



Council of the
European Union

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Working Party on Information on 6 February 2015

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in document CM 1348/15.

2. Transparency / Access to documents

a) Confirmatory application No 01/c/01/15

- Information from the General Secretariat of the Council
Doc. 5449/15 INF 7 API 7

The Chair informed the WPI that the General Secretariat had received a new confirmatory application for a document in the framework of discussions on the proposal for a Council Directive on a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB). Given the date of the next WPI meeting, it will be necessary to consult delegations on the draft reply in writing in order to meet the legal deadlines.

b) Confirmatory application No 02/c/01/15

- Information from the General Secretariat of the Council
Doc. 5577/15 INF 11 API 11

The Chair informed the WPI that the General Secretariat had received a new confirmatory application for a document containing a note from the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM) to the Political and Security Committee (PSC), setting out the operational and security-related lessons learned from a civilian security sector reform mission in Guinea-Bissau. Given the date of the next WPI meeting, it will be necessary to consult delegations on the draft reply in writing in order to meet the legal deadlines.

c) Confirmatory application No 03/c/01/15

- Information from the General Secretariat of the Council
Doc. 5671/15 INF 16 API 14

The Chair informed the WPI that the General Secretariat had received a new confirmatory application for a contribution from the Legal Service regarding a proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (EUROJUST) and, more specifically, public access to documents held by EUROJUST. Given the date of the next WPI meeting, it will be necessary to consult delegations on the draft reply in writing in order to meet the legal deadlines.

In this context, SE, supported by FI and NL, raised the question of the application of Regulation 1049/2001 to EUROJUST and proposed to have a discussion on "Lisbonisation" at the WPI.

d) New reply to confirmatory application 22/c/01/09 following the judgement of the Court of Justice in Case C-350/12-P

Doc. 5674/15 INF 19 API 17

The Council Legal Service presented the draft reply (doc. 5674/15) and explained the approach proposed. It recalled that document 11788/14 contains the information note analysing the judgement of the Court of Justice in this case and its principal implications for the Council. Delegations agreed with the draft reply. The draft reply will be submitted to COREPER II on 18 February 2015 and to the Council (COMPET) on 2 March 2015.

3. Communication / Information Policy

a) Fight against terrorism - strategic communications and counter-narrative policies

The EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator gave a comprehensive overview of the implementation of the EU's counter-terrorism approach in the light of the recent events.

He indicated that the media communication strategy adopted by the Council in 2006 remains a key step to boost cooperation in the EU's fight against radicalisation and recruitment and referred in particular to:

- the guidelines on combating radicalization and recruitment approved by the JHA Council on 4 and 5 December 2014;
- the joint statement adopted by the JHA Ministers at their informal meeting in Riga on 29-30 January 2015;
- the conclusions foreseen at the Foreign Affairs Council meeting on 9 February ¹, which should stress, among others, to counter terrorism through the promotion of peace, tolerance, non-discrimination and inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue. Those conclusions should pave the way for the adoption by the Heads of State and Government of a joint declaration at their informal meeting scheduled on 12 February.

¹ doc. 6026/2015.

Moreover, highlighting the terrorists' increasing use of sophisticated media technologies, the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator underlined that the EU needs to contrast this phenomenon acting in synergy through concrete measures (such as improving web monitoring, removing illegal content from the web and developing appropriate counter-narratives).

In this context, he recalled two initiatives which aim to enhance cooperation by sharing knowledge, facilitating mutual preventive communication and seeking an integrated strategic approach:

- the **RAN** ([Radicalisation Awareness Network](#));
- the **SSCAT** (Syria Strategic Communication Advisory Team), a new EU-financed project aiming to support Member States in developing communication strategies adapted to their own specific internal needs and optimizing cooperation with civil society.

The Commission DG HOME representative indicated that the Commission's role in this context is to support Member States and its integrated approach is based on three main elements: a coherent political commitment (to avoid "dispersion of energies"), the explanation of what the EU is doing to fight against terrorism, and the positive communication of fundamental rights ("Explain", "Inform", "Support").

The Commission representative announced a new Eurobarometer cyber-security survey ² and referred to the recent set up of an internet service-providers forum at ministerial level.

The intervention of the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator was followed by a brief exchange of views and of current practices.

² http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_439_420_en.htm#423 (launched on 10 February 2015).

The Chair concluded that:

- though there may be different views on how to elaborate a communication strategy in this field, there is a common understanding of the urgent need to provide a common framework for a clear narrative to counter terrorism;
- the WPI stands ready to revert to this issue as needed at its upcoming meetings.

4. Any Other Business

- a) **Information on the adoption of the "new Archives Regulation"** (Proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EEC, /Euratom) No 354/83, as regards the deposit of the historical archives of the institutions at the European University Institute in Florence).

The Chair informed the WPI that all delegations have now finalised their national parliamentary proceedings and have lifted their scrutiny reservations on the agreed text (as set out in doc. 6768/13). Consequently, the text will be forwarded to Council for adoption as a I/A item³.

b) **Procedure for adoption of replies to confirmatory applications**

SE referred to the issue of last minute amendments to draft replies to confirmatory applications. In particular, to one of the recent COREPER meetings, when a new draft reply was issued with substantial changes on a very short notice. SE, supported by FI, expressed their view that more time should be given for delegations to react.

The Council Legal Service explained that in the particular case new elements needed to be inserted at a late stage, following comments by one delegation. NL thanked the General Secretariat for having taken swift action and for having launched the urgent consultation procedure in order to accommodate the positions of delegations.

³ The "I/A item" was issued on 13 February 2015 (doc. 6205/15).