



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 10 April 2014

8781/14

GENVAL 22

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of:	Working Party on General Matters, including Evaluations (GENVAL)
on:	1 April 2014
Subject:	Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as set out in CM 2035/14 was adopted.

2. Sixth round of mutual evaluations - Adoption of the Report of the United Kingdom

15844/1/13 REV 1 GENVAL 65 EUROJUST 106 RESTREINT UE

Following the discussion held at the previous GENVAL meeting, the draft report was adopted by the Working Party.

3. Sixth round of mutual evaluations - Discussion of the Report of Germany

6996/14 GENVAL 12 EUROJUST 48 RESTREINT UE

The evaluation team presented the content of the draft report and the ensuing conclusions and recommendations. The German delegation commented on the findings of the evaluation team and replied to the questions asked by other delegations.

4. Sixth round of mutual evaluations - Discussion of the Report of Latvia

6998/14 GENVAL 14 EUROJUST 50 RESTREINT UE

The evaluation team presented the content of the draft report and the ensuing conclusions and recommendations. The Latvian delegation welcomed the findings of the evaluation team and replied to the questions asked by other delegations.

5. Seventh round of Mutual Evaluation (Cybercrime)

- order of visits and observers;
7940/14 GENVAL 20 CYBER 16 (to be issued)
- state of play of experts nominations

Further to written submissions from delegations on their preferences, a provisional planning for the order of visits indicating the month of the visits had been circulated by the Secretariat. First Member State to be evaluated in autumn this year will be France, followed by the UK and Netherlands. Only Austria flagged difficulties to arrange a visit in the envisaged time due to organisational matters. Subject to possible adjustment in this respect the finalised order of visits will be submitted to delegations. The composition of the evaluation teams in relation to the observers was approved. It was suggested that ENISA should also participate in the visits alongside the Commission, Europol and Eurojust.

Approximately half of the Member States have nominated experts and sent the names to the Council Secretariat. The remaining Member States were invited to send in their nominations without further delay.

6. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the EU Approach against Wildlife Trafficking

- presentation by the Commission
6351/14 ENV 126 JAI 78 CRIMORG 9 RELEX 112 DEVGEN 23

The Commission presented its recent communication of 7 February 2014 on the EU Approach against Wildlife Trafficking. An Expert Conference on the EU Approach against Wildlife Trafficking will take place in Brussels on 10-11 April 2014, and delegations were encouraged to participate.

**7. Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament
EU Anti-Corruption report**

6113/14 JAI 61 GENVAL 6

- presentation by the Commission;
- exchange of views

First substantive discussion on the report in the Council preparatory bodies. In principle delegations welcomed the report as a positive initiative, but the majority flagged concerns as regards the methodology used by the Commission, in particular in terms of the level of transparency and involvement of the Member States in the fact-finding stage of the process. A number of delegations voiced criticism related to the fact that the chapter on EU institutions had been left out of the report and linked this to the need for EU to accede to GRECO as soon as possible.

IT requested the issue to be discussed at CATS level. This was supported by a number of other delegations. Specific requests were also made to discuss the report at Council level in order to give Ministers opportunity to express their views on the findings presented in report and to adopt Council conclusions in June.

The Presidency informed that the report will be discussed in CATS on 25 April.

8. Participation of the European Union in the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)

- update by the Commission

The Commission informed that it intended to develop a mandate in the near future, based on a "one stage approach" with a view to a full membership of the EU to GRECO. This had also been announced in a GRECO plenary in the last week of March this year. France expressed hope for "fast progress" for the preparation of this draft mandate that was envisaged by the Stockholm programme.

9. Information on the activities of the Informal Network of Contact Points on the administrative approach to prevent and fight against crime.

- presentation by the chairman of the informal network

A member of the network gave an update of its activities. The network meets every six months to share experiences on the benefits of a multidisciplinary approach to organised crime. Next meeting will take place in Brussels on 5 June 2014. An updated EU Handbook on Complementary Approaches and Actions to Prevent and Disrupt Organised Crime, published in December 2013 and translated into all languages is available.

10. Information on activities to strengthen the EU and its Member States engagement in combating impunity for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes

- presentation by the Head of the Genocide Network Secretariat

The Head of the Genocide Network Secretariat gave a brief update on the network's most recent activities. Within this network composed by prosecutors and investigators appointed by Member States, information is exchanged on how to improve investigation and prosecution in these often very complex cases. A number of delegations expressed their renewed support for the work done by the secretariat and for a strengthened effort to combat impunity for serious international crimes within EU Member States in the form of a strategy or an action plan. The network will meet next time on 21-22 May 2014. The first day open day session include Representatives of the International Criminal Court and international tribunals as well as relevant human rights organization, Interpol and the ICRC. The second day being will be Member States only and be devoted to the exchange of information between contact points in ongoing cases.

11. AOB

- there were no points raised under AOB.
