



Brussels, 7 April 2015
(OR. en)

7719/15

ENFOPOL 79

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 24 March 2015
To: Terrorism Working Party
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in document CM 1877/15.

2. Information by the Presidency

The Presidency briefed the Group on the results of discussions on the fight against terrorism at the Informal meeting of the JHA Ministers on 29-30 January 2015, the Informal meeting of the Heads of State or Government on 12 February 2015 and the JHA Council on 12-13 March 2015.

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

Delegations reported on recent terrorism-related incidents, operations and arrests which took place in their respective countries since the last TWP meeting.

The FR delegation suggested that Member States share information on the numbers of individuals who are linked to the conflict in Syria and Iraq (who left, returned or are in transit). The Presidency would reflect, including with the incoming Presidencies, on ways to exchange such information more systematically.

4. Countering radicalisation: focus on internet/social media

- Presentation by IntCen of its report on jihadist use of social media
(EU CONFIDENTIAL)

Delegations took note of the abovementioned classified presentation given by a representative of IntCen.

- Information on the outcome of the Seminar in Dublin on 24-25 February 2015

The NL delegation updated the meeting on the project aimed at reducing illegal terrorist content on the Internet by increasing cooperation between Member States and referred to the abovementioned Seminar. The results of the project will be finalised shortly in the form of joint policies.

- UK Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit

The UK delegation gave a presentation on the UK approach and experience in dealing with terrorist and extremist material online which is based on partnership with major internet and social media companies. The importance of cooperation between the governments, law enforcement, industry and civil society in limiting the space in which the terrorist and extremist groups can operate online was stressed.

- EU Internet Referral Unit

A representative of Europol gave an update on the development of the EU Internet Referral Unit at Europol, based on the mandate from the JHA Council of 12 March 2015 to establish the Unit and make it operational before 1 July 2015. The concept of the EU IRU, to be built on the Check-the-Web project, would be developed in the coming months in cooperation and with involvement of Member States, the Commission and other stakeholders. The establishment of the Unit will be further monitored by COSI with a view of reporting to the JHA Council in June.

- Update by the Commission

A representative of the Commission reiterated the support expressed by the Commissioner Avramopoulos at the JHA Council for the establishment of the EU IRU and noted that the initiative should be complementary to the ongoing dialogue with service providers.

In the discussion which followed delegations agreed that Internet had a central role in radicalising foreign fighters and cooperation at EU level was essential in order to limit the spread of terrorist propaganda online. It was very challenging to find ways at EU level on how to engage with internet companies and according to some delegations, the relationship could only be based on voluntary partnerships. With regards to the EU IRU, a number of questions were raised which would need to be addressed relating i.a. to the legal challenges linked to the removal of content from internet and the future engagement of the Unit with operators. It was necessary to build on the initiatives already undertaken with a view to further exchanges of best practices and efforts made at national level.

5. Guidelines for the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism – early stock taking

The Presidency announced the launch of the process of evaluation of implementation of the Guidelines approved in December 2014 in which the current as well as 3 forthcoming Presidencies would be involved, which was welcomed by delegations. To initiate the process, ten priority guidelines would be looked at. Representatives of the Commission, EEAS and CTC office briefly outlined the work which has started already in implementation of these priority guidelines. The Presidency plans to circulate a questionnaire in April to encourage Member States to share experience and good practice on projects covered by the Guidelines.

DE delegation presented the work and early positive experience of the Violence Prevention Network established in Hesse state in October 2014 which is addressing radicalisation and de-radicalisation.

6. Soft target protection

The Group took note of the information (EU RESTRICTED) provided by the representative of the Commission on the abovementioned subject.

7. Western Balkans counter-terrorism initiative - follow-up

The SI delegation reported on the first meeting of the Informal Group on the Western Balkans counter-terrorism initiative which took place on 23 March 2015. The Informal Group agreed on the working methodology and examined the draft list of needs and priorities which was based on the outcomes of the Regional workshop on countering violent extremism which took place in Ljubljana in October 2014 as well as priorities identified at other fora (PCC-SEE, Brdo process). Delegations participating in the Group were invited to comment on the draft list and provide additional contributions before 15 April 2015; their prior consultation with the countries of the Western Balkans would be welcome. The next meeting of the Group is planned for 21 April. The aim is to have the list of needs and priorities endorsed by the TWP; it should then serve as a basis for an integrated plan of action.

The representative of the Commission reaffirmed Commission's commitment and support for the initiative at political and technical level in order to strengthen the security of the EU by making progress in cooperation with the Western Balkans was stressed. The importance of concentrating on concrete, practical and early deliverable actions which would create a stimulus for the region. The analysis undertaken by the Informal Group has to take into account other cooperation structures, ongoing projects and initiatives at bilateral as well as multilateral level in order to avoid duplication. Commission's relevant DGs 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.

8. Information on counter terrorism activities

– Commission

The meeting took note of the information by the Commission representative about the ongoing work on the establishment of the negotiating mandate for the Additional Protocol supplementing the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism.

– EEAS

The EEAS representative informed on the progress of implementation of the Council conclusions on Counter-Terrorism of 9 February 2015 and briefly mentioned the ongoing CT-related activities and past and upcoming events including political dialogues on CT.

– Europol

The representative of Europol reported on the use of different possibilities for exchange of information through Europol channels and, despite the increase in their use during the recent months, encouraged Member States to share more information and maximise the use of Europol platforms for the full and proper use of its capabilities.

He also referred to a number of recent meetings and events.

9. AOB

No issues were raised under AOB.

