



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 27 February 2014  
(OR. en)**

**6861/14**

**JAI 115  
ENFOCUSTOM 27**

## **OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 20 February 2014  
To: Customs Cooperation Working Party  
Subject: Summary of discussions

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

The agenda was adopted as outlined in doc. **CM 1348/1/14 REV 1**, with the deletion of the following agenda items :

- 8. "Report from the Conference: The feasibility of a European system of Border Guards"
- 3a. "Action 7.3: To examine the working/investigative techniques applied by customs and other law enforcement authorities to combat customs related crime, including organized crime, through the Internet, and to explore the current situation regarding the existence of customs specialized units dealing with those crimes and to ensure follow-up to action 5.2"
- 4. "Advancing cooperation between CCWP and EMPACT (UK)"

and with the addition of an information item by COM under AOB.

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

The Presidency informed the CCWP delegates of the relevant upcoming meetings, including the High-Level Seminar on Customs Governance to be held in Athens on 20-21 March 2014, as well as of work of the Customs Union Group.

## **3. The Seventh Action Plan (January 2014 – December 2015), reflective of the EU Policy Cycle**

The Presidency briefed the CCWP delegates on the status of individual actions of the 7th Action Plan of the CCWP, updating information set out in doc. DS 1048/14. Mandates for actions 7.1 and 7.7 had been approved by written procedure in the follow up to the January CCWP plenary meeting. Draft mandates for remaining actions (7.2 and 7.3) would be presented in the plenary meeting of the CCWP in March.

### **a) Mandates to project groups (for adoption):**

**Action 7.4 “Customs law enforcement aspects of regime 42 frauds, which are associated with VAT fraud and organized crime. To identify tools for information exchange and analyse problems arising from enforcing the existing legal framework”**

The EL delegation presented the revised mandate as outlined in doc. 17776/2/13 REV 2 ENFOCUSTOM 194 UD 353 COSI 173. The delegations adopted the mandate with two additional modifications proposed by the Presidency based on feedback received from the MS.

**Action 7.9 “To explore the available training possibilities for customs law enforcement officials at EU level and to examine the areas in which such training does not exist but would be required”**

The HU delegation presented the draft mandate as set out in doc. 5752/14 ENFOCUSTOM 8 ENFOPOL 22 COSI 10, and invited further MS to join the project group. COM noted that CEPOL activities should be taken into account, and presented several trainings open to participation of customs officers. The Presidency invited the delegations to provide their comments in writing by 28 February 2014. A revised version of the draft mandate reflecting the comments would be sent for adoption by written procedure.

**b) Update on ongoing Action 7.8 “To improve the exchange of information and intelligence between Central Coordination Units as well as the practical implementation of mutual assistance and cooperation.”**

The IT delegation provided an update on this action, which is on-going from the 6<sup>th</sup> Action Plan (doc. 10493/13 ENFOCUSTOM 104), and briefed delegations on the programme and outcomes of the 6th meeting of the heads of Central Coordinating Units (CCUs) held under the LT chairmanship, as well as of main objectives for the Italian chairmanship in 2014.

**4. EU Policy Cycle: OAPs implementing the EU Policy Cycle priorities for serious international organized crime: update on the results of kick off meetings (EUROPOL)**

The Europol representative presented the opportunity for coordination and synergies between the Operational Action Plans (OAPs) and CCWP's 7th AP and encouraged participation of leaders of OAPs and 7th AP actions in each other's activities. Europol confirmed that CCWP's 7th AP action leaders will be invited to the relevant activities under OAPs.

**5. Europol visit to OLAF's operations room. Information exchange on technical specifications, operational requirements and practical usage of the POCU. Nomination of one expert from MS to participate.**

The OLAF representative briefly presented the upcoming visit by Europol representatives to OLAF's operations room, and invited MS to nominate an expert to join the exchange.

## **6. Future role of the CCWP: follow up on the discussion paper on the role of the CCWP Experts Group in the implementation of the strategy for future law enforcement cooperation**

The Presidency presented the discussion paper, as set out in doc. 5754/14 ENFOCUSTOM 9 ENFOPOL 34 COSI 15. The document was prepared as a follow-up to the initial discussion paper presented in the CCWP plenary meeting on 21 January 2014 (doc. DS 2079/13) and aimed to provide clarifications on three issues raised in the response from the MS: new structure of task forces, relationship between the CCWP plenary and experts group, and issue of human and financial resources. 17 MS took part in the debate - generally supporting the objectives of the Presidency proposal and pointing to various issues that require further clarity or lack details. The High Level Seminar on Customs Governance (20-21 March 2014) is expected to provide further feedback into the continued discussions on the issue in the March CCWP meeting. The Presidency invited the MS to provide further comments in writing by 10 March 2014.

## **7. Revision of the Strategic Objectives of Joint Customs Operations**

The Presidency presented the proposal (doc. DS 1038/14) to maintain the strategic objectives as currently set out in the Guide for JCOs (doc. 11984/13 ENFOCUSTOM 112) as they reflect the priorities of the strategy for the future custom law enforcement co-operation and the EU Policy Cycle, follow multi-agency approach and include operational aspects and describe expected results of JCOs. The Presidency invited the MS to provide further comments in writing by 28 February 2014.

## **8. AOB**

COM presented the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the EP on the EU approach against Wildlife Trafficking (doc. 6351/14 ENV 126 JAI 78 CRIMORG 9 RELEX 112 DEVGEN 23). The Presidency recalled in this context the action 7.10 of the 7th Action Plan of the CCWP (doc. 5808/14 ENFOCUSTOM 11 COSI 9 ENFOPOL 19 ENV 75), which deals with the fight against environmental crime.