policies among a broad coalition of 22 EU Member States. This new project starting today and lasting three years will

extensively build on EU-SEC's achievements and methodology with the further goal-driven ambition: to assist, through the harmonization of national security research policies, the **creation of a European House of Major Events**. The driving force behind this initiative is the need for effective security policies supporting the efforts of major events organizers.

The innovativeness of EU-SEC II lies in its application of advanced managerial skills to security cooperation. National and international entities require coordination in order to ensure that their information and policies do not overlap, while at the same time permitting them to work together as a unified system.

The results, insights, and best practices developed through the EU-SEC II will respond to the concrete exigencies of concreteness that characterizes projects on a day to day basis. EU-SEC II will provide concrete contributions to common security research policies that will deliver operational results in the future.

The project will be utilized as **strategic research and technology models at the national and European regional levels**. The project needs to be **double layered**. Primarily, the activities envisaged by the project require the technical support of all Partners. Secondly, in order to ensure effective results it is also essential to receive the political endorsement of the countries present here. There must be both technical and political support to ensure the improvements in security cooperation, planning and preparation that will be sustainable over a long period of time and remain useful for Member States in future decades.

Moreover, this twofold approach will allow the Partners to provide a strategic roadmap for relevant EU institutions, enabling technical suppliers to speak with one voice.

It is for this reason that I would like to stress once again my deepest gratitude for your participation, and for strongly sharing the dream of a European House of Major Events, while working for the needs of the EU countries.