



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 15 October 2012

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Subject: Report to the European Council: Terrorism: Intelligence Capacity

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

CONFIDENTIEL UE



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(OR. EN)**

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COVER NOTE

from: Secretariat
to: Permanent Representative's Committee
Subject: Report to the European Council: Terrorism: Intelligence Capacity

Delegations will find attached the SG/HR's report to the European Council on the establishment in the Council Secretariat of an intelligence capacity on all aspects of the terrorist threat.

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REPORT TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Subject: Terrorism: Intelligence capacity

The European Council at its meeting of 17 and 18 June welcomed a report by the SG/HR on integrating in the Council Secretariat an intelligence capacity on all aspects of the terrorist threat. It requested him to implement such arrangements as soon as possible, taking into account the views expressed at the Council (JHA) on 8 June 2004. It also requested the SG/HR to keep this question under review and report on progress to the December 2004 European Council.

Since the June Council, the SG/HR has been in close contact with Heads of Member State Intelligence and Security Services, particularly through the mechanism of the Counter-Terrorist-Group, meeting its Chairman, the Head of the Dutch Security and Intelligence Service on several occasions and meeting with the Group collectively on 15 November. During the course of these meetings it has been possible to agree with the Group precise procedures for the flow of information between the Council Secretariat (SITCEN) and the Group and a joint selection procedure has selected six analysts from services represented in the Group, who will contribute to a specialist terrorist analytical capacity to be established in the SITCEN.

Information flow between the Group and the SITCEN has been under way since October, allowing SITCEN analytical products submitted to Council Working Groups, for example COTER, to benefit already from information and expertise of the Member State Intelligence and Security Services represented in the CTG. This service to Council bodies will improve further once the additional analysts from the CTG arrive early in the New Year.

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The SG/HR has also discussed with a number of Interior Ministers, and on his behalf Mr Gijs De Vries, the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, has briefed all Interior Ministers in the JAI Council on 19 November, on how this improved service is intended to assist them and subordinate bodies in the Justice and Home Affairs area in their work. The SG/HR has been working closely with the Netherlands Presidency, and coming Presidencies, to ensure that the output of this intelligence capacity will be a valuable support to policy-makers and decision-takers in the third pillar.

The Council (JHA) on 8 June asked the SG/HR to ensure that the development of this intelligence capacity went forward in close cooperation with Europol, that secure communications be established with Europol and that the necessary arrangements were made between the Council Secretariat and Europol to allow the exchange of analytical information. Contacts and correspondence between Europol and the Council Secretariat are under way, so as to establish the necessary basis for close cooperation. On the SG/HR'S initiative protected communications have been established with Europol and an exchange of letters facilitating information exchange is in preparation.

These measures should allow the Council Secretariat (SITCEN) to deliver to the Council strategic analysis of the terrorist threat based on intelligence from Member States' intelligence and security services drawing on, where appropriate, information provided by Europol.