



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 23 September 2013
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 12 September 2013
To: Terrorism Working Party
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as outlined in CM 3849/13 with the addition of a point under AOB requested by NL.

2. Information by the Presidency

The Presidency recalled that COTER and TWP had been invited by the Council to establish a workstream on foreign fighters, and the issue had been discussed at the joint meeting in July. The Presidency had circulated a questionnaire in July (DS 1585/13) in order to invite comments and expression of interest in possible topics and in taking the lead. The Presidency invited Member States to react within the deadline of 30 September.

3. Incidents of significant interest - Information from Member States

Some Member States provided information about incidents of significant interest happened in their country since the last meeting.

4. Prevent work dissuading individuals from travelling out to Syria (EU CONFIDENTIAL) - presentation by the UK

The UK made a presentation classified EU CONFIDENTIAL.

5. Orientation debate on the update of the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism

The Presidency referred to the questionnaire distributed in July (CM 3299/13) in order to set the context for the orientation debate. The CTC recalled the main points of the EU work on combating radicalisation and recruitment, from the adoption of the Strategy and the Action Plan in 2005 to the subsequent concrete activities, including the establishment of the RAN network by the Commission. An update of the strategy appeared now timely and necessary, to take stock of progress and also in view of the evolving threat and of the changed institutional framework. In particular, three challenges, although not entirely new, needed to be adequately reflected in a revised strategy, namely home grown terrorism, foreign fighters and lone actors. The CTC was providing ideas and contributions to the work of the Commission, aimed at adopting a communication in November. With regard to the questions raised in the questionnaire, the CTC suggested that the revised strategy should look at all forms of terrorism and should also integrate in the new text the media communication strategy.

Many delegations took the floor to comment on the questionnaire as well as on the points raised by the CTC. Member States agreed that the revised strategy should deal with all forms of terrorism, including home-grown terrorism, as well as violent extremism. The external dimension of the fight against terrorism should be appropriately reflected in the new document. The key principles of the media communication strategy should also be included. The structure of the strategy adopted in 2005 could be a good basis for the updated strategy, with modifications and adaptations necessary to reflect new challenges and policy responses. The question whether an Action Plan should accompany the revised strategy should be discussed further as views in the group diverged.

6. Presentation by INTCEN (EU CONFIDENTIAL)

Six monthly threat assessment

IntCen made a classified presentation on its threat assessment for the first semester of 2013.

7. Terrorist travel

– Foreign Fighters - Presentation by INTCEN (EU CONFIDENTIAL)

IntCen made a classified presentation on foreign fighters, followed by a long debate among the Member States.

– Presentation by NL

The NL delegation made a presentation on monitoring terrorist travel and provided information on its quick scan enquiry to assess the different instruments already at the disposal of Member States, aiming at gaining knowledge and oversight of all available information systems and at identifying gaps and shortfalls. The results of the enquiry would be available by the end of the year. A general provisional remark was that strong domestic and international cooperation would be needed in order to timely detect terrorist travel.

In this context, FR highlighted the importance of a more efficient use of the SIS II, which appeared to be the most appropriate instrument to detect travel movements of foreign fighters. The issue of how to increase the use of SIS II by Member States would be dealt with in one of the next meetings of the Working Party for Schengen Matters (SIS/SIRENE). In addition, FR also recalled the need to continue to work on the PNR file, especially by pursuing contacts at appropriate level with the European Parliament.

The Presidency said that it would be in touch with the Chair of the Working Party for Schengen Matters (SIS/SIRENE) on SIS II and that this debate could be continued at one of the next TWP meetings. This issue could possibly lead to the establishment of a work stream.

– Information from Europol

A representative of Europol provided information on the progress on the work on terrorist travel. It had completed research in their work file for a period of five year and the report should be ready in October. Furthermore, it recalled its proposal to establish a focal point on terrorist travel, to which all Member States would be invited to participate.

– Information from Frontex

A representative of Frontex made a presentation on what information and knowledge Frontex could provide on the EU external borders with regard to the issue of foreign fighters. Furthermore, it gave an outline of possible options for tailoring Frontex information and intelligence collection activities further to better meet CT needs. It would be for Member States to indicate what kind of support they would require from the agency. The representative of Frontex mentioned among the medium to long term possible actions the establishment of a handbook for border guards and the development of risk indicators; however an increased and better use of SIS II would be essential.

A representative of Eurojust intervened to present the latest developments on the issue of travel of foreign fighters. A tactical meeting had taken place in June. Eurojust would present a report in November to the Council on its work on foreign fighters. Eurojust was also regularly monitoring terrorist convictions in Europe.

8. COM update on counter-radicalisation work

This point was dealt with under item 9.

9. Information on Counter-terrorism activities

- Commission

The Commission gave some information on recent meetings and activities of the RAN working groups and recalled that regular updates were published on the Commission website. Finally, it confirmed that the third meeting with experts from Member States in order to prepare the communication on radicalisation and violent extremism would take place on 18 October.

- Europol provided information on some operational meetings scheduled in the coming weeks.

10. AOB

NL provided some information on the international exercise on explosives organised on 9-11 October and announced that it would circulate further details.
