



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 26 March 2013

7809/13

GENVAL 18

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: Working Party on General Matters, including Evaluations (GENVAL)

on: 20 March 2013

Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as set out in CM 1881/1/13 was adopted with the addition of one point under AOB.

2. Sixth round of mutual evaluations - Adoption of the Report on Slovakia

17900/1/12 REV 1 GENVAL 99 RESTREINT UE

The report was adopted.

DE, while agreeing to the report, expressed the opinion that certain recommendations went further than the scope of the Eurojust Decision, e.g. on the creation of a central database.

3. Sixth round of mutual evaluations - Adoption of the Report on Belgium

17898/1/12 REV 1 GENVAL 97 RESTREINT UE

The report was adopted.

DE repeated the comments made to the previous agenda item.

4. Sixth round of mutual evaluations - Discussion of the Report of Denmark

7249/13 GENVAL 14 RESTREINT UE

The evaluation team presented the report. The Danish delegation commented on the findings of the evaluation team, informed about some organisational changes that had taken place since the time of the evaluation, and replied to the questions asked by other delegations. The Plenary discussed the conclusions and recommendations of the report. The Presidency concluded that a revised version of the report would be presented for adoption at the next GENVAL meeting.

5. Sixth round of mutual evaluations - Discussion of the Report of Estonia

17899/12 GENVAL 98 RESTREINT UE

The evaluation team presented the report. The Estonian delegation commented on the findings of the evaluation team and replied to the questions asked by other delegations.

DE, supported by UK, requested the deletion of point 10.3.6 [on the establishment of a Russian liaison office].

SE pointed out that the reports were the experts' report, an expression of experts' opinions that as such did not have to be approved by Member States; furthermore the SE delegation referred to the cautious wording of point 10.3.6: "...*shall study the possibilities*".

DE argued that as long as the reports were to be discussed and afterwards adopted by GENVAL, they reserved their right to comment and requested that this statement be reflected in the outcome of proceedings.

The Presidency concluded that the report would be presented for adoption at the next GENVAL meeting.

6. Follow-up to mutual evaluations reports

6865/1/13 REV 1 GENVAL 9

On the basis of a Presidency paper circulated mid-March, GENVAL had a second discussion on the need of a revision of the current follow-up mechanism of the evaluations. Since a vast majority of delegations and the Commission preferred to maintain the current follow-up system with some minor mainly procedural clarifications, it was decided to leave the system as it is for the time being and reduce a further examination to these minor issues.

Some delegations would like to see the issue of a possible enhanced follow-up mechanism taken to CATS. This will be discussed further at a future GENVAL meeting.

7. European Union Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN)

Annual Report of Activities 2012 and Work Programme 2013

7064/13 GENVAL 10 ENFOPOL 67

7065/13 GENVAL 11 ENFOPOL 68

- Presentation by the Presidency

On the basis of a power point presentation, the IE Presidency explained the current activities of EUCPN. EUCPN will hold a meeting in Dublin on 25-26 March 2013 where, among other things, the Commission's evaluation report from November 2012 will be discussed. At the GENVAL meeting on 29 May 2013, this report will be discussed again based upon a Presidency discussion paper.

8. Information on the Rights of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings

- **Overview of the Rights of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings - Priority A, Action 4, of the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016**

5121/13 GENVAL 2 DROIPEN 2 JAI 12 JAIEX 2 MIGR 3 RELEX 13 COSI 3

- Update by the Commission

Following delegations' oral and written comments, the Commission explained that it had adjusted the language of the paper. The intention was to publish it on 15 April at a DG Home press conference; delegations could, however, have a look at the paper as it currently stood. Delegations as well as the Presidency deplored not having the Commission paper at hand, making it difficult to advance in the discussions of the conclusions.

- **Draft Council Conclusions on the Provision of Information on the Rights of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings**

5120/1/13 REV 1 GENVAL 1 DROIPEN 1 JAI 11 JAIEX 1 MIGR 2 RELEX 12 COSI 2

- Discussion

The Presidency thanked delegations for their written comments and added that it was aware that a full discussion without the underlying Commission document would be difficult. A couple of delegations were concerned about the reference to one single document and requested more flexibility, bearing in mind that a number of Member States had already well functioning systems in place. The Commission underlined the importance of keeping the access to information as easy as possible for victims.

The Presidency concluded that a revised draft would be circulated in advance of the next GENVAL meeting on 23 April.

9. Joint Communication on the Cyber Security Strategy of the European Union

6225/13 POLGEN 17 JAI 87 TELECOM 20 PROCIV 20 CSC 10 CIS 4 RELEX 115
JAIEX 14 RECH 36 COMPET 83 IND 35 COTER 17 ENFOPOL 34 DROIPEN 13
CYBER 1

- Presentation by the Commission

The Commission (DG Home) made a brief presentation of the strategy – a joint initiative between DG Home and DG Connect. Delegations intervening in general welcomed the initiative and made further specific remarks in relation to costs, co-operation with third countries, the need for co-operation between the public and the private sector, as well as between Europol and Eurojust.

Following the meeting, Member States have been asked for written comments at the latest by 27 March (for those delegations who may wish to comments further).

10. Any other business

- **Participation of the European Union in the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)**

- Update by the Presidency

The Presidency informed delegations that COREPER had confirmed the position of Member States on the legal basis on its meeting on 6 March; delegations will be kept informed.

- **Outcome of the meeting of 13-14 march 2013 of the EU Network of National Rapporteurs or Equivalent Mechanisms on trafficking in human beings**

- Presentation by the Presidency

The Presidency briefly outlined the outcome of the meeting held the previous week in Brussels, mainly an update of what had happened in the area of combating trafficking in human beings since the network's last meeting in October 2012.

- **Sixth EU Anti-Trafficking Day, 18 October 2012**

7318/13 GENVAL 15

The IE Presidency drew delegations' attention to the written report of the sixth EU Anti-Trafficking Day issued at the end of February. The Commission added that the document with minor adjustments would be available on its anti-trafficking website.

- **Additional GENVAL meeting on 23 April 2013 (afternoon only)**

The Presidency informed that an additional ½-day GENVAL meeting would take place on 23 April 2013 (afternoon only). Main item will be the draft Council Conclusions on the rights of victims of trafficking in human beings.

- **“Putting Rantsev into practice” – conference in the Amsterdam on 16-18 April 2013**

The Dutch delegate made an appeal to delegations of making sure that they registered (in time) for this multidisciplinary conference on strengthening multidisciplinary operational co-operation to fight trafficking in human beings. He stressed the importance of having participants covering all services, incl. police, border guards, etc.
