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Delegations will find in the annex the follow-up report to the Council conclusions on the administrative approach to prevent and fight serious and organised crime, adopted by the Council on 9 June 2016.

Follow-up of Council conclusions on the Administrative approach

Introduction

During the Dutch Presidency of the Council of the EU, on 9 June 2016, the Justice and Home Affairs Ministers adopted the Council conclusions on the administrative approach to prevent and fight serious and organised crime ¹ (hereinafter referred to as “Council conclusions on administrative approach”). In accordance with these Council conclusions, the Presidency is invited to report to the Council on the progress of EU actions on the development of the administrative approach. In line with this, the Presidency together with the Dutch delegation, have prepared this document to provide an update on the activities undertaken during the past year. It focuses on:

- A pilot project in the Euregion Meuse-Rhine;
- The establishment of a Secretariat for the Informal Network on the Administrative Approach linked to the European Union Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN); and
- The outline of a future multi-annual work programme for the Informal Network.

Follow-up activities

The following activities are undertaken as a follow-up of the Council conclusions:

Pilot project on a Multi-agency information and expertise centre in Euregion Meuse-Rhine

In accordance with the Council conclusions, Member States, the Commission and Europol are called upon to stimulate, support and facilitate activities concerning cross-border multi-agency cooperation with administrative and law enforcement authorities and to further develop cross-border projects, such as a Benelux pilot in the Euregion Meuse-Rhine.

¹ 9 June 2016, doc. 9935/16.

In addition, the Benelux progress report ‘Tackling Crime Together’ calls upon the setting up of a pilot project to introduce an International Intelligence and Expertise Centre on the Administrative Approach in the Euregion Meuse-Rhine.

In line with the above, a project plan is currently being drafted to develop a cross border pilot project on the creation of a Multi-Agency Information and Expertise Centre. The project shall contribute to the identification of opportunities and obstacles which hinder the information exchange for administrative purposes in cross-border cases. It will also address the institutional framework allowing for such an exchange, whilst respecting privacy and data protection concerns. In addition, it can deliver ‘case load’ to serve as input for possible future adjustment and/or extension of current bilateral and EU instruments for information exchange for administrative purposes.

The project will have a duration of three years and is expected to start once a decision on the grant is taken by the Commission.

Periodic updates as well as the outcomes of this project will be disseminated and reported to other Member States and EU institutions through both the channels of the Informal Network on the Administrative Approach, as well as the Standing Committee on Internal Security (COSI). At the end of the project, an evaluation will be carried out and a suggestion will be made regarding the possibility of extending the pilot to other Member States and Europol.

Secretariat support for the Informal Network

As stated in the Council conclusions, Member States and the Commission are called upon to establish a separate and independent secretariat support for the Informal Network, linked to the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN). The secretariat is amongst others tasked to draw up the Work Programme of the Informal Network and to prepare the meetings of the Informal Network and its core group meetings. Furthermore, it shall be responsible for supporting the activities of the Informal Network as laid down in the Work Programme and work in close cooperation with the secretariat of the EUCPN. It is to be noted that work is still ongoing on the establishment of the Secretariat.

Work Programme Informal Network 2018-2020

The first Multi–Annual Work Programme 2015-2017 for the Informal Network was adopted during the Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The scope of such Work Programme is to provide a longer term activity plan for the EU activities related to the administrative approach. A new Work Programme for the period of 2018-2020 is currently being drafted, which will be submitted for approval to the Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) before the end of 2017. The aims and activities of the new Work Programme will reflect on and elaborate upon the calls made in the Council conclusions. It will amongst others contain the following actions:

- Stimulate the use of administrative instruments, in addition to the criminal justice-based approach, to prevent and fight serious and organized crime within the actions agreed in the Multi-Annual Strategic Plans (MASPs) and the annual Operational Action Plans (OAPs) for each priority in the EU policy cycle.
- Establish operational cross border projects with multi-agency cooperation in order to identify opportunities and obstacles for information exchange for administrative purposes in cross border cases.

- Carry out academic research in order to identify opportunities and obstacles for cross-border information exchange for administrative purposes, with the aim to revise and extend the current EU instruments for the purpose of an administrative approach².
- Strengthen the position of local authorities (with a focus on cities) within the JHA framework.

Conclusions

The above activities aim to contribute to the further development of the administrative approach at the EU level as laid down in the Council conclusions on the Administrative Approach to prevent and fight serious and organised crime. The next follow-up document, at the very latest to be issued in June 2019, will report on the progress of these activities as well as other activities undertaken as a follow-up to the Council conclusions.

² Follow-up to recommendations ISEC funded Study ‘Administrative measures to prevent and tackle crime’.