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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 16 January 2015
To: Terrorism Working Party
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in document [CM 1057/15](#).

2. Information by the Presidency

The Presidency briefed the Group on the results of the discussions on foreign terrorist fighters at the Council on 4-5 December 2014 which also approved the Draft Guidelines for the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism ([13469/1/14](#)). Furthermore, the Chair reported on recent discussions at Coreper and COTER in preparation for the Informal meeting of JHA Ministers to be held on 29-30 January 2015.

3. Latest incidents of significant interest - Information from Member States

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in Paris, FR reported on the incidents by providing a factual update and referring to the measures suggested and endorsed in the Paris declaration (see document [5322/15](#)).

BE informed on the counter-terrorist operations of 15 January in Verviers and other cities and several other delegations informed on recent terrorism-related incidents (operations, arrests) on their territories.

4. Foreign Terrorist Fighters – State of play

The Chair outlined how the political response to the foreign terrorist fighters phenomenon evolved during the last months and made an overview of progress at expert level (Frontiers WP, Working Party for Schengen Matters, COTER) in implementation of the measures agreed by the Council.

The representative of Europol gave an overview of Europol's activities during the last two years to tackle the problem of foreign terrorist fighters, which included the operational meetings and workshops, high level expert meetings, situational reports, creation and expansion of Focal Point Travellers, Working Group Dumas and the network of contact points. He recalled the importance for the Member States to fully use the potential of the services offered by Europol for countering terrorism.

The representative of the Commission summarized the main measures undertaken by the Commission to address the issue of foreign terrorist fighters before departure, during travel and after their return and reported on the practical implementation of some of the measures in the area of border control.

The representative of the EEAS informed on the external aspects of fighting foreign terrorist fighters and highlighted the need to implement the CT foreign fighters strategy for Syria/Iraq in particular by engaging with relevant third countries and implementing capacity building measures.

5. Presentations by IntCen

- IntCen work programme (EU RESTRICTED)
- Report on narrative and counter-narrative (EU CONFIDENTIAL)

Delegations took note of the abovementioned classified presentations given by IntCen representatives.

6. EU Syria Strategic Communications Advisory Team

BE presented the state of play of the establishment of the Syria Strategic Communications Advisory Team, to offer all Member States expertise in strategic communications, especially as it relates to addressing the foreign terrorist fighters phenomenon. A project proposal had been submitted to the Commission and was pending a decision.

A number of Member States have already shown their interest in participating in the SSCAT project and others were encouraged to join in support of a comprehensive approach on preventing violent radicalisation.

A representative of the Research Information and Communications Unit (RICU) of the UK Home Office reiterated the powerful role that communications can play in countering terrorism and confirmed RICU's offer to provide its expertise in the delivery of influential communications to do that.

7. Recommendations on next steps for engagement with Internet companies on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes

The representative of the Commission updated the meeting on the process of establishment of a Forum with Internet service providers community which continued at expert level and focused on self-regulation, soft law and collection and exchange of good practices.

A number delegations spoke in favour of the steps undertaken by the Commission as well as other initiatives launched by individual Member States to counter terrorism on internet by enhancing cooperation between the public and private sectors and supporting the exchange of best practices.

8. Western Balkans counter-terrorism initiatives - follow-up

The meeting agreed that it was now time to make progress and proceed with the development of concrete proposals to strengthen Western Balkans CT capabilities. The informal working group, the establishment of which was agreed at previous TWP meetings, would meet for the first time in March under the interim chairmanship of SI, with AT acting as a deputy chair. An invitation to participate in the meeting would be circulated by the Council Secretariat.

The representative of the Commission reaffirmed Commission's strong commitment at political and technical level to strengthen the security of the EU by making progress in cooperation with the Western Balkans. To this end, all DGs concerned have been coordinating their possible support and a number of funding opportunities has been identified in support Member States' engagement in the CT activities with the Western Balkans.

9. Information on counter terrorism activities

- Commission

The Commission representative briefed about the conclusion of the fifth round of air cargo risk assessment and reminded of the ongoing call for tender for RAN Centre of Excellence.

- EEAS

The EEAS representative briefly mentioned the ongoing CT-related activities and past and upcoming events including political dialogues on CT.

10. AOB

FR informed that in view of the latest events, the preparation of the new legislation reinforcing provisions for combating terrorism has been accelerated.

FI informed about the new national legislation regarding the establishment of the national PNR, which should, however, not substitute the EU PNR.
