

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN COMBATING CRIME AS THE PRIME OBJECTIVE OF THE FOREIGN POLICY OF UKRAINE**

Ukraine, from the first years of its independence, has become actively involved in the sphere of international cooperation, one of the elements of which is joint action with foreign states in the fight against crime. Problems in combating criminal manifestations can not be successfully resolved within the boundaries of one state, since the openness of the borders due to democratic processes occurring in countries that were before the "Iron Curtain" contributes to the spread of transnational crime.[1]

The importance of international cooperation in the field of combating crime for Ukraine requires a more detailed, comprehensive research on specific issues related to this activity. Some problematic issues of international cooperation in the fight against crime, including the participation of Ukraine, are increasingly becoming the subject of discussion in the mass media, in scientific circles, as well as the subject of sharp discussions. That is what determines the relevance of this research both in the internal-territorial and in international legal aspects.[2]

Among the foreign policy priorities of Ukraine in the field of combating crime is the maintenance and development of cooperation with the International Organization of Criminal Police (Interpol), a leading and at the same time a unique international law-enforcement organization.[1]

The legal basis for Ukraine's interaction with the Interpol is the Instruction "On the Procedure for Using the Law Enforcement Agencies of the Opportunities of the Interpol Center in Ukraine in Prevention, Disclosure and Investigation of Crimes" of 09.01.1997, No. 3/1/2/5/2/2.

This Instruction determines the use by law enforcement agencies of Ukraine \* of the possibilities of the Interpol National Central Office in Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the NCB) for cooperation with the Interpol General Secretariat and law enforcement agencies of foreign countries in carrying out activities related to the prevention, detection and investigation of crimes that have transnational character or go beyond Ukraine. [3]

Ukraine was admitted to the International Criminal Police Organization in 1992. Our country became a regular member of this organization in 1993 after the establishment of the Interpol National Central Bureau [12]. During this period, the difficult way of establishing, developing and recognizing the Ukrainian Interpol Bureau as one of the leading divisions, representing the interests of the state on the international level, has taken place. Today, the International Criminal Police Organization comprises 181 countries. Over the 80 years of its existence, a wide system of interaction has been created, in particular, with the use of state-of-the-art information technologies with an extensive network of computer databases. Thanks to Interpol's capabilities, Ukraine was able to resolve many issues related to the establishment of cooperation with law enforcement agencies of many foreign countries. To ensure the above-mentioned cooperation, each country determines the body that will act as the National Central Bureau. The National Central Bureau engages: a) with various institutions of the country; b) with those bodies of other countries that act as National Central Bureaus; c) with the General Secretariat of the Organization [4]. It should be noted that the international cooperation of Ukraine is reduced not only to practical measures for the disclosure of the crime, the search and extradition of criminals to the interested state. An important factor in effective counteraction to any manifestations of crime is the establishment of cooperation between States on the exchange of experience; conducting scientific research; provision of vocational and technical assistance; exchange and training of specialists in international and national centers, etc.[1]

Consequently, international cooperation in the field of investigation of crimes after the "opening" of borders and orientation of Ukraine's policy on joining European structures became necessary and an important means of combating crime. The effectiveness of such cooperation depends to a certain extent on its legal regulation in the criminal procedure legislation of Ukraine, as well as in other normative acts regulating legal relations that arise in the field of criminal pre-trial and judicial proceedings in the event of the commission of an offense by organized criminal groups with the participation of foreigners, individual foreigners on the territory of Ukraine and citizens of Ukraine abroad. Eoday the legal regulation of Ukraine's cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization needs to be improved. After all, the list of crimes for which the necessary cooperation between the law-enforcement bodies of Ukraine and Interpol is necessary to be disclosed is wider than the envisaged regulatory framework.

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