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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council

On: 8 December 2014

To: Customs Cooperation Working Party (Experts meeting)

Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in document CM 5204/14. Two SK presentations, originally provided for under item 3, were cancelled and one Europol presentation on Operation Archimedes was added under AOB.

2. Information from the Presidency

The Presidency briefed the delegates about the forthcoming meetings and recently held events and initiatives relevant for customs, with a focus on the NEC meeting held at Europol on 19-20 November.

16752/14 LB/sl 1
DG D 1C EN

3. Action 7.5 "To identify the need for new models of cooperation between customs and other agencies/joint customs operations. To implement the strategy of the future customs law enforcement cooperation within the context of the EU policy cycle while taking into account the link with the tax authorities"

Progress report

The Presidency briefly presented document 16064/14 detailing the activities undertaken in the framework of Action 7.5 under EL and IT Presidencies - questionnaires, reports and sharing of best practices. The need to undertake step 3 of the action - identification of a new operational model with multi-agency involvement - was underlined.

Sharing of best practices

Italy delivered a presentation on "Project S.O.N - Save our Net" - monitoring of websites selling illegal drugs and of parcels containing illegal drugs. The project was considered a model of Customs/Police cooperation and the two speakers, representing respectively the Ministry of Interior and the Customs, presented the two different perspectives on the work done and the results achieved.

4. Action 7.10 "To identify the fields for customs law enforcement cooperation such as joint operations, in the fight against environmental crime (e.g. hazardous waste, ozone, CITES, links to organized groups)"

Progress report

The Presidency briefly presented document 16065/14 detailing the activities undertaken in the framework of Action 7.10 under EL and IT Presidencies - one questionnaire, one report and sharing of best practices. The report was also presented during the COSI meeting on 11 December. At LV request, IT will continue to assume the leadership of Action 7.10.

Operational activity

NL briefed the delegates on the Dutch experience regarding the detection of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment and suggested organising a JCO in this area (as the third step of the action required by its mandate).

16752/14 LB/sl 2
DG D 1C EN

5. Coordination of the CCWP activity with the EU Policy Cycle

The Presidency briefly presented document 16066/14 outlining the main elements and challenges in this area. A discussion followed and it was underlined that, given its more strategic character, the document should be presented in the Plenary.

6. Priorities of the LV Presidency

LV described its priorities as incoming Presidency for the CCWP, both at strategic and operational level.

7. AOB

Europol briefly presented Operation Archimedes: main organisational elements, results, challenges, follow-up.

16752/14 LB/sl 3
DG D 1C EN