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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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

1. Adoption of the agenda for the morning

The agenda, as set out in document CM 1006/17, was adopted.

2. Information from the Presidency

- presentation of the work programme of COTER
- presentation of the work programme of TWP

The Presidency presented its priorities for both COTER¹ and the TWP. The Work programmes for the two working parties had been drafted in parallel. The need for synergy between the external and internal aspects of terrorism was stressed, in particular in relation to foreign terrorist fighters, radicalisation/preventing violent extremism and terrorism financing.

¹ WK 299/2017.

The TWP chairman summarised main terrorist related meeting/events/documents since the last TWP-meeting on 24 November 2016, and outlined the priorities for the coming six months. Amongst the tasks for the TWP will be a review of the November 2014-guidelines for the EU strategy for combating radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism², an update of the paper on strengthening cooperation on CT threat analysis³ to be submitted to COSI.

3. Recent terrorism-related incidents

– Incidents of significant interests

Eight Member States took the floor to report incidents and/or recent statistics on foreign terrorist fighters, including the DE delegate, who informed on the terrorist attack in Berlin on 19 December 2016, the actions undertaken and the ongoing (political) debate on how to prevent further terrorist attacks.

– External terrorism incidents

A document⁴ listing incidents between 2 December 2016 and 11 January 2017 had been circulated to delegates in advance of the meeting, and a few observations thereon were made by the Presidency.

4. Youth empowerment initiatives to preventing radicalisation and countering violent extremism

– presentation by the Maltese National Youth Agency, Aġenzija Zgħazagh

The Maltese national youth agency presented its work on empowering youth. The PT and AT delegates and the Commission took the floor to underline the importance of the topic; AT in the capacity of OSCE-chair, announcing seminars to be conducted throughout the next semester, and the Commission to raise the awareness of the work (to be) undertaken by the newly established "RAN Young". Council Conclusions on youth empowerment will be elaborated by the Youth Working Party, whose next meeting will take place on 10 February 2017.

² 13469/1/14 REV1.

³ 14555/2/16.

⁴ WK 271/2017.

5. The Terrorism Financing Package of 21 December 2016

- presentation by the Commission

Comprehensive presentation by the Commission (DG Home, Justice and TAXUD) of the terrorism financing package adopted on 21 December 2016. The Presidency aimed at reaching a general approach on the proposals for a revised Money Laundering Directive by summer and on the proposed Regulation on Cash Controls. Furthermore, negotiations had started on the proposal for a Regulation on mutual recognition of criminal asset freezing and confiscation orders. Among the aims: to bring EU norms in line with international standards, close existent gaps, also in order to avoid forum-shopping and complementing the recently agreed terrorism Directive. The Commission also informed the Working Party on its appraisals on the expediency of setting up an asset freezing regime under Article 75 TFEU, where it was decided that currently no further steps will be taken. Regarding an EU System complementing the TFTP (Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme), the potential benefits in creating an intra-EU system options were still being considered. A new report thereon would be issued around summer.

6. Presentation by INTCEN of its work programme for the first semester of 2017 (EU CONFIDENTIAL)

INTCEN outlined its work programme for the coming semester.

7. AOB

- Workshop on Soft Target Protection, 6-7 February 2017

The Commission informed on the content and aims of the above mentioned seminar.

TWP (afternoon session)

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of two items: a presentation by NL on the Bureau de Liaison (BdL)-network and a brief presentation by the DK delegate on new legislation on radicalisation.

2. Questionnaire on Member States' approaches in respect of the return of European children from Daesh-controlled territory

- presentation by the EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator (CTC)

The questionnaire on returnees (women and children), sent out by the CTC's office on 21 December 2016, still awaited replies from eleven Member States; the deadline was extended to 26 January 2017. The CTC will elaborate a paper for the JHA Council in March 2017, probably in collaboration with RAN and FI (having issued a questionnaire on FTF returnees as well). A first draft of this results' paper will be discussed by COSI on 7 March 2017.

3. Strengthening cooperation on counter-terrorism threat analysis

- State of play of the threat assessment mechanism
- Future oriented threat assessment
 - presentation by Europol (*EU RESTRICTED*)
- Six-monthly threat analysis
 - presentation by INTCEN (*EU CONFIDENTIAL*)

Following these presentations, the paper on strengthening cooperation on CT threat analysis will be updated by the TWP, as appropriate, and subsequently be submitted to COSI.

4. Countering radicalisation and violent extremism

- Update on RAN (Radicalisation Awareness Network) activities in the coming months
- The RAN chairman presented the work programme for 2017 and highlighted three pressing issues: the foreign terrorist fighters (returnees), the increasing polarisation of societies and rising xenophobia and right-wing extremism. A kick-off meeting of a network of national prevent coordinators will be held on 2 February 2016, bringing together RAN points of contacts (policy level).

5. 2nd High Level meeting of the EU Internet Forum of 8 December 2016

- presentation by the Commission

The Commission briefly presented the outcome of the meeting (a written meeting report had been issued at the beginning of January 2017) and announced the next steps, one of them being a workshop on the "Civil Society Empowerment Programme/EU Member States mapping" on 31 January 2017.

6. Update on the Western Balkans Counter Terrorism initiative

- presentation by Slovenia

The SI delegate briefly updated delegations on the state of play. The 11th meeting, apart from Member States involving representatives from the Western Balkans intelligence community and law enforcement, the US and the Commission (DG Near and Home), had taken place the day before.

7. Information on counter-terrorism activities

- Commission

At the occasion of the annual victims' remembrance day on 11 March, an event to be organised by the Commission would take place on 10 March 2017. An invitation from the Security Commissioner would follow.

- Europol

Among other things, Europol welcomed the increase in contributions from Member States to the different databases, informed on an upcoming joint action day, and an enhanced team on warcrimes to be established as of May 2017

- European External Action Service

EEAS gave an update on the state of play of the ongoing deployment of CT experts to third countries and upcoming political dialogues.

8. AOB

A paper⁵ (*EU RESTRICTED*) on the future of the Bureau de Liaison (BdL) was presented by the NL delegation.

Announcement by the DK delegate on new legislation on radicalisation.

Next meeting (joint SIS/SIRENE - TWP) will take place on 15 March 2017.

⁵ DS 1004/17