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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Law Enforcement Working Party
No. prev. doc.:	14094/1/15 REV1
Subject:	Results of the meeting of experts for major sports events held on 16 September 2016 in Brussels

The meeting of experts for major sports events under the Slovak Presidency was held in the framework of the LEWP on 16 September 2016 in Brussels. The results of this meeting are set out in the Annex.

**Meeting of experts for major sports events,
held on 16 September 2016 in Brussels**

1. Adoption of the agenda

The expert group adopted the agenda of the meeting as set out in CM 3787/1/16 REV 1 with an addition of an information point by the Presidency under AOB.

2. Presentation of the Presidency's Programme

- **The role of the Slovak Police force in ensuring security and safety during major sports events**

The Chair briefly introduced the overall priorities of the Presidency in the field of Justice and Home Affairs and for the LEWP, and underlined that the Presidency would aim to finalise various initiatives undertaken by the experts for major sports events.

The expert group took note of the presentation of the SK delegation about the role of the Slovak Police force in ensuring security during major sports events and in dealing with spectator violence.

3. New guidelines on the relationship between the LEWP and its related expert groups and networks

The expert group took note of the brief presentation by the Chair of the Think Tank about the new guidelines agreed by the LEWP on its relationship with related expert groups and networks as set out in 12915/2/15 REV 2.

4. Overview of the activities of the Think Tank and results of its meetings in Dublin on 26-27 January 2016 and Bucharest on 30-31 August 2016

The expert group took note of the presentation by the Chair of the Think Tank about the outcome of discussions at the recent meetings of the Think Tank. The Chair of the Think Tank briefed the experts about the debate on the future of the NFIP website and the need for a NFIP secretariat. He also referred to the latest football police training, held in Paris in April 2016 and the demand and need for one-country trainings. A representative of CEPOL invited the experts to provide their feedback by 29 September 2016 regarding the need for future football police training events in the current format.

5. EURO 2020 – international police cooperation

The expert group took note of the presentation by the RO delegation about EURO 2020, which for the first time would be organised in 13 countries. The need for effective measures facilitating police cooperation was underlined and a suggestion to set up a sub-group for the preparation for this event with the support of Europol was made.

A representative of Europol referred to the provision of a Europol coordination centre managed by a designated NFIP to assist in facilitating information exchange and monitoring developments. In order for Europol to consider its possible involvement, a written request by the Presidency or the Chair of the Think Tank to the Director of Europol would be necessary.

6. Feedback from Euro 2016 and discussion

The expert group took note of the presentation by the FR delegation about ensuring security during EURO 2016, which was unprecedented in the number of participating teams (24), matches played (51) and the length of the tournament (1 month). The FR delegation also provided some figures about the incidents, which resulted in a number of arrests, jail sentences, deportation orders and stadium bans. A suggestion to reflect about stadium and travel bans was made.

During the follow-up discussion the Chair of the Think Tank focused on the suggestions for future events, such as dialogue with supporters and policing in an interactive way as well as early interventions by the police in order to prevent escalation of incidents and, in particular, the need for bilateral agreements prior to such events.

7. State of play of the preparation for World Cup 2018 in Russia and World Cup 2022 in Qatar

The expert group took note of the presentation by the Chair of the Think Tank, who briefly referred to the ongoing cooperation with Russia and Qatar, which is among the priorities of the experts group in line with its work programme.

8. Proposal regarding the Handbook on international police cooperation

The expert group took note of the brief presentation by the Chair of the Think Tank of the draft updated handbook with recommendations for international police cooperation and measures to prevent and control violence and disturbances in connection with football matches with an international dimension, in which at least one Member State is involved ("EU Football Handbook"), set out in 11906/16, and the draft template for a bilateral agreement on the cooperation between the host and a participating country in connection with a major international football tournament, set out in 12261/16.

The expert group approved both documents and agreed to submit them to the LEWP, subject to the feedback of the Legal Service as regards the draft template.

9. Proposal regarding the Handbook on police liaison with supporters

The expert group took note of the brief presentation by the Chair of the Think Tank of the draft handbook with recommendations for preventing and managing violence and disturbances in connection with football matches with an international dimension, in which at least one Member State is involved, through the adoption of good practice in respect of police liaison with supporters, set out in 11907/16, listing various good practices and focusing on dynamic risk assessment.

The expert group approved the document and agreed to submit it to the LEWP.

10. Proposal regarding the costs of the visiting police delegations

The expert group took note of the brief presentation by the RO delegation of the proposal concerning the costs of hosting and deploying visiting police delegations in connection with football matches (and other sports events) with an international dimension, in which at least one Member State is involved, as set out in 11908/16. It was underlined that the proposal is based on the cost-benefit analysis conducted in 2014.

The expert group approved the document and agreed to submit it to the LEWP.

11. Draft Annual Work Programme 2017 and draft Annual Report 2016 of the major sports events experts and the Think Tank

Following the presentation by the Chair of the Think Tank of the draft Annual Work Programme 2017 and draft Annual Report 2016 of the major sports events experts and the Think Tank (11909/16 and 11967/16), the expert group approved both documents. In line with the aforementioned guidelines on the relationship of the LEWP with its related expert groups and networks, the draft Annual Work Programme 2017 would be submitted to the LEWP for approval.

12. Report on Joint UEFA - EU Stadium and Security Conference held in Bucharest on 7-9 September 2016

The expert group took note of the presentation by the RO delegation about the recent Joint UEFA - EU Stadium and Security Conference with 300 participants. The conference focused on the measures to combat violence in sports events, and the need for preventive measures and integrated approach in line with the new Council of Europe Convention.

13. Any other business

The Presidency informed the expert group that in line with the guidelines on the relationship of the LEWP with its related expert groups and networks, the future meetings of the experts for major sports events would be held without interpretation.