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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	16266/14
Subject:	Draft Council Conclusions on the Glossary of Firearms Terminology in law enforcement cooperation

1. In line with the European Action Plan to combat illegal trafficking in so-called "heavy" firearms which could be used or are used in criminal activities, adopted by the Council on 2 and 3 December 2010 (doc. 16427/1/10 REV 1), the European Firearms Expert Group (EFE) in January 2013 prepared the Glossary of Firearms Terminology with the aim to facilitate information sharing between Member States' law enforcement authorities and firearms experts in combating firearms-related crime and contribute to strengthening cooperation between Member States in this field. The LEWP at its meeting of 22 May 2013 was informed about this Glossary.
2. Under the Hellenic Presidency, COSI discussed a number of measures to address the threat posed by firearms to the EU's internal security. The Hellenic Presidency suggested that, as a measure in the short term, efforts should be concentrated on formalising the EFE glossary.
3. Against this background the LEWP at its meeting on 6 November 2014 discussed the text of the draft Council Conclusions on the Glossary of Firearms Terminology in law enforcement cooperation, as proposed by the Presidency (doc. 14632/14), and agreed to this document through a subsequent written procedure with FR and UK scrutiny reservations.

4. The Permanent Representatives Committee was invited to examine the outstanding reservations at its meeting on 26 November 2014 (doc. 15910/14). Following an intervention by the UK delegation with the explanation why its reservation on the draft Council Conclusions was maintained, the Chair concluded that the draft Conclusions would be sent back to the working party.
5. The LEWP at its meeting on 3 December 2014 discussed the revised text of the draft Council Conclusions (doc. 16266/14), and further drafting suggestions were made. Through the subsequent written procedure, which ended on 9 December 2014, the LEWP agreed to the text of the draft Council Conclusions as set out in the Annex.
6. On this basis, COREPER is requested to invite the Council to approve the draft Council Conclusions on the Glossary of Firearms Terminology in law enforcement cooperation as set out in the Annex.

**DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON THE GLOSSARY OF FIREARMS
TERMINOLOGY IN LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

HAVING REGARD to the fact that one of the political priorities of the Stockholm Programme for the period 2010-2014 is to strengthen Europe's security, and that special attention should be paid to the application and development of existing tools as well as to enhancing the fight against types of criminal offences with cross-border implications that can affect the daily life of European citizens;

HAVING REGARD to the European Action Plan to combat illegal trafficking in so called "heavy" firearms which could be used or are used in criminal activities¹, and in particular to point 1 which suggests taking action to improve the existing crime image by defining the term "so called "heavy" firearms which could be used or are used in criminal activities" in order to create a comparable working notion for data collection purposes;

ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts of the European Firearms Experts' Group (EFE), which was set up on the basis of the decision of the European Police Chiefs at their meeting in 2004, to promote information exchange and cooperation among firearms experts of law enforcement authorities, in particular by developing a Glossary of Firearms Terminology in order to set out operational working definitions so as to help to avoid confusion among various partners in cross-border operations within the EU;

ACKNOWLEDGING that by producing the Glossary of Firearms Terminology, the EFE aims for all the relevant actors in the field of law enforcement to have a similar understanding of concepts and terms in this field, taking into account the existing terminology in EU and international law, and at the same time attempts to provide the definitions that are not covered or are referred to in different terms in the relevant legislation, which often results in different interpretation of terms regarding firearms;

¹ 16427/1/10 REV 1.

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES to acknowledge the progress in law enforcement cooperation involving the Member States' competent authorities achieved through the finalisation of the Glossary of Firearms Terminology²;

INVITES THE COMMISSION to:

- (1) assess the effectiveness of the current EU legislative framework in combating illicit firearms trafficking;
 - (2) and, in the event the Commission considers further action may be necessary in relation to the Glossary of Firearms Terminology, invites it to take into account the existing terminology in EU and international law and to carry out a wide consultation in accordance with Protocol 2 to the Treaties.
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² 14983/14