



Council of the  
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COSI 139

## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 10 November 2014  
To: Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security  
(COSI)  
Subject: Summary of discussions

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### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in doc. 15086/14 JAI 837 COSI 108, with the addition of one item matter under AOB at the request of the Polish delegation.

### 2. Draft Council Conclusions on the renewed Internal Security Strategy

The Committee reached agreement on the draft Council conclusions on the development of a renewed Internal Security Strategy, as set out in doc. 14186/6/14 REV 6 JAI 767, subject to Danish and United Kingdom scrutiny reservations.

### **3. Foreign fighters: implementation of specific measures foreseen under items 9 and 10 of the road map**

The UK presented its paper on Advanced Passenger Information (API) (DS 1335/14), highlighting the need for an EU legal framework governing the provision of API data on intra-EEA routes.

Delegations recognised the importance of API but preferred to wait for the outcome of the negotiations with the European Parliament on PNR. Some delegations also stated that using API on intra-Schengen flights would require further examination.

Interpol presented its Fusion Task Force (FTF) as set out in DS 1480/14 and called for Member States' support.

Some delegations pointed out that synergies should be explored with other existing channels such as Europol's Focal Point on "Travellers".

### **4. Radicalisation to terrorism: joint presentation by the Presidency and the Austrian delegation**

The Presidency and the Austrian delegation made a joint presentation on Italy's and Austria's responses to foreign fighters and Islamist extremism with particular regard to the Western Balkans. They emphasised the need for a threefold European approach comprising "shaping, preventing and reacting". The measures under each of these areas should be implemented simultaneously by both the Member States and the EU.

The Presidency concluded that it would continue to give special attention to counter-terrorism issues in COSI.

### **5. Draft Action Plan on illicit trafficking in firearms between the EU and the South East Europe region (2015 - 2019)**

The Committee agreed on the draft Action Plan on illicit trafficking in firearms between the EU and South East Europe region (2015 - 2019), as set out in the annex to doc. 14633/14 which would be submitted to the Council for approval. The Action Plan would subsequently be submitted to the next EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs on 12 December 2014.

## **6. Commission Progress Reports Western Balkans; debate on operational outcomes**

The Commission representative presented findings from the 2014 Progress Reports on the Western Balkans relevant for COSI and underlined that the rule of law has been a key theme for the enlargement process. He referred to police and judiciary reforms, as well as the need to enhance inter-agency and judicial cooperation and for further measures in the area of anti-corruption. Additional efforts were needed on carrying out financial investigations and establishing intelligence-led policing. Witness protection was identified as a major challenge for the region together with organised crime, in particular trafficking in human beings and drugs trafficking.

Following the presentation of the Presidency discussion paper set out in 15109/14, various delegations welcomed the discussion on this item in COSI and underlined the importance of strengthening cooperation with the Western Balkan countries. Delegations took the view that COSI could play a role in this area, in particular by providing certain guidance and advice, in cooperation with the relevant JHA agencies. Europol, Eurojust and Frontex had established cooperation agreements with most of the Western Balkan countries and delegations felt that the agencies could play a more important role in strengthening the cooperation. The findings of the progress reports were also considered relevant for the EU Policy Cycle and the future EU crime priorities and the Western Balkan countries could be encouraged to participate in the Policy Cycle actions. Some delegations stated that COSI should receive an overview of all measures, including projects that were being carried out or were planned, accompanied by a concrete timetable and funding possibilities.

The Presidency noted that delegations had welcomed this discussion within COSI and agreed that the findings of these progress reports provided added value to COSI particularly within the framework of the Policy Cycle. In line with its mandate, COSI would look at ways of enhancing its support for the EU's efforts to address the weaknesses that had been identified in the relevant Western Balkan authorities. The Presidency concluded that it would prepare a discussion paper with some concrete proposals for the next COSI meeting.

## **7. Modern slavery and severe forms of labour exploitation: presentation by FRA**

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) presented the preliminary findings of its project on criminal forms of labour exploitation of migrants across EU Member States, which covered criminal exploitation of the work of both EU and non-EU migrants. The final results of the SELEX project, set out in 15072/14 and including a comparative report on the overall situation of victims of severe labour exploitation in the EU and on measures adopted to identify cases of severe labour exploitation and to grant victims access to justice, would be published in the first half of 2015.

The UK delegation expressed its particular interest in this project and was looking forward to its final results.

The Presidency mandated the COSI Support Group to examine this topic further in close cooperation with the Commission and FRA.

## **8. Tackling drug trafficking**

- Maritime drug trafficking in the Atlantic and Western Mediterranean – current success and future challenges: presentation by MAOC-N

The Committee took note of a presentation by MAOC-N of its recent successes in countering drug trafficking across the Atlantic and in the Western Mediterranean (DS 1507/14). The MAOC-N Director drew the attention of delegations to two challenges that the Centre was currently facing: the fact that the Commission funding would expire in September 2015, and the fact that the current accommodation was not suitable.

Various delegations welcomed MAOC-N's work in tackling maritime drug trafficking, expressing support for the continued work of the centre and highlighting the need for a long-term solution.

The Commission stated its commitment to continue supporting MAOC-N (through increase of its financial support) and agreed that it is important to find a long-term solution for MAOC's financing and installation.

- Agreement of the Council of Europe on Illicit Traffic by Sea, implementing Article 17 of the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances : presentation by the Presidency

The Committee took note of a presentation by the Presidency on the Agreement of the Council of Europe on Illicit Traffic by Sea, implementing Article 17 of the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances as set out in doc. DS 1507/14. The Presidency invited delegations to sign and ratify this Agreement if they had not yet done so.

## **9. Any other business:**

- **Preparation of the JHA Senior Officials meeting EU-OIPC Interpol**

The Committee took note of the agenda for the JHA Senior Officials meeting, EU - OIPC Interpol which would take place on 12 November 2014, as set out in doc. 14407/1/14 REV 1.

- **Results of the European Police Chiefs Convention held at Europol on 24-25 September 2014: presentation by Europol**

The Committee took note of the summary and recommendations of the 2014 European Police Chiefs Convention as set out in doc. 14838/14.

- **Delegation Agreement**

The Polish delegation asked for further clarifications regarding the delegation agreement that would be signed between Europol and the Commission for the financing of the EMPACT projects.

The Presidency invited the Commission and Europol to provide more information at a forthcoming COSI Support Group meeting.