



Brussels, 26 April 2016
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7782/16

JAI 271
ENFOPOL 95
COTER 38

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 6 April 2016
To: Terrorism Working Party
Subject: Summary of discussions

Joint TWP/COTER (Morning session 10.00-13.00)

1. Adoption of the agenda for the morning

The agenda was adopted, as set out in CM 1995/16.

2. Brussels attacks 22 March 2016

– Briefing by Belgium

A representative of the Belgian Ministry of Interior ("Federal Public Service Interior", its crisis centre), and a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs briefed on the Brussels attacks of 22 March 2016 and the measures taken.

– Extraordinary JHA Council 24 March 2016

The Presidency informed about the extraordinary meeting of Justice and Interior Ministers of 24 March 2016 and the joint statement adopted¹.

¹ 7371/16.

The Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (CTC) summarised the provisional findings of the Brussels attacks. Among the lessons learned: need to better "connecting the dots" - populate databases better, share information with Eurojust and in particular Europol; border control one of the most pressing issues. The work on CBRN-E (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear - explosives) should be continued as should the work on trafficking in firearms. The link between terrorism and organised and petty crime should be better explored. So far eight Member States had sent experts to Europol to its recently established joint liaison team (JLTs), but more experts were needed.

3. Presentation on 'European Foreign Fighters' (Update) - presentation by INTCEN

[CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL]

Delegations took note of the presentation made by INTCEN.

4. ICCT (International Centre for Counter-Terrorism) report on 'The Foreign Fighters Phenomenon in the EU'

– Presentation by ICCT

The ICCT (International Centre for Counterterrorism, the Hague) presented its report issued on 4 April 2016 "*The Foreign Fighters Phenomenon in the EU - Profiles, Threats and Policies*", mapping trends and developments from January 2011 till October 2015. Some key figures presented: an average of 17% women foreign fighters (F(T)Fs), 4-10% under 18 years old, 90-100% came from urban areas. Of those who had left, 47% remained abroad, 30% had returned, 14% were confirmed dead, leaving 9% whose whereabouts were unknown.

Recommendations to the EU:

- look at a common definition of a "Foreign (Terrorist) Fighter"; and
- set up an internal reporting system to ensure follow-up of non-binding EU guidelines.

The full report as well as an executive summary can be found on ICCT's website².

5. AOB

No issues were raised under this item.

² <http://icct.nl/topic/foreign-fighters/>

1. Adoption of the agenda for the afternoon/Information by the Presidency

The agenda was adopted, as set out in CM 1995/16.

2. Latest incidents of significant interest

- Information from the Member States

Five delegations took the floor, two of which reporting incidents, two reporting numbers on F(T)Fs and one reporting on a recent sentencing concerning F(T)Fs.

3. State of play architecture of information systems and their interoperability

- Oral update by Presidency, especially on CT related aspects
- Follow-up discussion on actions to improve the use of SIS in countering terrorist travel
7412/16 JAI 241 SIRIS 55 ENFOPOL 83 COTER 31 COMIX 244 (to be issued)

The paper which was distributed, aimed at strengthening the information exchange systems, especially the Schengen Information System (SIS), by setting out actions to improve existing instruments - quantity, quality and timelines. The paper was welcomed by delegations and the CTC. During the discussion, it was stressed by a number of delegations that a definition of F(T)Fs was fundamental, as well as other steps to achieve a systematic and harmonized use of SIS II, such as a common understanding of Art. 36(2) and (3) and availability of fingerprint search. Gaps were perceived in relation to how to deal with the use of "alias"/also known as/(aka's), transmission of alerts - by whom, to whom and Europol's role therein - and how to deal with list of names of F(T)Fs received from third countries, etc. Europol offered to become more involved. The broader issue of interoperability was not part of this paper. 20 April 2016 was the deadline given to delegations for written comments. A document on actions to improve the use of SIS in countering terrorist travel will be part of the road-map to be presented at the June JHA Council meeting.

4. Informal WG on Western Balkans CT initiative (WBCTi)

- State of play by the Slovenian delegation

The eighth meeting of the Informal working group on Western Balkans CT initiative (WBCTi) had taken place on 5 April 2016. At the same occasion, the head of the Europol-coordinated working group Dumas presented the group and its current work. The group had been set up in October 2014, to deal with the phenomenon of F(T)Fs.

Since the adoption of the Council Conclusions on 3 December 2015 on "*The integrative and complementary approach to counter-terrorism and violent extremism in the Western Balkans*"³, the conclusions and the linked action plan for 2015–2017 had been endorsed by the WB countries on 7-8 December 2015 in Sarajevo. A number of projects are well underway and an implementation report will be presented to relevant Council bodies (incl. TWP) by the end of 2016.

Member States were encouraged to consult the matrix of CVE & CT activities in the WB, before planning any new bilateral or multilateral activity with a WB country in order to avoid duplication and overlapping, and to provide information on relevant bilateral or multilateral planned or on-going activities with WB countries to update the matrix of activities.

5. Information on counter-terrorism activities

The Commission informed on a number of ongoing initiatives and meetings:

- the upcoming meeting on CBRN-E on 21-22 April 2016.
- the Internet Forum with industry, launched in December 2015, had held a workshop in California in the beginning of April.
- on transport security, the Commission continued its work on detection activities both on the preventive side on how to detect threats to land and aviation security and how to mitigate such threats; AVSEC (aviation security committee) had held a meeting on 31 March, LANDSEC (land security committee) on 11 April, an informal transport Council would take place on 15 April 2016.

³ 14986/15 + COR 1.

- the Commission would issue its communication on "Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security"⁴, and other communications on terrorism⁵ and radicalisation were underway.

6. AOB

No issues were raised under this item.

⁴ 7644/16.
⁵ 8128/16.