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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 17 May 2016
To: Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Presidency started the meeting by reading out a short statement regarding the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT).

The agenda set out in 8799/16 was adopted.

2. Information from the Presidency

The Presidency briefed the Committee on the progress made in a number of files, in particular regarding firearms, financial investigation and forensics. The Presidency welcomed the fact that the COSI Support Group had agreed to entrust Europol with the task of developing a firearms matrix. Europol was invited to keep COSI regularly informed about progress in this regard. The Presidency also referred to the discussions on the draft Directive amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons, and remained committed to reaching a general approach at the Council on 10 June 2016. Furthermore, draft Council Conclusions and a draft Action Plan on Financial Investigation, as well as draft Council Conclusions and a draft Action Plan on the way forward towards a European Forensic Science Area 2020, would be submitted to the Council on 10 June.

The Presidency also informed the Committee that the Chair of COSI was invited to attend the LIBE meeting on 23 May 2016.

3. Information Exchange: discussion of draft Roadmap¹

The Committee discussed the Presidency's draft Roadmap as set out in 8437/16. Various delegations stated that the Roadmap was still being scrutinised. In general, delegations welcomed this Roadmap and considered it comprehensive and ambitious. A number of delegations called for some caution and a realistic approach considering the complexity and magnitude of some topics. A prioritisation of actions would be welcomed, in particular since there would be important resource implications. The need for funding in order to implement certain actions was underlined. Certain issues would also require political guidance.

Delegations reiterated the importance of making full use of existing instruments and welcomed an end user centred approach. Comments were also made regarding the single search interface and some delegations considered that the other possible dimensions of interoperability should also be analysed in the medium to long term. Some delegations also had serious concerns with regard to the compulsory sharing of information and various questions were raised regarding the work of the High Level Expert Group (HLEG) which was announced in the Commission Communication on Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security of 6 April 2016. Delegations stressed that the progress and results of the work of the HLEG were to be discussed by COSI and, where appropriate, by other Council bodies.

The Commission informed the Committee that the HLEG would be set up for one year and would have four to five meetings. The Commission expected to present a report with the findings of the HLEG to the Council and the European Parliament in June 2017. The Group would bring together high-level representatives of the Commission (DG HOME, JUST, TAXUD, CNECT), the Council (Presidencies, Council Secretariat and Counter Terrorism Coordinator), relevant EU Agencies (eu-LISA, Europol, Frontex, EASO, Fundamental Rights Agency) as well as Member States. The group would have its first meeting on 20 June 2016 and would be chaired by Commission Director-General Ruetten. The High Level representatives would be accompanied by senior experts on information exchange, who would prepare and further develop the outcomes of the HLEG meetings. The Presidency invited the Commission to forward this information in writing.

¹ Exceptionally in the presence of the Schengen Associated States.

The Presidency concluded the discussions by inviting delegations to forward their comments on the draft Roadmap by 18 May 2016. On the basis of these comments a revised version would be drafted which would be discussed at two additional meetings of the COSI Support Group on 23 and 30 May, with a view to submitting the Roadmap for endorsement to the Council on 10 June 2016.

4. Fight against terrorism:²

– Strengthening cooperation in counter-terrorism threat analysis

The Committee welcomed the Presidency's efforts to strengthen the cooperation between Europol and INTCEN in counter-terrorism threat analysis as set out in 8409/1/16 REV 1. Delegations considered it useful to add a reference to the role of the Terrorism Working Party and a 'rendez-vous' clause to evaluate progress after one year. Delegations also pointed out that the threat assessments should be future-oriented. The TE-SAT should therefore not be mentioned in view of its different type of analysis. Some delegations also commented on the periodicity of the assessments and preferred not to amend them for the moment.

In general delegations supported maintaining separate assessments on the basis of which conclusions and policy recommendations would be prepared. Some questions were raised on how these recommendations would be prepared. The Presidency stressed that it would not aim for a joint threat assessment document, but to increase the mutual exchange of views during the drafting phase of these Europol and INTCEN assessments. A revised version would be prepared and submitted for approval via the silence procedure.

– State of play of European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC)

The Committee took note of the current state of play of the ECTC as set out in 8881/16. The Europol Deputy Director also mentioned that the Management Board had approved the concept of guest officers at its meeting on 12 May 2016.

² Exceptionally in the presence of the Schengen Associated States.

5. Renewed Internal Security Strategy³:

– Draft report on state of play of implementation

The Committee took note of the state of play of the implementation of the Renewed ISS on the basis of a Presidency report as set out in 8587/16. This report would be submitted to the JHA Council on 10 June 2016 for it to take note thereof. The Italian delegation announced that it would submit a text proposal regarding the role of Customs and competences under national legislation. The French delegation suggested adding the JAI-RELEX Working Party.

The Committee invited the various Working Parties to continue their efforts in implementing the Strategy under the Slovak Presidency.

– Commission Communication 'Delivering on the European Agenda on Security'

The Commission presented its Communication 'delivering on the European Agenda on Security to fight against terrorism and pave the way towards an effective and genuine Security Union' as set out in 8128/16 + ADD 1.

The UK delegation welcomed the content of the Communication but voiced concerns regarding the terminology used, especially the reference to a 'Security Union'.

6. Euro 2016: presentation by the French delegation⁴

The French delegation briefed the Committee on the state of play of the preparations for EURO 2016 and underlined the exceptional nature of the event, which posed a number of challenges for the law enforcement authorities. France welcomed the close cooperation at EU level in preparing and developing the event. Specific reference was made to training organised with CEPOL and AIRPOL, specific border control measures and the police cooperation centre. Cooperation was also ongoing with TISPOL and ATLAS, and in the framework of the Joint Action Days.

³ Exceptionally in the presence of the Schengen Associated States.

⁴ Exceptionally in the presence of the Schengen Associated States.

7. Administrative approach:

- **Draft Council conclusions on the administrative approach to prevent and fight serious and organised crime**

COSI agreed on the draft Council Conclusions on the administrative approach to prevent and fight serious and organised crime as set out in 8703/16 with a view to submitting them for approval to Coreper/Council.

- **Administrative approach on Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMCGs)**

COSI took note of a presentation of the results of the questionnaire on an administrative approach to tackle outlaw motorcycle gangs as set out in 8641/16.

8. Effective criminal justice investigations in cyberspace – improving operational cooperation

The Committee discussed the recommendations outlined in the Presidency paper as set out in 8634/16 and took note of the annexed Europol report on strengthening the fight in the EU against cyber-enabled forms of serious and organised crime. The Presidency invited delegations to send their comments in writing on the basis of which a revised version would be prepared.

9. Any other business

- **Joint Europol-INTERPOL report on migrant smuggling networks affecting the EU**

The Committee took note of a joint Europol-INTERPOL report on migrant smuggling networks affecting the EU, which was presented by both Europol and Interpol.
