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**NOTE**

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From:	Presidency
To:	Working Party on Information Exchange and Data Protection (DAPIX)
No. prev. doc.:	10128/16; 5328/17
Subject:	Prüm Decisions - The establishment of best practices applicable to Prüm cooperation

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Action 6 of the "Action plan on the way forward in view of the creation of a European Forensic Science Area" (10128/16) aims at the full implementation of the "Prüm Decisions" and the improvement of forensic data quality exchanged among all Member States. The Working Party on Information Exchange and Data Protection (DAPIX) was tasked with the planning of actions to reach these objectives.

As a follow-up, the Maltese Presidency suggested (5328/17) to establish a catalogue of best practices and recommendations specific to Prüm data exchange. Such catalogue should compile a list of best practices and recommendations in one document, which Member States can use as a point of reference when implementing the "Prüm Decisions". The catalogue shall be designed to address the common and frequent practical occurrences experienced by practitioners, and the difficulties that may be encountered during the implementation of the "Prüm Decisions". Furthermore, such tool shall provide practitioners with practical operational support and guidance, and it shall also serve to maximise and optimise the use of the Prüm data exchange mechanism in the best possible way.

DAPIX delegations discussed at the meeting of 6 February 2017 the best way forward regarding the establishment of best practices and recommendations applicable to the Prüm information exchange. The options proposed by the Presidency were either to compile a completely new catalogue specific to Prüm, or to incorporate the best practices and recommendations into the Schengen Catalogue on Police Cooperation or the Manual on Law Enforcement Exchange. Delegations welcomed the Presidency's initiative to establish a catalogue and preferred to establish a separate Prüm catalogue.

Taking this into account, the Presidency recommended to DAPIX on 4 April 2017 the creation of a drafting group, which would develop structure and content of the catalogue. Given that such catalogue requires input from various Member States, the Presidency suggested that the members of such a group should be DAPIX delegates. This format should facilitate a common process whereby the Member States could provide their input and expertise for the drafting of a comprehensive catalogue. To this end, the group should function as an interface for exchanging national best practices to strengthen and streamline information exchange. The ensuring findings and conclusions of this group will be presented to DAPIX, as appropriate.

In view of the above, the Presidency invites Member States to agree upon:

- the establishment of a drafting group responsible for the compilation of a catalogue of best practices and recommendations;
- the group being composed of interested national experts from within DAPIX.

***Member States are invited to send their comments and their possible readiness to participate in the Group by 19 May 2017 to [dapix.mhas@gov.mt](mailto:dapix.mhas@gov.mt) and [dapix@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:dapix@consilium.europa.eu).***