



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 25 March 2013

7641/13

ENFOCUSTOM 44

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: Customs Cooperation Working Party (Experts meeting)

on: 11 March 2013

Subject: Summary of discussions

EXPERTS MEETING
(11 March 2013, 10.00)

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as outlined in doc. CM 1872/13, with the addition of two points (by OLAF and NL delegation) under AOB.

2. Information from the Presidency

The Presidency gave an overview of the main issues of interest for the CCWP Experts, as referred to in doc. DS 1081/13.

3. Update of the Multi-annual overview of JCOs and other operations

The Presidency presented the updated multi-annual review of JCOs and other operations (doc. 5194/1/13 REV 1 ENFOCUSTOM 6 RESTREINT UE). Some new operations were added for 2013.

4. Discussion on Tactical objectives and risk areas for 2014-2015

The Presidency referred to the document on the Revision of the tactical objectives and risk areas for JCOs for the period 2013-2014 (doc. 12736/1/12 REV 1 ENFOCUSTOM 78 COSI 68) and presented three additional risk areas proposed by the MS. Several MS made remarks about the risk areas proposed for addition and also about deleting some of the current risk areas. Some MS underlined the need to prioritise and to limit the number of risk areas. Based on the received input, the Presidency would prepare a report summarising the proposals to be endorsed at the meeting in May.

5. Annual Review of the Guide to JCOs

The Presidency presented its proposal (doc. DS 1188/13) for the review of the Guide to JCOs prepared in 2012 (doc. 10837/2/12 REV 2 ENFOCUSTOM 49). The discussion focused on the procedural handling of JCPOs that would be of interest also to the Law Enforcement Working Party (LEWP). Some delegations suggested that the Working Party that was more interested in the organisation of an operation - on the basis of the subject matter, the primary focus of the proposed operation and of the national authorities involved - should take the lead and inform the other Working Party. Based on the input from the delegations, the Presidency would discuss the matter informally with the LEWP Chair and report back to the group.

6. Initiative on identification of learning points arising from operations outside the direct auspices of the CCWP

The Presidency presented the mandate for the CCWP Experts to identify the learning points arising from operations outside the direct auspices of the CCWP (doc. DS 1100/13). It was proposed to first identify a list of relevant operations and create a methodology for the evaluation of relevant learning points, with the aim of reporting to the CCWP plenary by 15 May 2013. Based on this first phase, the experts would proceed with an assessment and aim to provide a detailed report to the CCWP plenary in December 2013. The delegates were asked to provide contributions by 11 April 2013.

7. Possible development of a permanent structure to run JCOs

The Presidency presented the mandate for the CCWP Experts to assess - from a purely operational point of view - the merits of a possible development of a permanent structure to run JCOs (doc. DS 1101/13). The aim was to report back to the CCWP plenary in June 2013. The delegates were asked to provide contributions by 30 April 2013.

8. JCOs and other Customs Operations

- Presentation on Operations Westerlies and Skynet (WCO)

A representative from the WCO made a presentation about operations Westerlies (trafficking of methamphetamine from Africa to East Asia) and Skynet (drugs and precursor chemicals in postal and express freight). Both operations had excellent results both in terms of capacity-building and strengthened co-operation mechanisms of participating bodies as well as seizures.

- Draft Final Report on JCPO Radar (NL)

The NL delegate mentioned that the final report on JCPO Radar (doc. 12710/1/12 REV 1 ENFOCUSTOM 74 ENFOPOL 237) was updated in the light of the comments received at the previous CCWP Experts meeting. The draft final report was then approved by the delegates.

- Draft Final Report on JCPO Athena III (DK)

The DK delegate presented the draft final report on the JCPO Athena III (doc. 6915/13 ENFOCUSTOM 32 ENFOPOL 53) on declarations and transportations of large amounts of cash from one MS to another or to a third country. Some of the objectives were only partly achieved, and where this was the case, the organisers formulated recommendations to address the underlying issues. Subject to minor modifications the draft final report was approved by the delegates.

- Regional Maritime Operation Halyard (IE)

The Presidency presented the regional maritime operation Halyard and its complementarities with the upcoming operation Lionfish organised by Interpol.

- Operation Opson II (Europol)

Representatives of Europol and Interpol presented operation Opson II dealing with food related crime, including counterfeit and substandard food and beverages. The final report on the operation was due shortly.

9. Implementation of the EU policy cycle through EMPACT

The representative of Europol made a presentation about the implementation of the EU policy cycle for serious and organised international crime (doc. 15358/10 COSI 69 ENFOPOL 298 CRIMORG 185 ENFOCUSTOM 94) through the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) (doc. 13347/1/12 REV 1 COSI 67 ENFOPOL 253). Some delegations noted that it was important for the Presidency to continue to invite Europol to CCWP meetings to provide a presentation on the Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA) produced by Europol, and to update the CCWP on the ongoing process while ensuring proper involvement of customs in the EU policy cycle.

Europol requested assistance of CCWP experts and national customs authorities in order to assist in the implementation of one action under the current policy cycle.

10. Overview of coordinated operational activities

A representative from FRONTEX presented an overview of Frontex inter-agency and inter-institutional co-operation, its operational cycle, the types of sources of information for Frontex analysis of border related crimes and the concept of Focal Points for joint operations. Furthermore, it indicated some issues that could be considered in the perspective of increasing and improving the cooperation between Frontex and customs authorities.

11. Annual review of the JCO Library

Based on the input received from the MS for the annual review of the JCO Library (doc. 10805/2/09 REV 2 ENFOCUSTOM 38), the Presidency proposed that OLAF set up a sub-folder of regional operations. Delegations were asked to forward to the Presidency on an ongoing basis items to be included in this sub-folder. The Presidency would then liaise with OLAF.

12. AOB

OLAF gave an update on an upcoming operation.

The NL delegation pointed out that several operations dealing with similar or related issues appeared to be planned or ongoing, with different organisers such as WCO, OLAF and the Commission, and called for enhanced coordination in such cases. OLAF confirmed that it was coordinating its activities within the Commission, while coordination in operations organised by other international bodies remained a matter for the participating MS.

The Presidency reminded the delegates of the deadline on 17 March to reply to the questionnaire on PNR circulated as an annex in doc. 5947/13. The results of the questionnaire could also contribute to the work of the project group led by Cyprus working on threat assessment on air transit passengers.
