



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 25 November 2013
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	15 November 2013
To:	Terrorism Working Party
Subject:	Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as outlined in doc. CM 5109/13.

2. Information by the Presidency

The Presidency provided some update on the state of play of the workstream on foreign fighters. Several Member States had replied to the questionnaire circulated after the October meeting (CM 4763/13). A preliminary analysis of the replies highlighted some general trends. Foreign fighters and returnees was an issue of increasing relevance within the EU. The motivations for travelling were broadly similar across the Member States that replied. While some Member States had taken preventive measures to counter the phenomenon, more could be done in this field. However, restricting travel possibilities could give rise to potential legal issues. The Chair underlined that closer cooperation among Member States and sharing of best practices could contribute to reduce the threat. PNR would also be a useful tool.

The Chair informed the group that the workshop to draft the Operational Action Plan on firearms, in the framework of the policy cycle 2014-2017, had been held in the Hague on 24 - 25 October. A number of actions included in the OAP were in line with the conclusions of the discussion of the TWP on firearms held in the October meeting. According to experts, 3D printers will become an even greater risk in the future. The OAP would be submitted to the National Impact Coordinators' (NEC) meeting on 18 and 19 November with a view to its approval by COSI SG and COSI.

Furthermore, the Chair provided some information on the joint COSI/PSC meeting scheduled on 21 November. Foreign fighters would be on the agenda and the CTC would present his report (doc. 15955/13) on the implementation of the measures agreed in June by the Council. The EEAS had also circulated a document on the possible external action to counter the threat (doc. 16191/13). The conclusions of the discussions in TWP in September and October on foreign fighters and the establishment of the workstream would also feed into the debate in COSI/PSC. Foreign fighters would also be on the agenda of the Council in December.

Finally, the Presidency informed delegates about the discussion on the future of COSI held in the COSI SG on 14 November.

3. Incidents of significant interest - Information from Member States

Certain Member States highlighted some incidents which happened in their countries since the last meeting.

4. Interactions between Islamist radicalisation and other forms of extremism in Europe - Presentation by IntCen (EU CONFIDENTIAL)

A representative of IntCen made a classified presentation.

5. COM update on counter-radicalisation work

The Commission provided an update of ongoing work on counter-radicalisation. The RAN had collected a set of good practices from various practitioners and was preparing a handbook or repository that could be put online in January. The communication was in its final stages and would be published early to mid-January.

6. Implementation of measures on foreign fighters and returnees from a counter-terrorism perspective, in particular with regard to Syria - Presentation by the CTC

The CTC presented his report (doc. 15995/13) on the implementation of the measures agreed by the Council in June and highlighted progress and suggestions for further action on six main areas: situational awareness, prevention of radicalisation, identification of travellers and travel patterns, returnees, criminal justice response, and cooperation with third countries. The report would be presented also to COSI and PSC on 21 November. A shorter paper would then be produced for the Ministers to discuss the issue at the Council meeting on 5/6 December.

Delegations welcomed the report and its proposals, while underlining that the dossier presented sensitive operational issues that fell under national competences, and that initiatives at EU level had to be considered in terms of their added value also in view of limited national resources. It would be for Ministers to discuss the report and decide on priorities. FR recalled the work it was leading on SIS II under the workstream on foreign fighters and announced further information on progress at the January meeting. A workshop was also being prepared. UK gave an update on the work it was conducting on communication; a practical guide could be distributed in January.

7. Information by the upcoming Greek Presidency

The incoming Hellenic Presidency presented its programme for the next semester. The priorities of the incoming Presidency would build on the work carried out by the current Presidency and include the review of the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism, the workstream on foreign fighters, terrorism and border security, the situation in the Western Balkans and its implications for the terrorist threat within the EU, anarchist terrorism and the financing of terrorism. The incoming Presidency was also working very closely with those Member States that would hold the Presidency in subsequent semesters.

8. Information on counter-terrorism activities

– Commission

The Commission provided information on the fifth EU-US seminar on explosives held in Washington on 7 November and organised with FBI. The seminar had assessed progress made since the last meeting and had identified a clear need to harmonise research and detection standards. It had also identified other opportunities for cooperation.

The Commission also announced that in spring 2014 it would table a communication or policy paper on CBRN IED, building on the practical work, assessment and consultation work carried out with MS. The paper was meant to provide a framework for practical cooperation among experts on issues where action at EU level appeared to be appropriate, in the areas of research, possible standards when deemed useful, awareness raising and detection.

Furthermore, the Commission provided information on a recent seminar on critical infrastructure. Four areas for improved cooperation and practical work had been identified, namely interdependencies, risk management policies, preparedness and response. With regard to aviation security, DG MOVE was reassessing the passenger check points at airports in the EU. An analytical document would be ready by the end of November and would identify risk scenarios to civil aviation in Europe, with a view to better identify risk mitigation policies.

On foreign fighters, the Commission was working on a risk assessment as requested by the Council in March. Delegations highlighted that it was essential that the Commission would concentrate its efforts on measures to support Member States within its competences. The work carried out by the Commission on radicalisation and recruitment provided a good example.

Finally, with regard to the report on the NSA surveillance programme, the Commission would adopt in late November a package of documents taking stock of the situation, including a report on the added value and efficiency of the TFTP. A document on the feasibility of an EU TFTS was also being prepared.

– **Europol**

A representative of Europol provided information on upcoming expert meetings on various subjects. It encouraged delegations to provide contributions on foreign fighters.

9. AOB

There was no item for discussion under AOB.