

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **EU4SAFEALB Handover Ceremony of five Patrol Vessels and two Surveillance Vehicles**

Port of Durrës, 5 July 2022 – the official Handover Ceremony took place to hand over five patrol vessels and two surveillance vehicles procured within the framework of the ongoing project ‘EU Support for the Effective Management of Green and Blue Borders in Albania, EU4SAFEALB to the Border and Migration Police of the Albanian State Police of the Ministry of Interior of Albania.

Representatives of the Albanian Ministry of **Background:**

The project ‘EU Support for the Effective Management of Green and Blue Borders in Albania (EU4SAFEALB)’ aims to support the Border and Migration Police of Albania (BMP) and related national authorities to achieve effective border control and surveillance in order to prevent and combat the trafficking of narcotics, and strengthened EU-Albania partnership relations. The project is funded under the European Union’s framework of the Instrument for Pre-Accessions Assistance (IPA). The EU4SAFEALB project started on 1 February 2020 and will run until 15 December 2022.

The project’s specific objectives are to contribute to enhancing BMP capacity to counter organised cross-border crime and drug trafficking through the provision of modern specialised technical means, and capacity building of the BMP staff. In particular, the BMP is provided with patrol vessels, surveillance vehicles and two maritime radar surveillance systems in support of its regional centres in Durrës and Vlora. The project will also enhance the BMP logistical and equipment maintenance capacities through tailor-made training to the BMP patrol vessel and radar operators on the maintenance of the patrol vessels as well as specialised IT systems.

Beyond the Border and Migration Police of the Albanian State Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the target beneficiaries of the project are the operational staff and managers of the migration and border agencies, and ultimately, the bona-fide travellers and people in need of international protection, who will benefit from well-managed mobility and migration flows, open and secure borders and increased trade facilitation.

f Interior, the Delegation of the European Union, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and other national and international counterparts gathered for the Handover

Ceremony. After the opening speeches guests were invited to visit the boats for plaque reveal and partake in the traditional 'baptism'.

For more information, please contact:

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The project is implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), an international organisation established in 1993 and headquartered in Vienna, Austria, that builds projects, conducts research and creates recommendations in the field of migration management. ICMPD carries out its activities throughout the world, focusing on areas with migration flows towards Europe, as well as regions that would benefit from increased international cooperation. ICMPD holds observer status at the United Nations, and as of 2022, comprises 19 Member States.

*For more information about ICMPD visit: [www.icmpd.org](http://www.icmpd.org)*

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