

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 4 June 2012

9730/12

ENFOPOL 127 COTER 48

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of:	Joint meeting of the Working Party on Terrorism and COTER
on:	25 April 2012
Subject:	Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in document CM 2630/1/12 REV 1 with the addition of an information item by the NL delegation under AOB.

2. Recent events

FR delegation made an intervention regarding the recent events in Toulouse and Montauban (EU CONFIDENTIAL).

The EU CTC, referring to his recent food-for-thought paper (9090/12), elaborated on some of the challenges the law enforcement community is facing in preventing lone actor terrorism. He stressed in particular the need to continue to engage with communities and deal with issues such as international terrorist travel, radicalisation in prisons and control of firearms. He also underlined the important role of the internet and suggested awareness raising and involvement of health services in preventing radicalisation.

In the discussion that followed, delegations noted that policy readjustments could be considered to take account of the new developments. Some of the existing initiatives such as check-the-web and the visa consultation procedures could be looked at and strengthened. COM highlighted the role of RAN in addressing a number of issues raised.

3. Enhancing the links between the internal and external aspects of counter-terrorism

Delegations examined a proposal submitted by Hungary (doc. DS 1272/12) on the follow-up to the Conclusions adopted by the Council in June 2011, and a draft stocktaking paper on this issue (9082/12) developed by the Presidency, to take forward the Council Conclusions. Delegations were invited to provide comments and suggestions for topics and actions to be included in the stocktaking paper, which would be subsequently finalised by the end of the year. The incoming Presidency informed that COTER-TWP would return to this issue in the next semester.

4. EU capacity building in 3rd countries

The EU CTC, the EEAS and the Commission updated on actions being implemented under the Instrument for Stability and pointed in particular to the expected modifications in the rules governing long-term projects in the new legal act. Delegations noted that the EU is increasingly becoming an important global player in funding counter-terrorism capacity building in third countries, and that the Instrument for Stability is the most important EU funding vehicle.

Delegations exchanged views on how they could more effectively involve Member States in streamlining the funding processes and implementing projects. Improvements in the processes and procedures governing the Instrument for Stability are necessary to allow a better visibility of funding and an EU-wide overview of projects being implemented, notably by Member States in their bilateral cooperation. Member States should more easily be able to combine efforts and propose joint projects. To this end, the Presidency invited delegations to consider its concept paper on funding and implementation, which comprises a model of Memorandum of Understanding for Member States to share responsibility for project implementation (doc. 9084/12). There was general support for the concept, aims and practical implications in the paper, which in light of comments will be taken forward. Lastly, the usefulness of a future workshop for interested individuals from Member States to learn more about the Instrument for Stability was noted.

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5. Presentation by INTCEN (EU CONFIDENTIAL)

A representative of INTCEN presented a recent report.

6. Radicalisation

The Presidency briefed the meeting on the state of play on the draft Council conclusions on deradicalisation and disengagement from terrorist activities (8624/12) that would be submitted for approval to the Council on 26-27 April 2012.

The Commission elaborated on the contribution of RAN to a comprehensive EU response to radicalisation and violent extremism through the activities of its different working groups. A high level symposium of RAN should take place in October and will take stock of the first year of the running of the network.

The EEAS informed about the inaugural meeting of the GCTF CVE working group that took place in April in Abu Dhabi.

7. Presentation by INTCEN (EU CONFIDENTIAL)

A representative of INTCEN presented a recent report.

8. Countering the financing of terrorism (CFT)

The Presidency provided preliminary information on the EU-US Workshop on Countering the Financing of Terrorism to be held in Copenhagen on 11 and 12 June, including on issues expected to be addressed by the representatives of the US. Italy addressed COTER on recent developments in the FATF area

The Commission updated on progress of the new Regulation concerning the freezing of assets linked to terrorist activities inside the EU, which will be based on Article 75 of the Lisbon Treaty. An impact assessment is expected by the end of 2012. Legislative options would be considered in the first quarter of 2013.

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9. State of play in COTER and TWP

The Chairs of the TWP and COTER provided information on issues dealt with by the respective working parties and other issues related to their work.

10. AOB

The NL delegation reminded delegations of the conference European Network of Public Figure Threat Assessment Agencies that will take place on 21-23 May in Rotterdam and invited them to share this information with their respective authorities.

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