

**The speech of the Director of the Security - Information Agency,**

**Mr. Bratislav Gašić**

**Security-Information Agency Day, October 17th, 2018**

Dear Mr. President of the Republic of Serbia,

Dear Ms. Prime Minister,

Dear Ministers of Serbian Government,

Dear representatives of the judicial authorities,

Dear representatives of our partner services,

Dear media representatives,

Dear colleagues,

Esteemed friends,

I would like to wish you a warm welcome and thank you for honoring us with your presence on this very significant day for us - the Day of the Security- Information Agency, thus making this event even greater.

It has been 16 years since the Security-Information Agency was established in 2002, as a successor to the centuries-long tradition of preserving the Constitutional order and security of the State and its citizens.

In the period from the late 19th century to the present day the circumstances have often changed, but the core substance of our profession and duty has remained the same - and that is to dedicatedly and responsibly protect our homeland and its people, as honorable officers, from all the threats they have been exposed to.

Patriotism is more than just a word for us - it is unconditional love for Serbia which commits us to devoted work and lots of self-denial. I am profoundly convinced that BIA officers do not think of their profession as just a job, but they see it as great honor, duty and responsibility towards the people and State bequeathed to us by our ancestors.

Justice, freedom and independence are the values we defend and will never allow anyone to take those away from us.

Global actors have been looking for a new balance among their confronted interests, which is especially reflected on our continually turbulent region.

It is precisely for this reason that we have done our best to preserve peace and stability in the region, but, in the first place, to protect the interests of our people and the State itself.

As for the previous year, through intensive cooperation with other state authorities, we successfully confronted terrorism and separatism, illegal migrations, various types of extremism, covert activities of external factors, as well as organized crime and corruption, but we have also carried out all the tasks given to us by the State leadership and the President of the Republic of Serbia.

We have worked hard on strengthening the relations and building trust with our partner services, this being the reason why we improved the reputation of the Agency abroad even more. We have a threefold increase in international collaboration, with the overall aim of exchanging information on the key security risks.

Bearing in mind the fact that there are no boundaries for contemporary security threats, as well as that they have been changing and adapting to the newly created circumstances rapidly, with no reduced intensity, our goal is to improve the ways

which would enable us to act preventively and confront these problems, through continual collaboration.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express gratitude to the President of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Aleksandar Vučić, for his personal engagement in contributing to strengthening the capacities of the Agency and especially to improving the working conditions for the officers, who are the greatest treasure of the Agency.

We have provided legal and organizational pre-conditions for performing efficiently and we have significantly modernized our work environment.

Amending and supplementing the Law on BIA, we have paved the path for more efficient development of the Agency, but also for employing young and well-educated people who stand as the future of our Agency.

We have significantly improved our technical capacities. In the period to come, we intend to continue with further improvement of our technical resources in order to reach the level of the world's greatest services in this regard. Therefore, I proclaim the following year to be the year of technique.

In the period in front of us, we plan to continue with improving the working conditions and the quality of work of our officers. We aim at being modernized and technically equipped in order to detect contemporary challenges at the earliest possible time and act preventively to reduce the security risks and threats to the lowest possible level.

Even in the most difficult times and when all the others are not able to do so, we shall be there to proudly and honorably guard the security of our State and its citizens.

Dear colleagues, I would like to congratulate you on the Day of the Agency, the Agency being a place where we work on creating a better future for our beautiful Serbia.

**Long live Serbia!**