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Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



ANNEX

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ADDENDUM TO THE NOTE

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Subject :	Second Round of Peer Evaluation
	Preparedness and consequence management in the event of a terrorist attack

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In the framework of the second round of peer evaluation covering "Preparedness and consequence management in case of a terrorist attack" an evaluation visit was made to Cyprus from 10 to 12 September 2008.
- Cyprus is a country with no imminent terrorist threat.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus has effective control only over 63% of its territory, as a result of the 1974 Turkish invasion and continued occupation of approximately 37 % of Cyprus. Protocol No 10 of the 2003 Treaty accession to the European Union provides for the suspension of the application of the acquits in the areas of the Republic where the Government of Cyprus does not exercise effective control.

- As a result of the Turkish invasion and occupation, over 200,000 Greek Cypriots are internally displaced
- According to the Cyprus Constitution there are two communities: the Greek-Cypriot and the Turkish-Cypriot community. There are three religious groups in the Republic of Cyprus: Armenians, Maronites and Latins. The religious groups that represent the 1,1% of the population-(Armenians 0,3%, Maronites 0,7% and Latins 0,1%) cohabit in an apparently harmonious relationship based on mutual respect and tolerance.

As regards Cyprus Police, it should be mentioned that Cyprus has one national Police Service with 4.771 employees. The Cyprus Police is under the political supervision of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order. The organization of the Police is based upon a hierarchical structure. The Chief and Deputy Chief of Police are appointed by the President of the Republic. The administration of the Police is vested in the Chief of Police who may, for this purpose, issue Police Standing Orders. The functions of the Police are divided into four principal areas: education, administration, operations and support services. Each area is supervised by the respective Assistant Chief of Police. As far as the administrative and functional set-up is concerned, the Cyprus Police is divided into Departments, Units and Districts. The Police Headquarters is situated in Nicosia and is divided into 6 Departments, 3 Services and 6 Units. Cyprus is divided into six operational geographical districts.

Divisional HQs operate in each district, situated in the central town of the district, and each has its own geographical/ district jurisdiction. Moreover, there are one or more Town Stations in each town and a number of rural stations and sub-stations, which are responsible for the policing of specified geographical areas.

- The main findings concerning crisis and consequence management in the event of terrorist attack are:
 1. The Cypriot authorities have solid, well-established mechanisms for preparedness and consequence management in the event of a large-scale incident, namely a terrorist attack. The close cooperation and interaction of the structures in place, associated with the close personal links of its elements and a population of only 800 thousand, allow effective planning and reaction time in the event of emergency.
 2. There is a clear definition of the roles of each of the law enforcement authorities of the Republic of Cyprus (Police, Customs and Unit for Combating Money Laundering) and other relevant authorities involved in the management of a crisis situation.
 3. The existence of plans, and national spread (please specify) focusing on different kinds of disasters and emergencies, are a decisive point in the efficiency of the system in place.
 4. Several cases of best practice may be pointed out, namely the involvement of the civilian population, which has received prior training in crisis management.
 5. The creation of a more general plan that allows a more general framework would allow any possible gaps to be filled or make clear who is to do what in the event of a cross-cutting incident.
- The main recommendations resulting from this evaluation mission focus on the following areas:

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2. ARRANGEMENTS IN THE EVENT OF A TERRORIST ATTACK

2.1. Structures and organisational framework of National Crisis Centres

The Republic of Cyprus has three crisis centres in place. The first is situated at Cyprus Police Headquarters, the second at the Civil Defence Building (Ministry of the Interior), and the third at the Cyprus Fire Service (C.F.S.). A fourth crisis centre is under construction at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is expected to be completed in 2009.

Depending on the nature of the crisis, the respective crisis centre becomes the national crisis centre. Pursuant to the Council of Ministers' Decision no.65.202, dated 21/3/2007, a Coordinating Body for managing major crises/disasters has been established. The Coordinating Body is composed of three Ministers: the Minister of Justice and Public Order, the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Defence. Chairmanship of this coordinating body is not permanent. For man-made disasters, e.g. terrorist attack, technical accidents, etc., the Minister of Justice and Public Order is in charge, whereas for natural disasters such as earthquake, fire, etc., the Minister of the Interior is in charge. For crises which take place abroad, or which occur in the Republic of Cyprus but affect a large number of foreigners, the Minister of Foreign Affairs will also participate the crisis centre. When the disaster is of a specific nature other than mentioned above, the responsible Minister will take the lead of the Coordinating Body, depending on the case.

The structures which form part of the national crisis centre in the Republic of Cyprus are the following, depending on the disaster:

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
2. Ministry of Interior
3. Ministry of Defence
4. Ministry of Education and Culture
5. Ministry of Communications and Works
6. Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism
7. Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance
8. Ministry of Justice and Public Order
9. Ministry of Health

Furthermore the following agencies/services will participate:

1. Cyprus Police
2. The Fire Service
3. Central Intelligence Service (CIS)
4. The National Guard
5. Civil Defence

Private entities are involved in the crisis centre only when necessary.

In case of a situation related to a terrorist event the Counter Terrorism Office, of Department C', (Criminal Investigation Department,) following the coordination arrangements as set by the Assistant Chief of Police (Operations) of the Cyprus Police has a key role. Its mission is to coordinate the actions of the Cyprus Police in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with the International Treaties, Conventions, United Nations Security Council Resolutions and Common Positions of E.U. in this field. Furthermore, the Counter Terrorism Office operates as a contact point for the exchange of information with other Member States of the European Union, third countries, as well as with the PWGT countries. The Counter Terrorism Office is represented in the NCC room accordingly.

2.2. National arrangements in the event of a terrorist attack

Before analyzing the national arrangements in the event of a terrorist attack it is necessary to bare in mind that the Republic of Cyprus may activate one of the three different crisis rooms according to the situation.

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In case of a terrorism event, the Police takes the leading role. The permanent staff, the Assistant Chief of Police (Operations) and the personnel of the operation office are called. Once operations start, a representative from all the divisions and all the relevant services/departments of the Police join this team. Among their duties, they have the responsibility to maintain the crisis centre in order to be operational when a crisis occurs.

In those cases that the crisis center is manned by the Fire Service, an C.F.S. Senior Officer is in charge. This officer and his staff has as main duties to, in case of an event related to the Civil Defense, (Flows, earthquakes, etc), assess the situation, approve the implementation of the incident action plan and supervise the procedures to be carried out.

The Main Control centre is manned by Assistant Civil Defense Officers. These Officers are selected and recruited according to established Governmental procedures (examinations and interviews).

In the event of a terrorist attack, the Ministry of Justice and Public Order (Cyprus Police) is responsible for the creation of the national arrangements.

The Operations Office of the Cyprus Police Headquarters drafts the general action plan under the guidance and supervision of the Assistant Chief (Operations) of Police, with the consent of the Chief of Police. Each Ministry and the competent authorities of each critical infrastructure drafts its own action plan which clarifies its own responsibilities when such a crisis occurs.

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The Assistant Chief of Cyprus Police (Operations), assisted by the Operations Office, under the supervision / approval of the Chief of the Cyprus Police are responsible for assessing the implementation of action plans of terrorist threats.

All the actions plans are updated once a year by the Operations Office of the Cyprus Police Headquarters, following the approval of the Chief of Police.

Real exercises or command exercises are fundamental for the update process, since the relevant action plan are updated on the basis of any possible shortcomings traced during the procedures.

As regards cross border cooperation, the Republic of Cyprus has concluded bilateral/multilateral agreements on police cooperation with several Member States of the European Union and third countries, which create a basis for cooperation in combating and preventing organized crime and other forms of crime, including terrorism. Those agreements clarify among other things, exchange of information, the adoption of operational procedures and other measures upon request.

There is a significant number of international convention and protocols ratified by Cyprus, has well has numerous multilateral and bilateral agreements undertaken to prevent and combat terrorism. Not only some agreements were made with different Member States but also with third countries such as Armenia, Egypt, India, Syria etc.

The need for adjustment and harmonization of the national legal framework to all the European anti terrorism legislation, put a Anti terrorist law before the House of Representatives for voting and enactment. This aforementioned draft law integrates in the national legal framework among others the Council Decision of September 2005 on the exchange and cooperation concerning terrorist offences.

This draft law will also provide the legal basis for a closer cooperation between the Cyprus authorities and the competent authorities of other Member States and third countries for the prevention, investigation and detection of terrorist offences via the exchange of information.

2.3. Communication systems in the event of a terrorist attack

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The back-up structures

The national crisis centre (NCC) has a decentralized command and control structure,. There are other local crisis centers which operate when necessary.

Concerning the Fire Service, (C.F.S.), it has a decentralized command and control structure which is activated if needed.

The Civil Defense has a main Control Centre which is capable of managing disasters and crises. This structure is solely dedicated to the coordination of Civil Defense/ Civil Protection Units and the exchange of information with other essential authorities. This centre is connected electronically with the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) of the Civil Defense.

3. TRAINING/EXERCISES FOR TESTING THE NATIONAL CRISIS CENTER AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS IN THE EVENT OF A TERRORIST ATTACK

3.1. Training/exercises for testing the National Crisis Centre and communication systems in the event of a terrorist attack.

The Republic of Cyprus carries out, from time to time, training exercises on terrorist threat, in order to test the efficiency of the NCC. There is no specific timetable.

Cyprus Police is responsible for drafting the relevant scenarios.

Training is given to the recruits during their basic training at the Cyprus Police Academy and during their normal working duties as well. However, no specific exercises to test the efficiency of the communications system have been carried out. Communication exercises are integrated within other generated exercise concerning terrorist attacks. Cyprus Police is also under the process of designing specific telecommunications' exercises regarding terrorist attack.

Two Command - plan exercises were executed, the "Dourios Ippos" that took place in October 2006, with a scenario of a conventional terrorist attack and "Kareta Kareta" with a scenario about a chemical and biological attack at the refineries, that took place in March 2007.

A practical exercise took place during the peer evaluation visit, during September 2008, and the team of experts had the opportunity of watching "in loco", the exercise. The Scenario, involved a conventional hostage taking over, it was extremely well prepared and did demonstrate the preparedness of the operational teams for combating conventional terrorism. It was also possible afterwards to observe the debriefing procedure, and to observe how close the cooperation is between the different Police Units involved. The coordination between civil authorities and the military forces is strongly developed, a fact that was demonstrated during the preparation, execution and debriefing of exercise.

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3.2. Training/exercises for testing the efficiency of the communication systems

Communication exercises are integrated within other generated exercises concerning terrorist attacks. Cyprus Police is also under the process of designing specific telecommunications' exercises regarding terrorist attack.

4. SOFT TARGETS

A list of soft targets has been drafted according to the risk level, and the Security Committee of the Police Headquarters assesses the level of threat. Some of the criteria for the assessment of soft targets are the level of security, the number of people that congregate there and the area where the soft target is situated.

The following persons comprise the Security Committee:

- The Deputy Chief of Cyprus Police
- The Assistants Chiefs of Police
- The Central Information Service Commander
- The Director of Department C', Police Headquarters
- The Head of the Information Office of the Department C', of the Cyprus Police Headquarters.

Although there is no specific legislation or judicial arrangement concerning terrorist attack, the Cyprus Police draws their legal authority from the Constitution, the Penal Code, the Police Law, the ratified Conventions and other laws. It is worth mentioning once again that the national “ For the Combating of terrorism draft law ” is before the House of Representatives for enactment. This law will include all legal matters concerning terrorist attacks including the topic of soft targets. The responsible structure is the NCC. The same actions apply for soft and hard targets

5. GOOD PRACTICES

- Three-level command arrangement of the police (gold-silver-bronze) is a well-proven arrangement in terrorist and other major incidences and should effectively respond to management-type demands of a crisis organization. The division of tasks for such an arrangement seemed to be well recognized by the police command.

Further to the permanent staff, the additional use of volunteers, has proved to be an effective tool and is considered to be a best practice. Cyprus Civil Defense volunteers contributed effectively during the Lebanon Crisis of 2006, in the relief of thousands of repatriated EU and third country citizens. The same applies for the contribution of Cyprus Civil Defense at several natural disasters and recently during the wild forest fires which occurred in Cyprus and in Greece in 2007.

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- The continuous training of the Cyprus police forces including Port and Marine Police and other Authorities of the Republic for a terrorist attack. The Cyprus Police Special forces and the should be pointed as a good example to this effort

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

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7. ANNEX

7.1. Presentations were made by the following institutions

- Cyprus Police
- Fire Department
- Emergency Response Unit
- Civil Defence
- Ministry of Justice

7.2. Speakers

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Observers

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7.3. Expert Team

Council General Secretariat

Police and Customs Cooperation Unit - DG Justice and Home Affairs

European Commission

Directorate General, Justice, Freedom and Security

Finland

Security Police

Latvia

Security Police / Counterterrorism Center

Europol
