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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	4 October 2016
To:	Terrorism Working Party (TWP) / COTER
Subject:	Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in CM 4100/16.

2. Information from the Chairs of TWP and of COTER

Main topics (to be) dealt with by TWP under SK Presidency:

The Chair of the Terrorism Working Party reported on:

CBRN-E:

Workshop and practical training organised by the European Explosives Ordnance Disposal Network (Kosice, Slovakia) on 12-15 July 2016. The outcome is reflected in 11111/16, which contains a number of recommendations for further action.

24-25 November 2016: Environmental Crime Conference on the European Union Action Plan for the Fight against Environmental Crime, Slovak Republic, Bratislava, where also CBRN threats would be discussed.

(Prevention of) radicalisation and violent extremism:

A paper summarising the findings of the questionnaire on "CVE strategies and networks" (CM 3082/16), distributed by the Dutch presidency, will be issued shortly; it will serve as input for the RAN High Level Conference to be held on 9 November 2016;

A set of draft Council Conclusions on "Supporting the prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism" (security part), submitted to TWP for its meeting on 13 September 2016, subsequently to COSI (Standing Committee on Internal Security) on 28 September 2016, with a view to being adopted by the EYCS (Education, Youth, Culture, Sport)-Council on 21-22 November 2016;

Presentation by SSCAT (Syria Strategic Communications Network) established in January 2015, replaced on 1 October 2016 by the broader ranging ESCN (European Strategic Communications Network).

Information exchange:

The implementation of the "Roadmap to enhance information exchange and information management including interoperability solutions in the Justice and Home Affairs area", monitored by COSI, requires the input of TWP concerning a number of actions. An intermediary state of play of the implementation of its chapter 3 (actions 17-40) is reflected in 12286/1/16 REV 1. Delegations were invited to send contributions concerning: "Good practices on cooperation with third partners in relation to CT" (action 35) by 17 October 2016. Delegations who have not yet sent in contributions on actions 21, 23, 26, 27 and 34 were invited to do so as soon as possible.

Strengthening cooperation on counter-terrorism analysis

Following updated threat assessments from INTCEN and Europol, the Presidency will elaborate a set of conclusions and policy recommendations after consulting Member States, the CTC, the EEAS and the Commission. The paper will subsequently to be submitted to TWP for discussion at its November meeting with a view to being endorsed by COSI on 20 December 2016.

- At the TWP-meeting on 3 October, INTCEN made a presentation on Western Balkans (*EU CONFIDENTIAL*).

The implementation of the Integrative Plan of Action (iPA) for 2015-2017 within the Western Balkan CT (WBCTi) Initiative was is underway, TWP receiving regular updates.

The Chair of COTER reported on the proceedings of the working party during the first half of the Slovak Presidency. The Chair recalled that terrorism is a multi-faceted phenomenon that requires a flexible and comprehensive approach by the European Union and its Member States. Therefore work in COTER is focused on several thematic and territorial priorities.

The Chair pointed to the following thematic priorities: foreign terrorist fighters and returnees, radicalisation and violent extremism, countering the financing of terrorism, achieving a more comprehensive and transparent picture of on-going counterterrorism-related work conducted by international institutions and other platforms for cooperation, CBRN terrorism.

As far as territorial priorities are concerned, the Chair informed that COTER discussed developments in respect to the implementation of the February 2015 Council Conclusion on counter-terrorism. So far, relevant developments were discussed in and in cooperation with Egypt, Algeria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, Iraq and Turkey.

COTER exchanged information on activities at different international fora such as the UN, the Fifth UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review and CT-related events at the 71st UNGA meeting. It was regularly informed about the proceedings of the GCTF and the Anti-Isil Coalition.

COTER was briefed and had a discussion with the counter-terrorism and security experts seconded by Member States to the EU Delegations to Ankara and Abuja. The meeting with the counter-terrorism expert from Ankara was especially timely as it took place within one week from the attempted coup d'état in Turkey. Both meetings offered first hand information and direct contacts. They provided a more in-depth vision of the situation thanks to valuable information only detectable on the spot.

COTER was also regularly briefed by INTCEN and will continue with this practice. One Member State shared its proposal for an EU Non-Paper on Aviation Security and the issue was discussed. Slovakia presented practices from the field of protection from CBRN threats. In the margins of COTER, delegations were briefed by the Quantum Communications, a Lebanese non-profit organisation, on prevention of radicalisation, and by the Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe, on their CT activities and co-operation with the European Union.

3. Role of women and children in Da'esh

- presentation by INTCEN (*EU CONFIDENTIAL*)

Delegations took note of the presentation by INTCEN.

4. Western Balkan Counter-Terrorism initiative - state of play

- presentation by Slovenia

More than 50 international partners are involved in the initiative, and so far 50% of the activities envisaged have been implemented. Three layers can be distinguished: political, strategic and operational. Next meeting between stakeholders will take place in Tirana in November 2016. A draft interim report on the state of play/implementation will be issued by the end of this year. Next meeting with Member States will take place in connection with the TWP meeting on 24 November 2016, either the day before or the day after.

The Commission expressed full support for the initiative, bringing together internal and external policies; the allocation of funds would continue.

5. Current security challenges of FYROM

- presentation by FYROM (AR - Intelligence Agency of FYROM)

Comprehensive presentation, including an overview of the legal and institutional framework, interagency coordination, international cooperation and current challenges, in particular in relation to activities to counter illegal immigration and preventing terrorism.

6. NBAC - Slovak National Security and Analysis Centre

- Presentation by Slovakia

The Chair of COTER introduced the presentation made by the Deputy Director of the Slovak National Security and Analysis Centre, Mr Jan Michalik. Delegations took note of this presentation.

7. Information on counter-terrorism activities

The **Commission** drew the attention to the following events:

- RAN high level conference on 9 November 2016 in Brussels;
- EU Internet Forum: Ministerial on 8 December 2016, an invitation for preparatory officials' meeting on 19 October 2016 had been sent to delegations;
- open source intelligence seminar/workshop in Ispra on 30-31 October 2016, invitations had been sent to focal points last week.

The Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (CTC) informed delegations that on 3 October 2016, he had co-chaired a meeting with the President of Belgian Terrorist Threat Assessment Centre (OCAD-OCAM) bringing together in an informal setting the 13 Member States most affected by the phenomenon of Foreign (Terrorist) Fighters (F(T)Fs). The aim of the meeting had been to assess the threat of (a future wave of) returnees coming home or travelling to another hot spot/conflict zone, Da'esh loosing territory in Syria. A report of the findings of the meeting will be sent to the Ministers of Interior to prepare their breakfast meeting on 13 October 2016 on how to deal with returning F(T)Fs.

He drew the attention to the need to inform and involve not just Europol and the ECTC (European Counter-Terrorism Centre), but also Eurojust.

The CTC also informed about the visit to Egypt and the second EU – Israel security dialogue and of the conclusions of those meetings.

8. AOB

No issues were raised under this item.