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## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 9 September 2014  
To: Terrorism Working Party  
Subject: Summary of discussions

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### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in document CM 3743/14.

### 2. Information by the Presidency

The Presidency recalled the Conclusions of the European Council of 30 August 2014 (163/14) which invited the Council to accelerate the implementation of the measures regarding foreign fighters. The European Council would come back to the issue at its meeting in December.

Furthermore, the Presidency drew the attention of the Group to the conclusions of the informal meeting of Interior Ministers most concerned by the question of "Foreign Fighters in Syria", held in Milan on 7 July 2014 (12757/14 EU RESTRICTED) and to the Findings of the questionnaire on Enhancing Multinational Ad Hoc Teams (12920/14).

Delegations were also reminded of the questionnaire regarding the use of malicious means/methods to carry out acts of terrorism (CM 3624/14), the replies to which should be sent before 18 September, and of the upcoming Seminar to take place in Rome on 2-3 October that will deal with this topic. The deadline for registration to the Seminar is on 15 September 2014.

### **3. Incidents of significant interest - Information from Member States**

A number of delegations reported on recent terrorism-related incidents, operations and important arrests which took place since the last TWP meeting in their respective countries.

### **4. EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism - Draft Guidelines**

The Group examined the revised version of the draft Guidelines (DS 1163/6/14 REV 6), and approved the text with a number of amendments.

A silence procedure would be initiated on the revised version of the document that would take account of these changes. Should there be no comments on the document, the draft Guidelines would be submitted to Coreper/Council for approval.

### **5. Six-monthly Islamist and non-Islamist Threat Assessments**

Delegations took note of the classified presentations given by IntCen representatives regarding the terrorist threats to Europe.

### **6. Terrorist use of explosives in Europe**

The representative of IntCen made a presentation (EU CONFIDENTIAL) on how different explosive materials can be used by terrorists.

The representative of the Commission drew the attention of the Group to the entry into force, on 2 September 2014, of the Regulation 98/2013 on the marketing and use of explosives precursors which establishes a stricter regulatory regime for high-risk chemical explosives precursors, in order to reduce their accessibility to the general public.

## **7. Possible initiatives to strengthen the counter terrorism capabilities of Western Balkans countries**

As a follow-up to the TWP meeting in July, the SI delegation updated the meeting on the state of play of the initiative, the aim of which is to further harmonise national capacities of WB countries notably in the field of prevention of radicalisation and recruitment. Six Member States as well as COM and CTC have been involved so far, but other delegations were also invited to participate. The implementation of international and EU legal standards and practices as well as recommendations of the peer evaluation on WB countries (final report of 2010) will be looked at. Activities regarding foreign fighters are also planned, including organising a workshop. The initiative should have a final shape by mid-October when a roadmap should be finalised and presented to the TWP. The necessity to take into account and build on other ongoing initiatives in order to avoid overlaps was particularly stressed.

The Presidency invited the delegations involved to present a working document to the TWP and suggested formalising the initiative in an informal group. The TWP would come back to the initiative at its next meeting.

## **8. Information on counter-terrorism activities**

### – CTC

The representative of the CTC office drew the attention of delegations to the recent report of the CTC on the implementation of the revised Strategy on Terrorist Financing (12243/14). The report would be presented to the Group in detail at one of the next meetings, together with the implementation report on the EU CT Strategy.

### – Commission

The Commission representative reminded the Group of the following planned events:

- informal meeting between the EU Interior Ministers and representatives of internet industry to discuss issues in relation to online communication on 8 October in Luxembourg;
- conference on the second Internal Security Strategy planned for 29 September 2014. One of the panels of the conference will deal with CT-related issues;
- the launch of the fifth round of air cargo risk assessment; a meeting will take place in Brussels on 30 September.

Furthermore, the Group was informed of the recent adoption by the Commission of the report on the implementation of the Framework decision on combating terrorism (13040/14 + ADD 1). The Presidency noted that the report should be discussed more in detail and would be put on the agenda of the next TWP meeting.

– Europol

The representative of Europol mentioned a number of ongoing activities of Europol, mostly focusing on preventing radicalisation and recruitment and the phenomenon of foreign fighters.

– EEAS

The EEAS representative referred to the following planned events:

- Hedayah Centre of Excellence on CVE: Steering Board Meeting, 11 September 2014 in Abu Dhabi;
- International Meeting in Paris on the fight against ISIS/IS and the security situation in Iraq, 15 September 2014;
- EU-Morocco meeting on FTF in Rabat, 16 September 2014;
- Senior Officials meeting in preparation of UN GA and special UNSC session (25 September 2014) in Rome, 17 September 2014;
- GCTF Ministerial and Coordination Committee meetings, New York (see EEAS COREU of 8 September);
- Western Balkans Counter Radicalisation workshop, 16-17 October 2014, exact location tbd;
- EU-UN CT political dialogue in Brussels, 20 October 2014;
- UN CT conference in Brussels, 21-22 October;
- Other: Work on extensive EU document regarding EU efforts against IS/FTF in progress; follow-up to scoping missions to Syria's neighbouring countries minted into concrete FPI project proposals which are currently discussed.

## **9. Preventing the phenomenon of isolated actors with a political motivation**

Delegations took note of and discussed the following presentations

- by an FBI expert on Nidal Malik Hasan's shooting in Fort Hood in November 2009;
- by the CTC office on preventing the phenomenon of isolated actors with a political motivation;
- by a DE expert on a study on potentially violent loners with a terrorist motivation;
- by a NO expert on the Norwegian efforts to prevent solo-terrorism following the Breivik case;

- by a FR expert on the French experience with isolated actors;
- by a SE expert on the Swedish way of dealing with the phenomenon;
- by an IT expert on terrorist cases motivated by grievances;
- and by a NL expert on a project Potentially Violent Loners.

In the presentations, speakers elaborated on a number of cases of isolated actors who carried out terrorist attacks. Terrorist isolated actors were generally understood as extremists targeting the society they belong to or country they live in, who engage in solo and self-activated terrorist attacks. They include self-radicalised and self-trained individuals who use various modus operandi and may have very different political and ideological backgrounds. Even though they act alone, they are often influenced by terrorist organisations. The modus operandi is responsive to changes in the society. Because of the easy availability of extremist material online, the perpetrators get easily influenced on Internet and social media.

In the discussion that followed delegations agreed that it was difficult to outline a consistent profile of a lone actor, but there are certain common factors (sociological, ideological and psychological) which can be drawn from these cases. Perpetrators often have problems during socialisation and are prone to introversion. Decisive factors pushing individuals towards committing self-activated terrorist attack can also differ substantially, and can include social isolation, financial difficulties, psychological stress or drug and gambling dependence.

In spite of the fact that it is very difficult to prevent such isolated action, a number of policy measures were suggested

- raising awareness among front line professionals (police, school, mental health, local government, prison, probation, local government), to provide them with knowledge about worrying signs of potentially violent actors;
- limiting the access to potential dangerous means (guns, explosives, precursors etc.);
- improving follow-up structures after signals/reports by front line professionals.

It is also very important to improve cooperation and exchange of information between different partners, e.g. police and mental health care service, and constantly revise them. Need to invest more into research and establish close connectivity between its results and analysis was particularly stressed.

When trainings for frontline workers are being developed, specific attention should be paid to the issue of lone actors. Specific training also of community police officers seems very relevant in identifying and recognising pre-operational attack indicators.

The Presidency suggested drawing conclusions from the discussion and present them to the Council.

## **10. AOB**

No issues were raised under AOB.

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