



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 15 March 2013

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: Working Party on Terrorism

on: 6th March 2013

Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as outlined in doc. CM 1719/13, with the addition of a point under AOB requested by the Lithuanian delegation and some points requested by the Commission.

2. Information by the Presidency

The Presidency referred to the High Level Conference held on 29 January in Brussels on countering violent extremism and informed about its intention to propose Council conclusions calling for a review of the Strategy on radicalisation and recruitment adopted in 2005. The issue would also be mentioned at the Council on 7 March. The conclusions would aim at setting the broad parameters of the review. The Presidency outlined a tentative schedule for the drafting of the conclusions, that should be tabled at the TWP meeting in April with a view to adoption by the Council in June.

3. Incidents of significant interest

Some Member States provided information on incidents of significant interest in their countries.

4. Presentation by Spain - Current situation of the terrorist organization “Resistencia Galega”: criminal activities and counter-terrorism activities

Spain made a presentation about the current situation of the terrorist organization “Resistencia Galega”. The Portuguese delegation added some further information.

5. Presentation by France on the intervention in Mali

FR made a presentation about the intervention in Mali, looking in particular at the security concerns in the region and the possible implications for the EU internal security. If not addressed properly, the situation could degenerate with potential spill-over effects on the neighbouring countries and beyond, and possibly with wider consequences on the EU and its Member States. FR outlined the necessary next steps and actions in order to bring stability to the country and the region, both at political and technical level.

6. Update from the CTC

The CTC referred to the two papers prepared in close consultation with the Commission and the EEAS for the joint COSI/PSC meeting and the Council. He underlined three main objectives of the discussion in the Council, namely to raise awareness of the Ministers of Interior on the EU initiatives in the field of CSDP in the region and on the need to provide the necessary JHA expertise, to raise awareness on the growing link between drugs and terrorism, and finally to assess what policies could be carried out in order to better address the threat. He provided an analysis of the threat and of some developments of concern that could have negative consequences on the EU internal security. After the French intervention in Mali, it would be necessary now to gradually shift towards a civilian approach in the fight against terrorism and to undertake serious programs of capacity building to provide technical assistance to police and security forces and the judiciary. Work with civil society would also be essential for the stabilisation of the country. The two papers had identified five JHA related issues for the discussion in the Council on 7 March.

Some delegations underlined the importance to address the issues identified in the CTC papers, notably radicalisation and the need to counter propaganda, support for judicial reform while ensuring the full respect of human rights, and foreign fighters travelling to conflict areas and returning to Europe. Some doubts were raised on the possible link between drugs trafficking and terrorism. Delegations stressed that it would be essential to come to a swift adoption of the PNR directive, as the situation was becoming increasingly dangerous and PNR would represent a valuable instrument to increase security within the EU.

On the link between drugs trafficking and terrorism, the CTC remarked that it was worth to look at the issue from a wider perspective. It would be advisable for the EU to put more political weight on the issue of countering narco-trafficking in its dialogue with third countries. He also stressed that it would be important to staff EU delegations in the region with JHA expertise. He agreed with delegations on the importance of adopting PNR.

7. INTCEN presentation of classified reports on the terrorist threat to Europe (EU CONFIDENTIAL)

IntCen made a presentation of some classified reports on the terrorist threat to Europe.

8. Strategy on Cyber Security – Presentation by the Commission and exchange of views

The Commission presented the communication “Cyberstrategy of the European Union – an Open, Safe and Secure Cyberspace” (doc. 6225/13). It also made a specific presentation on the fight against cybercrime within the framework of the cyberstrategy, highlighting as priorities against cybercrime the adoption of strong and effective legislation, increased operational capabilities, better cooperation within the EU and with third countries, and capacity building. The new European Cybercrime Centre would play a key role in the implementation of the strategy. The EEAS provided information on the implications and links of the strategy on the EU international cyberpolicy, focusing in particular on capacity building to third countries.

9. Presentation by the Netherlands on the status of the project “Clean IT”

The NL delegation made a presentation about the Clean IT project, its results and possible proposals for further European cooperation in this area. The project had identified several recommendations and best practices, and increased awareness by the participants and the internet community. The NL delegation would be ready to further cooperate with partners on this issue.

10. Presentation by Enterprise Ireland and Dublin City University of the FP7 funded project “The use of the Internet by terrorist groupings.”

IE made a presentation about EC funding available for law enforcement purposes and then presented an example of a EC -funded project on monitoring online violent political extremism. It underlined the importance of having greater engagement of law enforcement agencies to influence the EC agenda with regard to the Horizon 2020 financing possibilities. It drew delegations' attention to the possibility of pre-commercial procurement, a specific device for the public sector to procure research and development services.

The Commission pointed out that pre-commercial procurement was included in the proposal for ISF, thus shifting the centre of gravity towards the Ministries of Interior that could look for solutions to address their concerns, instead of having the industry trying to push their own agendas. DG Home could be an interlocutor for law enforcement agencies and mediate between them and the research side.

11. Information on Counter-Terrorism Activities

a. European Commission

The Commission provided information about the High Level Conference on countering violent extremism held on 29 January. Consensus was emerging on three main points, namely the growing concern of violent extremism, the need to update the existing policy framework, and the need of comprehensive approach bringing together local, MS and international actions. The Commission would work on a European programme to counter violent extremism, and a communication would be published before end of the year.

The Commission also informed that it had launched a study to evaluate the Framework decision on combating terrorism, that would look at factual information about the practical implementation of the decision on a number of cases.

b. Europol

Europol made a presentation about the reorganisation of the CT unit and its current work. Main activity continued to be direct operational support to MS investigations and cooperation with some third countries. CBRN, countering violent extremism, travelling for terrorist purposes were mentioned among fields where Europol was also active.

12. AOB

The LT delegation referred to the questionnaire on the use of firearms for terrorist purposes circulated under CM 1657/13 and announced that this topic would be one of the priorities of the incoming Lithuanian Presidency. It would be on the agenda of the TWP in July and a seminar would be organised later in the autumn. It invited MS to provide their contribution within the deadline indicated in the CM.

The Commission informed the group that it had developed a dedicated task force to develop proposals and provide an overall strategic orientation on firearms. More details would be provided in future TWP meetings. The Commission expressed its support for the Lithuanian initiative, which could provide input to the Commission's reflection and work.
