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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 16 May 2017
To: Delegations

Subject: Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security
(COSI)

MIXED COMMITTEE

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda set out in 9157/17 was adopted with the addition of two information items by Cyprus and the Commission under the item "Any other business".

2. Information from the Presidency

The Presidency informed the Committee on the draft agenda for the upcoming JHA Senior Officials meeting EU - OIPC Interpol on 23 June 2017 as set out in 9061/17. The Commission and EEAS representatives briefly presented the results of a senior level meeting between the Commission, the EEAS and Interpol on 12 May 2017. The meeting, which took place further to the exchange of letters between the three parties, aimed at consolidating, streamlining and developing their cooperation. The meeting discussed how to leverage Interpol's capacity building in third countries and the role of the EU delegations, in particular in Tunisia and Niger in the field of Counter Terrorism and migrant smuggling.

The Presidency thanked delegations for the agreement which was reached on the draft Council conclusions on setting the EU's priorities for the 2018 - 2021 Policy Cycle. These conclusions would be submitted to the Council on 18 May 2017 for adoption.

Europol provided information on the large scale ransomware cyber attack of 12 May 2017 which was of an unprecedented nature.

3. Draft Council conclusions recommending security checks in case of irregular migration: discussion

Delegations welcomed the above-mentioned draft Council conclusions set out in 9039/17. Comments were made on the potential links between terrorism and irregular migratory movements and the difficulties for some delegations to access certain databases. Some delegations also suggesting adding databases to the list such as EURODAC and the Visa Information System (VIS).

The Presidency invited delegations to send their comments by 18 May 2017 on the basis of which a revised version would be prepared for discussion at the COSI Support Group on 22 May 2017.

4. Commission recommendation on proportionate police checks and police cooperation in the Schengen area: presentation by the Commission and discussion

The Committee was informed by the Commission about its recommendation on proportionate police checks and police cooperation in the Schengen area, as set out in 8899/17 and had an initial exchange of views on the topic. Some delegations stated that they could agree with some of the main elements of the recommendation although certain topics would require further discussion. The French delegation would have preferred going further and wondered about the possibility to revise the Schengen Borders Code. The Polish and Czech delegations voiced some doubts and partial disagreements with some elements of the recommendation.

The Presidency concluded that it would prepare a discussion paper for the next COSI meeting on 20 June 2017 with a view to having a more comprehensive and in-depth discussion.

5. Information exchange and interoperability¹

- Final report of the High Level Expert Group on information systems and interoperability: Presentation by the Commission and discussion

The Committee took note of a presentation by the Commission of the final report of the High-Level Expert Group set out in 8434/1/17 REV 1, and discussed certain recommendations by the High-Level Expert Group relating to interoperability and the possible way forward. Many Member States intervened to welcome the report and its recommendations, and also spoke in favour of a Friends of Presidency (FOP) format to follow-up on the topic of interoperability under strategic guidance by COSI. They also agreed that the Roadmap should incorporate the recommendations made by the Expert Group and become a single tool of reference on interoperability.

- Roadmap to enhance information exchange and information management including interoperability solutions in the Justice and Home Affairs area: - Second implementation report: presentation by the Presidency

The Committee also took note of the second Roadmap implementation report set out in 8433/17, which will be submitted to Coreper and the Council for it to be taken note of.

6. Enhancing the role of COSI

The Presidency noted large support for its ideas on enhancing the role of COSI, as set out in 8900/17, which was considered as an accurate reflection of the discussions in Malta at the informal COSI. The PL delegation underlined the necessity of adopting a flexible approach as the COSI agenda should respond to the changing character of threats and unexpected events. The COSI recommendations should be followed by concrete actions. Various delegations also welcomed the idea of tasking specific Working Parties. The EE delegation, supported by the UK delegation, suggested working in small ad hoc groups to prepare specific issues for discussion in COSI.

The Commission representative fully endorsed the Presidency paper and welcomed the proposal for topical discussions. He suggested discussing the follow-up to the HLEG, the Commission recommendation on proportionate police checks and the results of the comprehensive assessment.

¹ Exceptionally in the presence of the Schengen Associated States.

7. Any other business

a) Cyprus Police International Conference “Major Policies in Dealing with Organised Crime and Corruption: European and International Dimensions”

The Cyprus delegation informed the Committee about the second " Cyprus Police International Conference “Major Policies in Dealing with Organised Crime and Corruption: European and International Dimensions”, which would be held in Nicosia 22 and 23 June 2017.

b) Aviation security

At the request of the Spanish delegation, the Commission informed on EU-measures taken in connection with the recently introduced US security procedures for devices larger than a smartphone, affecting ten countries outside the EU.

Reportedly similar measures could be introduced for departure airports within the EU, and for this reason Commissioners Avramopoulos and Bulc on 9 May had sent a letter to the US departments of Homeland Security and Transportation. A meeting would be held on 17 May 2017 in Brussels involving the deputy secretary of the Homeland Security and two Commissioners to discuss among others in detail the threat assessments leading to the ban.

Prior to that meeting, the Commission would brief the Terrorism Working Party (TWP) delegates at the TWP meeting on 17 May 2017 asking for possible contributions, and the Aviation Security Committee (AVSEC) will have a meeting in Borschette in preparation for the afternoon's meeting.

A debriefing would take place in Borschette on 18 May 2017.