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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 11 December 2014
To: Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security
(COSI) Mixed Committee (UE-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)
Subject: Summary of discussions

MIXED COMMITTEE

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in doc. 16649/14.

2. EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime

- **monitoring of the 2014 Operational Action Plan: report of the Europol Director and 6 month progress report**
 - **Priority on illegal immigration**

The Committee took note of the 6-month progress report for the second half of 2014 as set out in doc. 15853/14 (RESTREINT UE) and 15856/14 ADD 2.

- **Operational Action Plan 2015 "Illegal Immigration"**

The Committee approved the Operational Action Plan (OAP) on "Illegal Immigration" as set out in doc. 15931/2/14 REV 2 (RESTREINT UE). The Chair invited the driver to discuss an amendment requested by the HU delegation at the forthcoming OAP meeting.

3. Any Other Business

No items were raised.

COSI

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in doc. 16649/14.

2. Information from the Presidency:

- **JHA Senior Officials meeting EU-OIPC Interpol on 12 November 2014**

The Presidency informed delegations about the outcome of the discussions at the JHA Senior Officials meeting EU - OIPC Interpol which was held in Brussels on 12 November 2014 (doc. 16369/14).

- **Illegal gambling and betting and related crimes: presentation of the Guidelines to support law enforcement authorities in preventing and combating the phenomena**

The Committee took note of the Guidelines which are intended to support law enforcement authorities in preventing and combating illegal gambling and betting and related crimes as set out in doc. 12926/4/14 REV 4.

- **Fighting to online financial fraud: outcome of the Milan meeting**

The Committee took note of a presentation by the Italian delegation on the outcome of an Italian pilot project on fighting cybercrimes against online banking and non-cash payments. The project, funded under the ISEC programme, resulted in the setting up of a platform OF2CEN, aimed at sharing information on financial fraud via a secure channel. The Italian delegation was looking forward to the implementation of the OF2CEN model and platform in other countries, its connection to similar platforms across the EU and finally, the establishment of an EU-wide network of platforms following the OF2CEN example.

3. EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime:

- **Monitoring of the 2014 Operational Action Plans (OAPs): report of the Europol Director and of the National EMPACT Coordinators meeting and 6 month progress report**

The Committee took note of the report of the National EMPACT Coordinators (NEC) meeting which was held at Europol on 19-20 November 2014, as set out in doc. 15930/14. The Committee also took note of the Europol findings in relation to the implementation of the EU Policy Cycle up to mid-October, in particular the progress being made in implementing the first year of the 2014-2017 Policy Cycle as set out on doc. 15856/14. It particularly welcomed the increased operational nature of the OAPs since the number of operational actions increased by 88% (from 42 to 79 actions). The operational orientation could, however, still be improved together with a better prioritisation of the actions since some OAPs saw a significant increase in the number of planned actions. As regards the "ownership" of the OAPs, there was still a clear need for more Member States to take responsibility as action leaders. The empowerment of Drivers and co-Drivers could also be further developed.

Some delegations stated that the report could be enriched by introducing a qualitative analysis of the results of the actions undertaken within the framework of the Policy cycle. Delegations also underlined the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach and the need to give further attention to the regional cooperation.

The Presidency noted the importance of evaluating the operational actions and pointed out that the Interim SOCTA 2015 will provide a first analysis, which will be followed by the semestrial progress reports 2015 as well as an independent evaluation of the Policy Cycle which would start in 2016. Europol also added that the operational results cannot yet be assessed for some medium to long term operational actions.

Operational Action Plans 2015

The Committee approved the Operational Action Plans as set out in docs. 15932/2/14 REV 2, 15934/2/14 REV 2, 15935/2/14 REV 2, 15937/2/14 REV 2, 15938/2/14 REV 2, 15939/2/14 REV 2, 16196/2/14 REV 2, 15947/2/14 REV 2, 15948/2/14 REV 2, 15950/2/14 REV 2, 15952/2/14 REV 2, 15955/2/14 REV 2 (all classified RESTREINT UE).

- **Funding: state of play of the Delegation Agreement**

The Committee welcomed the additional information provided by Europol and the Commission regarding the implementation of the EMPACT Delegation Agreement (DA) as set out in doc. 16528/14. Delegations welcomed this new financing possibility offered by the Commission and the decision taken by the Europol Management Board to authorise the Europol Director to sign the agreement once finalised between the Commission and Europol. Delegations underlined the importance of limiting the administrative workload for the Drivers as much as possible. Europol would host a workshop on 17 December 2014 aimed at providing the drivers with further information regarding the possibilities for financing under the DA.

- **Lessons learnt from Operation Archimedes: presentation by Europol**

The Committee took note of the lessons learnt from Operation Archimedes as set out in doc. 16442/14. Delegations supported continuing similar operations in the future but the scope of these operations could be more limited and future operations should build on the lessons learnt from Operation Archimedes. Delegations felt that the planning of the operation could be improved and asked to involve the Drivers at an early stage in the planning phase. Various delegations suggested having Member States and in particular COSI more involved in future operations which would contribute to increasing its visibility.

4. Heads of JHA Agencies meeting on 3 November 2014: report + scorecard

The meeting took note of the report of the meeting of the Heads of JHA Agencies, hosted by EASO on 3 November 2014 and of the scorecard on the Agencies' multilateral cooperation (docs. 16286/14, 16287/14 JAI 974 COSI 147 + ADD 1).

5. Environmental crime: different aspects of a new threat

- **report by the EnvicrimeNet Chair**
- **report by the CCWP Chair on the implementation of Action 7.10 regarding environmental crime of the 7th Action Plan of the CCWP**
- **report by the Italian delegation**
- **report by Eurojust on a Strategic Project on Environmental Crime**

The meeting took note of the situation regarding "environmental crime" in 2014 on the basis of :

- 1) a report by the EnvicrimeNet Chair as set out in doc. 16438/14,
- 2) a report by the CCWP Chair on the implementation of Action 7.10 regarding environmental crime of the 7th Action Plan of the CCWP as set out in doc. 16065/14.
- 3) a report by the Italian delegation describing the Italian experience with environmental crime and in particular illicit waste trafficking, as set out in doc. 16605/14 and
- 4) a report by Eurojust on a Strategic Project on Environmental Crime http://www.eurojust.europa.eu/doclibrary/Eurojust-framework/Casework/Strategic%20project%20on%20environmental%20crime%20%28October%202014%29/environmental-crime-report_2014-11-21-EN.pdf

Delegations acknowledged the growing importance of environmental crime in the EU, which was identified as an emerging threat in the EU SOCTA. Europol was invited to take the reports into account when preparing the 2015 Interim SOCTA.

The German delegation informed that in its current chairmanship of the G7, it considered illegal trade in species as priority item.

6. Update on ENLETS activities

The Chair of the ENLETS Core Group presented the state of play of the activities of the European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Service (ENLETS) in 2014. He referred to the short, medium and long term objectives of the network, the possibilities for financing and a number of recommendations regarding the functioning of the network as set out in doc. 14217/14 .

The Committee took note of this presentation and agreed to send the recommendations of the Core Group Chair back to the Law Enforcement Working Party for further discussion in order to reach agreement.

7. Follow-up Progress Reports Western Balkans
doc. 15959/14 COSI 124 ENFOPOL 395

Delegations welcomed the Presidency's proposals to give a concrete follow-up to the Progress Reports 2014 on the Western Balkans, as set out in doc. 15959/14. Some delegations mentioned that these measures should not create an additional burden for the JHA Agencies and underlined the importance of avoiding duplication and exploring synergies with already existing cooperation mechanisms and matrices. It was also pointed out that the JHA Agencies are already involved in the preparation of the progress reports. The participation of Western Balkan countries in the EMPACT projects was still to be considered further. Some delegations suggested organising joint meetings between the COSI Support Group and COWEB or other relevant Council preparatory bodies. Reference was also made to the role CEPOL could play in the field of training and the role of the EU delegations.

The Presidency concluded that it would reflect the outcome of these discussions in a paper for the informal project group "internal - external security" led by Poland.

8. Administrative approach to prevent and fight organised crime: outcome of the 6th Informal Network of Contact Points meeting on 21 November 2014

The meeting took note of the report of the informal network of contact points on administrative approach as set out in doc. 16407/14 and adopted its work programme for the period 2015-2017.

9. Future role of COSI: state of play project groups

COSI took note of the state of play of the activities of the informal project groups on the future role of COSI (project group "Internal - external security" led by Poland, project group "Coordination - cooperation Agencies" led by Spain and project group "Evaluation" led by Finland) and encouraged these project groups to continue their discussions and regularly report to the COSI Support Group and COSI.

10. Presentation of the work programme of the incoming LV Presidency

Following a brief summary by the Chair of the results achieved during this semester, the Latvian delegation informed the meeting of the priorities for its incoming Presidency. The incoming Presidency would focus on ensuring continuity and strengthening operational cooperation. The two main challenges would be the renewal of the Internal Security Strategy and foreign fighters. The Latvian Presidency would also give due attention to further developing a multidisciplinary approach, the implementation of the EU Policy Cycle, the 2015 interim EU SOCTA and strengthening the cooperation with the Eastern Partnership countries. A COSI - PSC meeting would also be organised.

11. Any Other Business

No items were raised.
