



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 8 October 2012

14573/12

**JAI 665
COSI 83**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI)
on: 2 October 2012
Subject : Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as set out in doc. 14363/12 was adopted with the addition of three information items under AOB.

2. Draft EMPACT Terms of Reference

The Committee agreed on the EMPACT Terms of Reference as set out in doc. 14518/12 COSI 82 ENFOPOL 309.

Europol underlined the current steps already implemented to produce the new OAPs 2013 and encouraged MS to remain fully involved in the process. The Commission stressed the need to conduct an evaluation based on the current activities before the start of the new Policy Cycle in 2014.

While recognising the importance of the Policy Cycle, Frontex highlighted the difficulties created by the different timing of approvals of the Agency's annual work programme on the one hand and the OAPs on the other hand.

3. State of play of the "administrative/alternative approach to fight Organised Crime" and the way forward

The Committee agreed on the Presidency's proposal (doc. 13283/1/12 REV 1 COSI 66 ENFOPOL 250 GENVAL 59) regarding the future working of the network of contact points on administrative approach and its concrete objectives for the coming 12 months. The network would report back to COSI in September 2013 on the state of play and the implementation of these recommendations.

The Commission invited COSI to consider the possibility to provide a permanent (administrative) support for the network of informal contact points based on the EUCPN experience.

The ES and FR delegations warned about complicating the work of the Drivers in the respective priorities, notably when creating the 2013 OAPs.

4. Trafficking in human beings:

- Strategy to eradicate the Trafficking in human beings

The Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Ms Myria Vassiliadou underlined the importance of the various political documents and initiatives dealing with the fight against trafficking in human beings, in particular the Strategy presented by the Commission in June, and the related draft Council conclusions still under discussion as well as legislative and other policy instruments. This range of tools was going in the right direction, contributing to establish a comprehensive approach involving all stakeholders. The political momentum was there both at EU and at national level, and it was essential to keep the issue high on the agenda.

On the Strategy, she recalled that it set out the challenges and the work programme for the next five years, with around 30 actions to be carried out. Several of these actions were linked to the work of COSI, for example to increase the prosecution of traffickers, to improve the exchange of information, and to enhance efforts on financial investigations. With regard to the external dimension of the fight against THB, it would be important to establish a list of priority third countries to work on by the end of this year. She underlined the importance to establish multidisciplinary units at national level. Training addressed to border guards, the police and the judiciary was also a fundamental aspect of a successful policy.

One of the tasks of the Anti-Trafficking Coordinator consisted in coordination efforts to provide synergies and avoid overlap among the activities of the various stakeholders. In this respect, the ATC referred to the yearly Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October, the meeting of national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms as well as the informal network of contact points on transposing the Directive on the tasks of national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms.

With regard to funding, Ms Vassiliadou that recalled a review of the projects funded by the EU, involving ten DGs, would take place in 2013 with the aim to mapping geographical areas, fields of actions, actors involved, recommendations and outcomes.

The Presidency referred to the document DS 1613/12 on the implementation of the above-mentioned draft Council conclusions and asked for comments on MS expectations and the possible role of COSI.

NL stressed the need for multidisciplinary action in the fight against THB. FR underlined that the draft Council conclusions should be a substantive discussion point for the Ministers at the 25-26 October Council. The FR delegation stated the importance of working with source countries and to putting them under pressure to deliver.

Eurojust offered to present its strategic project on trafficking in human beings at one of the next meetings.

The EEAS informed about its (possible) activities on this issue: putting THB on the agenda of political dialogue meetings with third countries and of multilateral fora, as well as on the agenda of human rights dialogues carried out with certain countries.

The Presidency concluded that the issue would need further reflections. It invited the UK, driver of the priority on THB, to take due account of the Strategy.

- **Conference "Putting Rantsev into Practice - Strengthening multidisciplinary operational cooperation to fight trafficking in human beings"**

The NL delegation recalled the conference being organised for April 2013, "Putting Rantsev into practice" (doc. 13256/12 GENVAL 57 DROIPEN 117 JAI 575 JAIEX 61 MIGR 81 RELEX 761) and invited contributions. The approach of the conference was meant to be as operative as possible.

5. Final report of the fifth round of mutual evaluations of financial investigations

The Committee took note of the final report on the fifth round of mutual evaluations on "financial crime and financial investigations" which would be agreed upon in GENVAL on 3 October and presented to the Council (doc.12657/2/12 REV 2 GENVAL 51).

Despite some hesitations about the procedure and the feasibility, the Committee agreed to the recommendations contained in doc. 13996/12 COSI 75 GENVAL 67. The Commission and several MS underlined the need to consider the existing manuals in this area before producing a new one, notably the handbook produced by FATF.

Generally, it was stressed that COSI should continue to monitor the implementation of the issues in this report that fall within its competence.

6. Any other business

- The NL delegation took the floor (on behalf of BENELUX countries) to underline the need to follow up on the responses provided by MS to the Commission about the financing possibilities for the Policy Cycle under the ISF. The Commission reminded that it would be deliver a fiche for the Ad Hoc Working Group on JHA financial instruments on this subject.
- Eurojust voiced some concerns about the future financing of JITs due to new constraints derived from EU financial regulations.
- The AT delegation informed the delegations about the state of play of the Police Equal Performance (PEP) initiative in the Western Balkans. A gap analysis and lessons learned from actual operations will be used to identify where efforts have to be made in capacity building. The FR delegation provided details about an anti-corruption project it is running in the framework of the PEP.