



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 18 October 2012

15170/12

**PE 462
JAI 715
CRIMORG 118**

NOTE

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| from: | General Secretariat of the Council |
| to: | Delegations |
| Subject: | Summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament Special committee on organised crime, corruption and money laundering (CRIM) , held in Brussels on 15 October 2012 |

The meeting was chaired by Mr Tavares (Greens/EFA, PT). The agenda was adopted as proposed.

Item 3 on the agenda

Report on the CRIM delegation visit to Serbia (16-18 July 2012)

A 10-member DROI delegation met with stakeholders (police, customs, NGOs, media) with a view to obtaining a detailed insight into the current situation in Serbia. Mr NEWTON-DUNN (ALDE, UK) said that it was clear from the visit that Serbia had a long way to go in fighting corruption and organised crime. Mr SONDERGAARD (GUE, DK) agreed with Mr NEWTON-DUNN and said that it was particularly difficult to obtain a clear picture of the situation as the Serbian customs authorities themselves did not have a clear picture of, or control over, what was going on at the borders with Kosovo in terms of trafficking in human beings and other criminal activities. Mr IACOLINO (EPP, IT) said that useful information had been gathered during the visit and that very high end crime with mafia-type organisations existed in Serbia. Ms FAJON (S&D, SI) had been in Serbia on a separate trip with the EP delegation and said that the main problem was systemic corruption, not just for Serbia but for the whole region, with Kosovo being particularly problematic in this respect. She also said that the new Serbian PM had an ambitious programme to fight

corruption and had made it a definite priority, clearly showing that, as a candidate country, Serbia was taking the problem seriously. Ms WEILER (S&D, DE) said that she had been impressed by the young people in the customs and police and noted that the proceeds of crime were reinvested in community projects. In particular, she stressed the importance of newly adopted tendering rules which were in line with the EU acquis, with a question mark concerning how they would be implemented subsequently in practice. Mr BORGHEZIO (NI, IT) said that he was worried that the issue of money laundering was not being properly addressed and that the country could become a money laundering paradise. The chair concluded that CRIM needed to discuss appropriate follow-up to the visit.

Item 4 on the agenda

Organised crime, corruption and money laundering

2012/2117(INI)

Rapporteur: Salvatore IACOLINO (PPE)

DT – PE496.559v01-00

Responsible: CRIM –

- Consideration of working document

The Rapporteur briefly outlined the main elements of his first working document focusing on organised crime. He explained that the intention was to give a more comprehensive appraisal of the phenomenon in order to promote more effective national and EU legislation. The Rapporteur described the characteristics of organized crime, which had its own operating methods and increasingly resembled transnational commercial enterprises, and presented an overview of existing EU instruments aimed at combating transnational organised crime. He stressed that the legislation in Member States presented a very varied picture, depending on particular national circumstances. In this respect, he underlined that the harmonisation of definitions of criminal offences had the potential to increase the effectiveness of the fight against organized crime, and this would be further reinforced by EU wide assets-protection measures for the proceeds of crime.

In the subsequent discussion, Ms MATTHIEU (EPP, FR) agreed with the Rapporteur regarding the importance of common definitions of organized crime and thanked him for such a comprehensive report, also acknowledging the contribution of other CRIM members who had contributed through thematic papers. Ms BORSELLINO (S&D, IT) also supported the common definitions and spoke about the links between national political systems and corruption. Mr NEWTON-DUNN said that he would like the report to also cover low-level crime, which is extremely detrimental to jobs, and

how law enforcement could be supported to better tackle it. Ms KIIL-NIELSEN (Greens, FR) said that the fight against trafficking in human beings was particularly important. Mr SONDERGAARD said he was disappointed that societal factors had not featured more prominently and that the Rapporteur had not mentioned the deregulation of capital markets and the banking sector as a key factor and a missing link.

Item 5 on the agenda

Presentation of four Thematic Papers on Organised Crime

Mr MITCHELL (EPP, EI) presented a thematic contribution on confiscation as an instrument for seizing the proceeds of crime, highlighting in particular the Irish model of confiscation, which was very effective and was not based on criminal convictions. He explained this model also stood the test of the Strasbourg Court on a number of occasions and had been declared compatible with the ECHR. He stressed in particular that mutual recognition of such confiscation orders should be a priority.

Ms AYALA SENDER (S&D, ES) prepared a thematic contribution on trafficking in human beings. She stressed that there was no system for providing reliable and comparable data on the extent of phenomenon, called for an increase in the visibility of the problem and of the situation of victims, and for measures to raise public awareness. She proposed a creation of a EU-wide observatory.

In his contribution, Mr DIEZ DE MERA (EPP, ES) discussed the links between Latin American drug cartels and European criminal organisations as regards illegal drugs trafficking.

Ms McCLARKING (ECR; UK) spoke about how IT technologies were used for illegal activities and the alarming socio-economic consequences for consumers. She called for a more effective legislative framework to fight cybercrime effectively.

Item 7 on the agenda

Next meeting(s)

- 12 November 2012, 15.00-18.30
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