



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Strasbourg, 23 May 2012

10330/12

**PE 222
JAI 355
CRIMORG 56**

NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Delegations

Subject: Summary record of the extraordinary meeting of the European Parliament **Special committee on organised crime, corruption and money laundering (CRIM)**, held in Strasbourg on 21 May 2012

The meeting was chaired by Ms Alfano (ALDE, IT).

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

2. Chair's announcements

The Chair referred to the school bombing in Brindisi, Italy and expressed condolences to the victims and their families.

3. Exchange of views on the work programme of the CRIM Committee

The Chair recalled that the first constitutive meeting of the CRIM took place on 18 April and that Mr Crocetta (S&D, IT), Mr Tavares (Greens, PT), Mr Kirkhope (ECR, UK) and Mr Søndergaard (GUE/NGL, DK) were elected Vice-Presidents; and Mr Salvatore IACOLINO (EPP, IT) was appointed Rapporteur. She said that since then two coordinators' meeting had taken place on 10 and 21 May in order to discuss the calendar of meetings as well as the programme and method of work. A number of MEPs took the floor and asked for the Bureau to reconsider the calendar of meetings in order to assist in facilitating their travel arrangements. The Chair concluded that members would have to adapt their travel arrangements to the calendar rather than the other way round.

The Chair also explained that the Bureau had not been able to reach a decision on whether NGOs would be invited to participate in the work of the Committee. Mr Tavares (Greens, PT), supported by Ms Fajon (S&D, SI), insisted on the need for civil society organisations to be able to participate.

The Chair said that the Bureau was planning to organise two delegation trips, one to Serbia in July, and the second one to Italy in October. In the subsequent discussion other possibilities were raised, namely to visit Switzerland (Ms Weiler, S&D, DE) and the US (Mr Schmidt, ALDE, SW) as well as Albania (Mr Zwiefka, EPP, PL).

Regarding the work programme, members proposed that this should also include : the work of intelligence agencies (Mr Kirkhope), organized crime in sport and culture (Mr Zwiefka); the cross-cutting aspects of the criminal side of the economic crisis in collaboration with other EP committees (Mr Tavares); crimes against environment and cyber crime (Ms Fajon).

The Chair concluded this item by announcing that at the next meeting on 4 June 2012 Commissioner Malmström would address CRIM on the EU's overall strategy in the fight against organised crime, corruption and money laundering and the Legal Service of the Parliament would present an overview of the legal framework provided by the Lisbon Treaty on these issues.

4. Information from the Rapporteur concerning the organisation and tentative calendar of his work

The Rapporteur explained that CRIM had 12 months to prepare a report analysing and evaluating the situation with respect to organised crime, corruption and money laundering and to propose to the EP Plenary measures and initiatives to be taken. He said his objective was to work towards harmonisation of normative frameworks in Member States, and he would present three working papers. He did not exclude that it would be necessary to extend the mandate of the CRIM for a period of additional six months. Mr de Jong (GUE/NGL, NL) suggested caution regarding harmonisation and stressed that the issue of implementation was crucial. He also proposed, supported by Mr Tavares, that the Rapporteur split the work between working groups. Ms Joly (Greens, FR) emphasised that evaluations of these phenomena had been carried out successfully in the past by a number of distinguished international organisations, with extremely dedicated and competent experts working for many years on these issues. She stressed that the EP did not have the resources to match these efforts and should instead take them as a basis and rather focus on a possible political way forward, examine the EU dimension and for example look at the possibilities for the creation of a European prosecutor. Mr Crocetta said that the Committee should keep an open mind, CRIM should organise hearings and see if best practices emerge and take it from there. In Mr Tavares' view, emphasis should be put on studying the societal impact of these phenomena as well as the EU wide aspects.

5. Next meeting(s)

- **4 June 2012, 15.00 - 18.30 (Brussels)**
