



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	17 September 2013
To:	Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) Mixed Committee (UE-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)
Subject:	Summary of discussions

MIXED COMMITTEE

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in doc. 13485/1/13 REV 1 with the addition of one information item under AOB at the request of the FI delegation.

2. EU Policy cycle

- Adoption of the multi-annual strategic plan on illegal immigration

The Committee adopted the strategic goals for the EU crime priority on "Illegal Immigration" as set out in 13495/1/13 REV 1 and 11292/4/13 REV 4.

3. Any other business

The FI delegation informed the meeting about a joint statement made by the Home Affairs Ministers of Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and the Slovak Republic on 13 September 2013 at an informal meeting in Lappeenranta.

COSI

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in 13485/1/13 REV 1 with the addition of three information items under AOB at the request of the AT delegation (Police Equal Performance Project), the BE delegation (foreign fighters) and the IT delegation (CEPOL).

2. Information from the Presidency

– Outcome of the meeting of representatives at the level of COSI/CATS with Interpol

COSI took note of the outcome of the meeting of representatives at the level of COSI/CATS with Interpol on 21 June 2013 as set out in doc. 12214/13. Some delegations voiced their concerns regarding Interpol's external financing and would welcome discussing this topic in the future. The iARMS project (Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System) was also considered as a topic that needed further discussion.

The Presidency took note of delegations' concerns and would reflect on the most appropriate framework for discussing these topics in greater detail.

– Preparation for the PSC/COSI meeting in November

COSI took note of the preparations for the COSI/PSC meeting provisionally scheduled to take place on 21 November. The agenda for this meeting would include the following items: foreign fighters, the solidarity clause and a progress report on the draft Roadmap "Strengthening ties between CSDP and FSJ". The Presidency would meet the Chair of PSC on 18 September to prepare the meeting.

– **Future developments of the JHA area**

The Presidency informed delegations that the COSI - PSC meeting would be followed by a "normal" COSI meeting which would take place in the afternoon to discuss the "future developments of the JHA area" as a follow-up to the discussions at the informal meeting of the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs in Vilnius on 18-19 July 2013.

3. EU Policy Cycle : Adoption of the Multi-Annual Strategic Plans on "Organised Property Crime", "Cocaine/Heroin", "Synthetic Drugs", "Firearms", "Trafficking in Human Beings", "Counterfeit Goods", "Cybercrime", "MTIC/Excise fraud"

The Presidency welcomed the active and multidisciplinary participation of the MS' and Agencies' experts in the MASP workshops and thanked all stakeholders for their support in the successful organisation of the workshops.

The Committee adopted the strategic goals for the above-mentioned EU crime priorities as set out in doc. 13495/1/13 REV 1. Delegations emphasized that due attention should be given to the geographical and multidisciplinary approach as well as to financial investigations when drawing up the OAPs. The operational actions contained in the OAP should be as concrete and operational as possible.

The UK delegation requested a small change in the MASP "MTIC/Excise fraud" which was incorporated in doc. 12623/5/13 REV 5.

– **State of play and preparation for the next steps (OAPs)**

The Presidency briefly informed delegations that the first OAP workshop "Cybercrime" is scheduled to take place on 1-2 October 2013. The last OAP workshops "Synthetic Drugs" and "MTIC/Excise fraud" would take place on 30 - 31 October 2013. All draft OAPs would be submitted to the National Contact Coordinators (NCC) meeting on 18-19 November 2013.

– **Identification of Relevant Actors**

The Committee agreed to the list of relevant actors as set out in 10615/4/13 REV 4.

4. Cooperation between JHA agencies: information exchange

The Committee welcomed the Presidency's initiative to discuss the information exchange between the JHA agencies as set out in doc. 13454/13. The timing of this initiative was particularly welcomed considering the discussions on the draft Europol and Eurojust Regulations. Various delegations referred to the Agencies' different mandates and stated that the information exchange should take place on a need-to-know basis with a clear purpose limitation and with due respect to the data protection rules. In this respect, it was also suggested that the discussions in the Working Group on Information Exchange and Data Protection (DAPIX) on the draft Data Protection Directive should be taken into account. Delegations also mentioned the principles of reciprocity and confidentiality as key principles to respect. Information should also only be forwarded to third parties with the consent of the Member State that provided the information to the Agencies. Duplication of efforts in information gathering and analysis should be avoided.

The Presidency invited delegations to send their comments in writing before 18 October 2013.

5. Security of the supply chain

- **Communication from the Commission on Customs Risk Management and Security of the Supply Chain: presentation by the Commission**
- **Council conclusions on Strengthening the Security of the Supply Chain and Customs Risk Management: presentation by the Presidency**
- **Next steps**

The Commission representative informed the Committee about the Commission Communication on Customs Risk Management and Security of the Supply Chain as set out in doc. 5249/13 and the Council conclusions on the same subject (doc. 8761/3/13 REV 3) which invite the Commission in cooperation with the Member States to bring forward a coherent strategy and action plan by June 2014.

The Presidency invited delegations to ensure the necessary national coordination between all competent authorities and invited the Commission and Customs Union Working Party to keep COSI informed about the future developments.

6. Report on administrative approach network

The Committee took note of the report of the informal network of contact points on administrative approach as set out in doc. 13498/13 and invited the network to present a work programme 2015-2017 to COSI in December 2014, taking into account the new EU crime priorities for 2014-2017.

7. Presentation on the EU Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) arrangements

The Committee took note of the new EU Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) arrangements, as set out in doc. 10708/13, which were adopted by the Council on 25 June 2013.

8. Recommendations expressed by the European Police Chiefs Convention held at Europol on 11-12 September 2013

The Committee took note of the recommendations expressed by the European Police Chiefs Convention held at Europol on 11-12 September 2013 as set out in doc. 13647/13.

The BE delegation pointed out that two recommendations concerning the financial support in relation to witness protection and informant handling were to be discussed further.

The Presidency concluded that some of these recommendations should be further discussed in the competent Council Working Parties.

9. Future role of COSI: presentation joint paper ES - FR - IT - SE delegations

Various delegations welcomed the joint discussion paper from the ES, FR, IT and SE delegations set out in doc. 13500/13 JAI 755 COSI 109. These delegations underlined that the 5 proposals for improving COSI's functioning were to be considered as a basis for further discussions.

In general delegations supported the idea of evaluating and discussing COSI's role after three years of functioning in order to further improve its activities. Delegations underlined the operational nature of COSI and the need to strengthen operational cooperation. Some delegations were cautious about the proposal to develop other policy cycles, in particular regarding terrorism. Extending COSI's role to counter-terrorism should not lead to a duplication of the discussions in other Council structures such as the Terrorism Working Group and COTER. The Finnish suggestion to discuss a role for COSI in evaluating the operational cooperation was welcomed but it was considered important to avoid duplication with other Working Parties and to respect the provisions of Article 72 TFEU. Some delegations were also critical towards the organisation of thematic COSI meetings which would only gather those Member States directly concerned by the same issue.

Delegations were invited to send their written comments by 18 October 2013.

10. Any other business

– Police Equal Performance Project (PEP)

The AT delegation informed the meeting on the current state of play of the PEP project and in particular the results of the first wave of self-assessments for asset recovery, cross-border surveillance and witness protection.

– Foreign fighters

The BE delegation drew delegations' attention to the importance of the foreign fighters issue and welcomed the discussions of this item in the upcoming COSI/PSC meeting. BE hoped to discuss this topic more often in COSI in the future.

– CEPOL

The Presidency briefly updated the meeting on the applications that had been received for the provisional arrangements to host CEPOL and pointed out that this item would be dealt with at the CATS meeting on 23 September 2013 with a view to discussing it at the JHA Council in October.