Council of the European Union

**Brussels, 11 April 2017
(OR. en)**

**15234/1/16
REV 1 EXT 1**

**JAI 1060
COSI 225
ENFOPOL 478
CRIMORG 179
ENFOCUSTOM 229
COPS 377
RELEX 1042
JAIEX 117
COARM 222**

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

of document:	15234/1/16 REV 1 EU RESTRICTED
new status:	Public
Subject:	Operational Action Plan 2017 related to the EU crime priority H: "Firearms"

Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.

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Council of the European Union

**Brussels, 23 December 2016
(OR. en)**

**15234/1/16
REV 1**

RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED

**JAI 1060
COSI 225
ENFOPOL 478
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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	15219/16, 12065/4/13, 14858/1/15
Subject:	Operational Action Plan 2017 related to the EU crime priority H: "Firearms"

Delegations will find in annex the Operational Action Plan 2017 regarding the EU crime priority H: "Firearms", developed under the overall responsibility of **NOT DECLASSIFIED** as the driver for this OAP, which was agreed by COSI on 19 December 2016.

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Operational Action Plan 2017

Firearms

1. Aim

This Operational Action Plan (OAP) has been created within the framework of the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime[1]. This OAP corresponds to the following priority:

"To reduce the risk of firearms to the citizen including combating illicit trafficking in firearms"

This OAP contains a breakdown of all the operational actions that will be carried out during the year 2017 as the way to reach the various strategic goals chosen during the "MASP" workshop.

It also gives a general overview of the tasks and responsibilities of the Member States and the Agencies involved in the delivery of the plan.

2. Context

Any overlaps identified between OAPs will be the subject of careful management attention and coordination as described below (see end of paragraph 5.1).

3. Structure

The plan is essentially a coordination overview presenting the general outline of operational activities, rather than the specific detail of each. That detail will be found in the related activity documentation which is referenced within this plan. The activity documentation should include a description of the breakdown of the activity in "What, When, Where, Who and How" the activity will be carried out.

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[1]   15358/10

The Annex to the plan contains a table with all operational activities.

The table will facilitate:

- Cross-reference between different, but related, activities within the same priority

- Cross-reference between activities which also contribute to a different priority

- Reference to detailed project documentation for a given activity

- Cumulative progress reporting.

4. Management & Project Support

4.1 Management

Overall management responsibility for this OAP lies with the Drivers and Co-Drivers of each crime priority as identified by COSI.

Every individual operational activity of this OAP has a designated leader duly tasked and empowered for this role.

Management responsibility for each activity is clearly shown in the list of operational activities.

The management approach shall be in line with the EMPACT Terms of Reference[2].

4.2 Project support

In order to allow the Driver to focus on project management (of the common actions), and to reduce the national responsibility for overall EU coordination, Europol shall provide the project support for this OAP in line with the EMPACT Terms of Reference.

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[2] 14518/12

4.3   Information management

The Europol Analysis Work File AWF SOC shall be the primary means by which operational data emanating from the activities within this plan shall be processed. The Europol Information System may also be used where appropriate.

It is recommended that all operational information exchange, and progress reporting within the OAP shall be done using the SIENA (Secure Information Exchange Network Application) system which provides a secure and auditable means of communication between all competent authorities and Europol.

Anyway, based on experience during 4 years of development of EU Policy Cycle, it is essential to assure direct contact with national experts involved in the OAP. For that reason, they will provide their professional emails and mobiles, for a quick exchange of information related development of OAP, taking into account all operational data and restricted documents will be sent through SIENA.

Furthermore, all invitation letters and official documents related development of OAs will be sent using SIENA, allowing driver and driver´s team to put in copy professional emails of experts of MS supporting OAs[3]

5.   Methodology

5.1   Planning

This OAP has been developed by experts of **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.

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[3]Except when operational data or restricted documents are part of documents.

The OAP was validated by COSI on 19 December 2016, and the tasking responsibilities contained in the plan confirmed. That process has also identified any actions contained in this plan which are related to other plans, and vice versa, and these issues will be included in the agenda of the OAP kick-off meeting in January 2017 and will be managed by the driver in conjunction with the action leaders, participants and Europol, in cooperation with the drivers of the other pertinent OAPs involved.

5.2   Implementation

The activity will be implemented according to the breakdown of actions and timescales contained in the activity plan. The Driver will be the authority to execute or delegate the management/leadership of a specific action to the Action Leader, who then has the responsibility for initiating and reporting on each action to the Driver.

The action leaders will report to the driver and co-driver on a quarterly basis, and include each MS participant where the action is described as 'all participating'. This will allow the driver and co-driver to monitor the progress through 2017, acknowledge the successes and identify the challenges. It is expected that learning from this reporting process will influence the OAP's throughout the policy cycle.

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5.3   Monitoring and reporting

The templates include the means for recording results. Monitoring and reporting shall be done in line with the regime established by the Commission and using the template provided for the policy cycle reporting.

This regime for on-going monitoring & periodical reporting[4] should include:

- Progress and results within the individual operational activities, including targets and key performance indicators (KPIs) .

- Progress and results within the overall operational action plan, including the measurement of achievement as agreed at the MASPs meetings.

- Cross reporting between different strategic goals/OAP's as appropriate

These measures are particularly import for OAP 2017 and final implementation of Strategic Goals stated in MASP Firearms.

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[4]   Including possible reference to resources allocated and their use

5.4   Good practices

Experiences within the implementation of the OAP that provide examples of good (and bad) practices will be duly recorded. This will be a responsibility of the Driver to report them to the attention of the EMPACT Support Team and of the National EMPACT Coordinators for wider sharing.

Crime Priority H - Firearms - OAP 2017 - List of actions

Strategic Goal 1: To improve the information flow and the intelligence picture of the criminal use and the illicit trafficking of firearms from, to and within the EU at a strategic and operational level, by means of a coordinated collection and sharing of information, including on the extent and modus operandi of firearms crime, including on the internet, and connections to other crime areas.

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Strategic Goal 2: To strengthen cooperation between Member States, EU institutions and agencies, third countries, and other relevant external stakeholders in order to address vulnerabilities and enhance the opportunities for investigations and prosecutions; including a geographical approach relating, for example, to Western Balkans and Africa and taking account of regional firearms availability.

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Strategic Goal 3: To prioritise, develop and coordinate joint multidisciplinary operational activities and coordinate investigations and prosecutions against the criminal use of firearms and the illicit trafficking of firearms from, to and within the EU. Special focus should be put on the identified most vulnerable border points, the exploitation of legitimate business structures, the use of corruption and confiscation of criminal assets.

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Strategic Goal 4: To enhance prevention capabilities by building awareness, cooperation and sharing best practices and expertise amongst all stakeholders. Particular emphasis should be given to training and to enhance the use of existing mechanisms and tools at national, EU and international level.

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Strategic Goal 5: To evaluate and improve control mechanisms, with a view to addressing legal loop holes and vulnerabilities and enhancing the opportunities to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trafficking of firearms.

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