



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 17 October 2013
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	9 October 2013
To:	Terrorism Working Party
Subject:	Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as outlined in CM 4423/13 with the addition of one point under AOB requested by BG.

2. Information by the Presidency

The Chair of the Friends of the Presidency group on the implementation of the solidarity clause provided information about the ongoing negotiations on the draft Decision on the implementation by the Union of the solidarity clause as provided for under Article 222 TFEU. He highlighted some of the major issues still open for discussion and outlined the next steps in the negotiations.

Furthermore, the Presidency gave an update about the workstream on foreign fighters, that had been initially discussed at the meeting with COTER in July. After the meeting the Presidency had circulated a questionnaire (DS 1585/13). The majority of Member States were in favour of the idea to establish such a workstream.

Three main areas of work had been raised in the remarks of the Member States. First, it appeared necessary to examine all conditions that led to, or facilitated, departures of would-be foreign fighters, such as motivation, influence of media and communities, and radicalisation through internet. A second area of work was related to travel to conflict zones, and included an analysis of ways to prevent people from reaching their destination. The third area of work would deal with issues arising upon the return of foreign fighters, including risk reduction, integration, psychological assistance. Cooperation with third countries was essential.

The UK provided information on some activities undertaken nationally and offered to share practical guides and experience. It agreed to lead work in the area of "Tailoring Communication".

The Presidency suggested to continue the discussion on the workstream in TWP and COTER, and to set up some concrete areas for work. It would circulate a document on the workstream, including a second questionnaire that could provide further input to identify other areas of work. It invited Member States to express their intention to cooperate in the UK area of work, or to propose other areas of work, by sending an email to the GSC within the deadline of 31 October.

3. Incidents of significant interest - Information from Member States

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

4. Use of firearms for terrorism purposes

The Presidency recalled that to reduce the risk of firearms to the citizen including combating illicit trafficking in firearms was among the priorities of the new Policy Cycle 2014-2017. A questionnaire (CM 1657/13) had been distributed early in 2013 in order to examine the use of firearms for terrorist purposes, and its findings had been presented at the TWP in July.

Some Member States made presentations on the issue of firearms, based on their national experience. The problems highlighted by the presentations included the increasing risk derived from 3D printers, the risks of crossovers between criminals and terrorists, the cooperation problems between intelligence and police forces, the gap in full forensic sharing in Europe, the importance to have standard rules and glossaries at EU level and of an integrated approach in all areas of administration.

The Commission stated that its communication on firearms would be adopted in the coming weeks. The EFE would also hold a meeting in October and could provide contributions to the workshop on the drafting of the Operational Action Plan under the Policy Cycle, scheduled at the end of October. It also drew delegations' attention to two surveys carried out in order to measure public attitudes towards firearms, whose results would be published on the Commission website at the same time as the publication of the communication. Finally, it referred to the adoption by the Council of the Decision to ratify the UN firearms protocol.

A representative of EFE made a presentation about the availability of firearms in relation to terrorism and the risks deriving from the trade through internet. He explained the conditions that made particularly easy to acquire a weapon through the Internet. Legal loopholes such as firearms legislation specific to Member States, lack of clear definitions and different classification were also part of the problem. Internet trade, combined with new technologies such as 3D printers, could highly increase risks in the future.

The group had a discussion about the issue and highlighted that it was necessary to review existing legislation and to look for ways to make more efficient use of both national and EU law. Furthermore, it would be important to harmonise data bases, to strengthen controls on trade also on the internet, to draw attention to risks deriving from new technologies and to regulate access to such technologies and their use.

5. Use of EU travel information systems (particularly Schengen Information System) for counter terrorism purposes

The Presidency set the context for the discussion, that aimed at examining how to make more efficient use of existing EU mechanisms for the purpose of countering the phenomenon of foreign fighters. The Chair of the Working Party on Schengen Matters gave an overview of the discussions held in that group. Furthermore, the Presidency gave an update of the state of play on the proposal of the Commission for a Regulation establishing an entry/exit system to register entry and exit data of third country nationals crossing the external border of the Member States of the EU.

FR made a presentation about how to make efficient use of the SIS II. In the discussion that followed, the group highlighted that there were certain organizational and technical problems, in particular the need to discuss the shortcomings of alerts, to increase the use of the system, to improve the competence of the staff/end users, to ensure better performance on discreet or specific checks, to make sure that authorities find it easier and safer to enter alerts under Article 36(3) of the Schengen Decision.

Member States should establish protocols of cooperation between national Sirene offices and national authorities concerned. All competent authorities should receive timely information about foreign fighters and exchange of information should be improved. Several delegations underlined that PNR could be very useful to address the issue of foreign fighters.

6. COM update on counter-radicalisation work

The Commission informed the group that its communication on violent extremism would be issued some weeks later than initially scheduled. A final meeting with Member States' experts would take place on 18 October.

7. Information on Counter-terrorism activities

– *Commission*

The Commission informed that it was conducting a risk assessment on foreign fighters as requested by the Council in March. This assessment would be a contribution to the Council in early December. A meeting with Member States' experts was scheduled in early November in order to get information and contributions. Furthermore, the Commission announced that a proposal for legislation on money laundering could be adopted in the second half of 2014.

– *Europol*

A representative of Europol gave some information on operational meetings scheduled in October and November.

8. AOB

BG drew the attention of delegations to the emergency situation deriving from the high number of refugees in Bulgaria and to the possible risks of criminal or terrorist infiltration.