



**Brussels, 30 March 2017  
(OR. en)**

**7520/17**

**ENFOCUSTOM 80  
ENFOPOL 144  
JAI 271**

## **OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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**From:** General Secretariat of the Council  
**To:** Customs Cooperation Working Party (Experts) and Law Enforcement Working Party  
**Subject:** Summary of discussions

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### **1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda set out in CM/1697/1/17 was adopted.

### **2. Information from the Presidency**

The Presidency informed delegations on the state play concerning the draft operational cooperation agreement between Denmark and- EUROPOL. On 21 March 2017, the Council submitted to the European Parliament for consultation the draft Council implementing Decision. It is expected that the European Parliament will adopt a position at the Plenary meeting starting on 25 April 2017 so the agreement can enter into force on 1 May 2017.

The Presidency announced that the 8th round of mutual evaluation round was about to start. In this regard, the GENVAL WP had decided to focus on environmental crime and waste shipments. The Presidency was in the course of finalising the questionnaire on which both, customs and law enforcement authorities, should be consulted.

### **3. JPCO 'ARES'**

#### 3.1 Debriefing and evaluation

The Netherlands presented the draft final report on the outcome and evaluation of JPCO ARES set out in 7234/17 EU RESTRICTED.

The Presidency invited delegations to send their comments by 30 March 2017.

#### 3.2 Proposals for the way forward

The CCWP-LEWP discussed doc. 7333/17 submitted by the Netherlands in relation to possible ways forward regarding this kind of operations. In particular, this delegations suggested to organize at least one JPCO per year focusing on one specific relevant crime area. In the discussion, some delegations voiced concerns on avoiding overlaps with OAPs, WCO operations and national operations, lack of real time analytical support and need of thorough risk analysis.

The Presidency invited delegations to send their comments by 30 March 2017.

### **4. Networks and expert groups related to the LEWP**

#### 4.1 European Firearms Experts (EFE) Group: Annual report 2016 and overview of recent work

In line with the Guidelines on the relationship between the LEWP and its related expert groups and networks<sup>1</sup>, the Working Party approved the Annual report 2016 of EFE, as set out in 7266/17, following a presentation by a representative of EFE.

Alongside with its Annual report 2016, EFE also presented their recent activities and priorities for further work.

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<sup>1</sup> 12915/2/15 REV 2

## **5. The global firearms traffic - Trends, threats and challenges for the European Union**

Dr. Paul Holtom, a Senior Researcher at Small Arms Survey, made a presentation focusing on wider trends and global aspects of firearms trafficking. This included an estimation of the proportion of illicit small arms trade compared to the legitimate one (up to 20 per cent). Dr. Holtom also expanded on the assumption that the illicit market is mostly fed by diversion from the legal one, with three main sources: leakage from state stockpiles, theft from commercial premises and corruption.

## **6. WCO Operation CHIMERA**

A representative of WCO made a presentation on the Firearms phase and results of operation CHIMERA - a specific Counter Terrorist Operation, targeting Small Arms and Light Weapons on the one side and cash movements on the other. According to WCO's report, the Operation resulted in the seizure of 318 firearms, 495 parts of firearms, 2197 other weapons and 57 900 pieces of ammunition.

## **7. Update on Europol's activities related to Firearms**

Europol made a presentation of its own activities in the area of firearms. Its representative mentioned the existence of the Focal point dedicated to firearms and indicated that most attention is now devoted to deactivated, acoustic, expansion and flobert weapons, i.e. firearms that have been rendered inoperable or converted to fire blanks. These have often been reactivated by criminals and terrorists, when their deactivation or conversion had been performed under weak standards applicable in some MS.

It has also been said that illicit firearms trafficking is one of the nine EMPACT priorities under the 2013-2017 EU Policy Cycle. Some Member States, with a strong support by the Commission, wished that firearms be listed as a priority under the new Policy cycle.

## **8. Outcome of the EU CULTNET meeting held in Malta on 8-9 February 2017**

The Presidency debriefed delegations on the last meeting of the EU CULTNET on the basis of doc. 7235/17. A discussion followed during which some delegations asked for more information on the idea of elaborating a Handbook. The Presidency indicated that such an idea has met with agreement from Member States and that Member States now should decide on the forum where such a Handbook would be prepared and its content.

## **9. AOB**

The CCWP agreed on the final report of JCO ORION (implementation of customs procedure 42).

Under this agenda item, a number of delegations asked the Presidency to coordinate a common position for COSI discussions on the crime priorities for the next Policy Cycle with a view to include excise duties and VAT fraud. The Commission underlined the need to include the trafficking of firearms, environmental crime and VAT fraud.

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