

Robert Črepinko, Head of the National Bureau of Investigation authorised by the Director General of the Police:

Dear guests, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues

It is a great honour for me to be here today to address you on this solemn occasion. Today is a special day for the criminal police. Through decades of its existence the criminal police organization has gathered an expansive body of knowledge and experience. But mostly it has become what it is thanks to its employees and other distinguished experts that have helped to shape it during this period. All the successes and good work of the past years and decades are a product of this exceptional relationship. We are in the midst of what are probably the biggest changes and the fastest development in its history. There are a number of reasons for this. Quick changes to the way of life, geopolitical, economic and social environment dictate that the police constantly adapt and upgrade their work. This development is the fastest it has ever been.

Allow me to put it somewhat boldly when I say that we are in the process of building a criminal police organisation for the new decade.

Today we are officially opening new premises of the Criminal Police Directorate and National Bureau of Investigation. A lot has been said about the National Bureau of Investigation. In fact I cannot recall any other project in the history of the criminal police to have generated so much public interest.

The National Bureau of Investigation is part of the criminal police. It is part of the police. This is very important, for only a consistent and strong police force can successfully investigate the most serious crimes.

The National Bureau of Investigation is not only a new specialised unit of the criminal police. It is a project. It is a new way of thinking. It is a vision. If we want the National Bureau of Investigation to fully succeed, we must make sure it will generate a change in the thinking of all of us. It is impossible to investigate economic crime, corruption and other forms of serious crime successfully in effectively if there is no direct, close and efficient cooperation between all players, bodies and institutions in this field. Between all of us here today. Only together can we reach these high goals.

At its very outset the National Bureau of Investigation is also looking for partners internationally. Economic cooperation in Europe and beyond has also made areas of criminal activity expand. For this reason, good international cooperation is of key importance for the success of our work.

We also intend to take full advantage of the help that can be provided by Europol, which offers exceptional possibilities of analytical support and support of different experts for the investigation of the most difficult criminal offences. Therefore I am especially glad to have Mr Wainwright, Director of Europol, and Mr Rantama, Deputy National Police Commissioner of the Finnish Police, with us today.

This new building in front of us will enable direct cooperation in the investigation of the most difficult forms of crime in practice. The premises are designed in such a way that they can simultaneously accommodate experts from various bodies and institutions and other experts. Teams thus formed will jointly investigate the most serious crimes, under the leadership of our key partners – prosecutors. In the building there are also all the accompanying facilities that a modern criminal police organisation needs to carry out its work.

Let me conclude by emphasizing this: There need be no misgivings about our plans to improve the efficiency of criminal investigation. Legality of our work and protection of human rights are the basis guidelines of the National Bureau of Investigation operation, while our goal is quality investigation and an intensive fight against serious crime.