

## Organizational Attributes Sheet – Berane-Coastal Gang

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<b>A. When the organization was formed + brief history</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul>
<b>B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,</b>
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Drug Trafficking</li></ul>
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Drug Trafficking – responsible for smuggling cocaine from South America to the Balkans and Europe</li></ul>
<b>C. Scope and Size</b>
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Unable to determine exact size from open source information, but the number of countries in which the group operates would suggest that size is not negligible.</li></ul>
b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>As pertains to Central America and the Caribbean:</b> Venezuela and Colombia specifically, but "Latin America" mentioned in general;<sup>1</sup> perhaps also Peru<sup>2</sup></li><li><b>Globally:</b> Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Italy, Western Europe<sup>3</sup></li></ul>
<b>D. Leader Characteristics</b>
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul>
b. Leadership timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul>
c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul>
<b>E. Organizational Structure</b>
a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul>
b. Membership – is there formal or informal membership in the organization or network? What role do informal or nonmembers play in trafficking and other criminal activities?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul>
c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul>
<b>F. Resources</b>
a. Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul>
b. Human
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul>
c. Logistical
i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul>
ii. Key routes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Venezuela - Italy/Mediterranean – Montenegro – Serbia / Western Europe<sup>4</sup></li></ul>
d. Transportation
i. Land

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul>
<p>ii. Sea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea transportation is used to transport cocaine from South America to the Mediterranean and Europe, although further details are unavailable.<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>
<p>iii. Air</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air transportation is used to transport cocaine from South America to the Mediterranean and Europe, although further details are unavailable.<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
<p>iv. Intermodal container</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul>
<p><b>G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities</b></p>
<p>a. Corruption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul>
<p>b. Concealment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cocaine from South America was smuggled in bitumen packages, which are legally produced and exported by South American countries.<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>
<p>c. Deception</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul>
<p>d. Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul>
<p><b>H. Prior / Existing Relationships</b></p>
<p>a. Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>America Group</b> – The Berane-Coastal gang might be an “offshoot” or even “subdivision” of the more well-known and well-organized Serbian-Montenegrin America group. While there appears to be a great deal of interconnection between the two groups, the extent and details of the linkage are difficult to determine from open source information.<sup>8</sup></li> <li>• <b>Serbian criminal organizations</b> – The Berane group reportedly has “connections with members of the Belgrade gangland, with whom they deal drugs.”<sup>9</sup></li> <li>• <b>Transnational criminal organizations</b> - According to conclusions drawn by the Montenegrin National Security Agency, ties with “European and international mafias” strengthen the Berane-Coastal gang.<sup>10</sup></li> </ul>
<p>b. Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Montenegrin political structures</b> – Again according to conclusions reportedly of the Montenegrin National Security Agency, the Berane-Coastal gang draws strength from ties to “segments of the political structures in [the Montenegrin capital of] Podgorica.”<sup>11</sup> For example, there are allegations that Berane member Vuk Vulevic was released by Montenegrin authorities after being apprehended “due to direct favours he had done for Montenegrin state services.”<sup>12</sup></li> </ul>
<p>c. <i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No indications in open source of past or present dealings with known terrorist groups.</li> </ul>
<p><b>I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group would appear to have an ethnic Balkan orientation (former Yugoslavia: particularly Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina).</li> </ul>
<p><b>J. Technical Sophistication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul>
<p><b>K. Penchant for Innovation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul>

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<b>L. Activities in United States</b>	
a.	Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul>
b.	<i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul>
c.	Linkages with US groups <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market/transaction links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Stable supplier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Franchise arrangement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> <li>HQ and Branch office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>M. Evaluations</b>	
a.	Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Criminal connections:</b> Ties to other Balkan criminal organizations, as well as to international criminal organizations make this group stronger than it would be on its own.</li> <li><b>Political connections:</b> Connections to Balkan political and security structures, particularly those in Montenegro, appear to provide a degree of high-level protection to some Berane-Coastal members and increase the resources available to the group.</li> </ul>
b.	Weaknesses and vulnerabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unable to determine from available sources.</li> </ul>
c.	Additional insights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very little is known about this group, but given its extensive international presence and linkages it should be given some priority by law enforcement.</li> </ul>
<b>Other Notes</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several prominent Berane-Coastal members were indicted in Montenegro in 2004 for smuggling 200 kilograms of cocaine from Venezuela to Serbia through Italy's port of Gioia Tauro and Montenegro's port of Bar. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vuksan Cemovic and Momcilo Pecic were found guilty and sentenced to four years in prison each.</li> <li>Vuk Vulevic and Veselin Pavlicic were acquitted and released.<sup>13</sup></li> </ul> </li> <li>Other prominent members include: Milan "Cila" Scekic, Velibor Popovic, the Rajovic brothers (Radisav, Goran, and Srdjan), and Branislav "Nano" Ivanovic.<sup>14</sup></li> </ul>	

<sup>1</sup> "'Source' Details Connections Among Serbian, Balkan, Colombian Cocaine Smugglers," *Belgrade Blic*, December 12, 2006, OSC: EUP20061213047008.; and "Serbia: Roundup of Police-Related Issues in May 08," *Belgrade BETA Defense*, June 6, 2008, OSC: EUP20080608073002.

<sup>2</sup> "Montenegrin police official says 'at least 15' groups involved in drug smuggling," *Podgorica Vijesti*, March 19, 2008, OSC: EUP20080321950035.

<sup>3</sup> "'Source' Details Connections Among Serbian, Balkan, Colombian Cocaine Smugglers," OSC: EUP20061213047008.; "Serbian, Montenegrin Drugs Syndicates Fighting at Home for Positions Abroad," *Belgrade Blic*, May 23, 2007, OSC: EUP20070524047003.; "Police Blue Book Identifies Eight Organized Crime Groups Operating in Montenegro," *Novi Sad Gradjanski List*, May 19-20, 2007, OSC: EUP20070523047005.

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<sup>4</sup> “Montenegrin police official says 'at least 15' groups involved in drug smuggling,” OSC: EUP20080321950035.; and “Serbia: Roundup of Police-Related Issues in May 08,” OSC: EUP20080608073002.

<sup>5</sup> “Serbian, Montenegrin Drugs Syndicates Fighting at Home for Positions Abroad,” OSC: EUP20070524047003.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> “Serbia: Roundup of Police-Related Issues in May 08,” OSC: EUP20080608073002.

<sup>8</sup> “'Source' Details Connections Among Serbian, Balkan, Colombian Cocaine Smugglers,” OSC: EUP20061213047008.

<sup>9</sup> “Serbian, Montenegrin Drugs Syndicates Fighting at Home for Positions Abroad,” OSC: EUP20070524047003.

<sup>10</sup> “Police Blue Book Identifies Eight Organized Crime Groups Operating in Montenegro,” OSC: EUP20070523047005.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> “Source: Rising Mob Boss Bojovic Planned Killing of Two Serbian Police Officials,” *Belgrade Blic*, June 17, 2010, OSC: EUP20100620012001.

<sup>13</sup> “'Source' Details Connections Among Serbian, Balkan, Colombian Cocaine Smugglers,” OSC: EUP20061213047008.; and “Serbia: Roundup of Police-Related Issues in May 08,” OSC: EUP20080608073002.

<sup>14</sup> “Police Blue Book Identifies Eight Organized Crime Groups Operating in Montenegro,” OSC: EUP20070523047005.