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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 30 September 2014
To: Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security
(COSI)
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in doc. 13531/14 JAI 704 COSI 89 with the addition of information items by the Presidency as well as by the Hungarian and Estonian delegation.

2. Internal Security Strategy

The Commission informed the Committee about the outcome of the High Level Conference on the renewed Internal Security Strategy (ISS) which it jointly organised with the Presidency on 29 September. The Commission stated that the Conference was just one step in the process towards a renewed ISS which, in the Commission's opinion, should not be significantly different from the current ISS.

The Commission stated that the five strategic objectives of the Commission Communication on the ISS in action remained valid. In addition to these objectives, the Commission concluded from the Conference that it was necessary to continue reflections on the integration of fundamental rights in the ISS, the close relationship between internal and external security (e.g. visa liberalisation, foreign fighters), and the economic dimension of internal security.

The Commission considered that attention should also be given to a number of other issues, such as security-related research with the involvement of the private sector and the protection of victims. The future Communication would most probably also contain a mechanism for reporting to the Council and the European Parliament.

Delegations commented on the eleven principles, set out in doc. 13540/14, which the Presidency had identified on the basis of the findings of the Commission's Communication "Final Implementation Report of the EU Internal Security Strategy 2010 - 2014" (doc. 11260/14) and delegations' interventions at the informal COSI/CATS meeting on 22 July. In general, delegations confirmed that these principles should be reflected in the future Council conclusions on the renewed ISS. Various delegations highlighted the importance of illegal immigration and integrated border management, cybercrime and cybersecurity, PNR, training, foreign fighters, the EU Policy Cycle, the link between internal and external security, security-related research and new technologies, the multidisciplinary approach, strengthening public - private cooperation and the safeguarding of fundamental rights.

The Presidency welcomed delegations' comments and concluded that it would prepare draft Council conclusions which would first be discussed at the level of the COSI Support Group and then at the forthcoming COSI meeting.

3. EU Policy Cycle

– Follow-up on the implementation of the EU priorities in combatting serious and organised international crime

Europol presented the preliminary results of operation "Archimedes" which was from the start an endeavour driven by the Member States and their law enforcement authorities, coordinated and supported by Europol. Operation "Archimedes" was conducted between 15 and 23 September and involved more than 300 operational actions at more than 250 places across Europe and beyond, resulting in over 1.100 arrestees. All EU priorities featured in the list of operational actions undertaken and all EU Member States took part, as well as Interpol, Frontex, Eurojust and third partner countries (Colombia, Switzerland, Norway, Australia, US and Serbia).

The main objectives were to achieve a significant impact on serious and organised crime; to target major criminals and groups and their infrastructures, to improve cooperation between Member States, to use a multi-disciplinary approach, to make efficient use of resources and to raise awareness about EMPACT (Policy Cycle). A debriefing would be held in Rome at Europol's Management Board meeting on 1 and 2 October 2014 and an operational debriefing would be held on 3 October at Europol.

The Presidency explained that the COSI Chair and the Europol Director would inform the Council on 9 October 2014 of the results of and lessons learnt from the operation. Subsequently, a debate would be organised on the basis of doc. 13579/1/14, focusing on priority-setting and the better use and coordination of resources. One delegation regretted that COSI had not been involved in the preparation of the debate and would have preferred to wait for the outcome of the evaluation of the OAPs and the NEC meeting before going to the Council.

Frontex thanked Europol for the excellent cooperation and stated that they were exploring the possibility of participating in the future in other priorities beyond trafficking in human beings and illegal immigration.

– **Revised SOCTA methodology**

The Committee adopted the revised SOCTA methodology as set out in doc. 13200/1/14 REV 1. Europol pointed out that the revised methodology included a more condensed version of the questionnaire for the interim SOCTA. The latter was expected to be issued in the spring of 2015.

4. Draft Council conclusions on strengthening the use of Interpol's Stolen and Lost Travel Documents database

The Presidency presented the above-mentioned draft Council conclusions as set out in doc. 12707/4/14 REV 4 and underlined the importance of increasing the number of consultations of Interpol's database of Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) within the existing legal framework.

The Counter Terrorism Coordinator welcomed the Presidency's initiative and stressed the recent examples of foreign fighters returning to the EU. He referred to the upcoming discussion in Council on this topic, which would also address the need to increase the efficiency of border checks on EU citizens.

The Presidency noted that the Committee agreed to the draft Council conclusions as set out in doc. 12707/4/14 REV 4 which would be submitted to Coreper and Council (9 and 10 October 2014) for approval. The Presidency would present the conclusions at the Interpol General Assembly in Monaco in November 2014.

5. Draft report to the European Parliament and national Parliaments on the proceedings of the Standing Committee on operational cooperation on internal security for the period January 2013 - June 2014

The Committee agreed the draft report to the European Parliament and the national Parliaments on COSI's proceedings between January 2013 and June 2014, as set out in doc. 11872/2/14 REV 2. The report would be submitted to Coreper/Council.

6. Results of the European Police Chiefs Convention held at Europol on 24 and 25 September 2014

The Committee took note of Europol's presentation of the results of the European Police Chiefs Convention held at Europol on 24 and 25 September 2014 dealing with four main items: illegal migration, cybercrime, economic crime and counter-terrorism. A full report would be issued after it was circulated among the police chiefs who attended the Convention.

7. Threat assessment on Internet-facilitated organised crime (iOCTA)

COSI took note of the internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (iOCTA) as presented by Europol's Deputy Director. The iOCTA was published on Europol's website on 29 September 2014 and identifies Crime-as-a-Service and anonymisation as important factors in cybercrime.

8. Any other business:

- The Netherlands delegation briefly referred to its handbook of best practices of multidisciplinary cooperation against trafficking in human beings based on the discussions held during the conference Putting Rantsev into Practice held on 16-18 April 2013. The best practices describe examples of multidisciplinary cooperation, examples of actions that can be taken by traditional partners in the fight against THB and actions that could be taken by some more unusual partners.

- The Hungarian delegation informed the Committee that all CEPOL staff had now moved to its new seat in Budapest and CEPOL would officially re-open on 1 October 2014. An official opening event would take place on 6 November and invitations would be sent on 1 October.
 - The Presidency stated that a policy debate would be held on foreign fighters at the next JHA Council, based on a Presidency paper. The Presidency asked delegations to support its initiative to set up multinational ad hoc teams.
 - The Estonian delegation drew delegations' attention to the recent abduction of an Estonian police officer by Russia.
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