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10336/15

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: Working Party on General Matters, including Evaluations (GENVAL)

On: 24 June 2015 To: Delegations

Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in CM 3022/15.

The Presidency opened the meeting by informing delegations that the Council on 15-16 June 2015 adopted Council Conclusions both on the fight against impunity for the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes within the European Union and its Member States, as set out in doc. 15584/2/14 REV 2, and on the renewed European Union Internal Security Strategy, as set out in doc. 9798/15.

2. Seventh round of mutual evaluations

- 7588/1/15 REV 1 GENVAL 9 CYBER 23 RESTREINT UE
- Discussion of the Report of France

The draft report of France, as set out in doc. 7588/1/15 REV 1, was adopted by the Working Party following the discussion held at last GENVAL meeting on 29 April 2015, subject to two minor changes, namely: on request by FR, the alignment of the wording in recommendation 6 (on page 95) to the wording in the third paragraph (on page 20), with a reference to ANSSI; on request by DE and Cion, the addition on recommendation 20 (on page 98) of the wording "in compliance with Fundamental rights".

FR reiterated its proposal, made at last GENVAL meeting on 29 April 2015, on the inclusion of the terrorism dimension in the context of the ongoing evaluations on cybercrime, which might need further reflection and discussion during the incoming Luxembourg Presidency.

3. Seventh round of mutual evaluations

- 7587/15 GENVAL 8 CYBER 22 RESTREINT UE
- Discussion of the Report of the Netherlands

The draft report of the Netherlands, as set out in doc. 7587/15, was adopted by the Working Party following the discussion held at last GENVAL meeting on 29 April 2015.

4. Seventh round of mutual evaluations

- 9761/15 GENVAL 18 CYBER
- Discussion of the Report of Slovakia

The evaluation team presented the content of the draft report of Slovakia and the ensuing conclusions and recommendations, as set out in doc. 9761/15, underlining *i.a.* the good cooperation about the SK police authorities and prosecutors in the context of cybercrime investigations, the trend to invest more in technology and the ongoing transposition by SK of Directive 2013/40/EU on attacks against information systems.

10336/15 GG/ec 2

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The evaluation team also referred to the need to increase relevant training in the area of cybercrime, as well as to the difficulties arising from the annulment by the European Court of Justice of Directive 2006/24/EC (Data retention directive), which has an impact on the effectiveness of criminal investigations.

SK expressed its comments on the findings of the evaluation team and replied to the questions asked by other delegations.

The draft report, as set out in doc. <u>9761/15</u>, will be presented at next GENVAL meeting for adoption.

5. Joint Meeting of the Anti-Trafficking Coordinators / Focal Points on Trafficking in Human Beings of the SEE and the EP with the Informal EU Network of National Rapporteurs or Equivalent Mechanisms (NREM) on Trafficking in Human Beings - Information from the Commission.

The representative from the Commission informed the Working Party about the above Joint Meeting held in Brussels on 19 June 2015, focussing on sham marriages and cooperation with South Eastern partners in the context of Trafficking in Human Beings (THB), which represents priority E) of the European Union Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012–2016, namely in relation to increased knowledge of and effective response to changing trends in THB. The representative from the Commission also referred to the ongoing transposition of Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating Trafficking in Human Beings and protecting its victims (Anti-Trafficking Directive).

Furthermore, the representative from the Commission also gave an overview of upcoming studies and activities in this area, including with a view to strengthening the NREM Network and to enhancing cooperation both between the Union and the Member States and between the Member States.

10336/15 GG/ec DG D 2B **E.N**

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DG D 2B

6. Project "Preventing human trafficking and sham marriages: A multidisciplinary solution" (HESTIA)

- Presentation by the Presidency

The Presidency presented the above project, lead by the Latvian Ministry of Interior with the participation of six other countries, and focussing on sham marriages in the context of THB. It referred to the need of a common understanding of this phenomenon in the Member States, including to overcome existing difficulties in related data collection. For this purpose, it referred to the definition in Council resolution of 4 December 1997 on measures to be adopted on combating marriages of convenience and to the Anti-Trafficking Directive (referred to in point 5 above), and in particular to its Article 18 on the prevention by demand reduction.

7. Presentation of the new Delegates' Portal by General Secretariat of the Council

The General Secretariat of the Council presented the new Delegates' Portal, aimed at replacing Extranet, while keeping its functionalities with the addition of new features. Working documents will replace the current various types of meeting documents and will no longer be distributed by email, but rather delivered via Delegates' Portal to activated Communities of delegates for each Council preparatory body, managed by one or more nominated delegates, enabled, as appropriate, to add and remove delegates' names. In order to retrieve from Delegates' Portal working papers addressed to a Community, its delegates must have a Delegates' Portal account ¹. The new Delegates' Portal pilot-phase is foreseen to run for at least six months since May 2015.

8. A.O.B.

The incoming Luxembourg Presidency briefly informed the Working Party about the indicative calendar of the GENVAL meetings during next semester, provisionally scheduled for 22 July (t.b.c), 6 October and 18 December².

10336/15 GG/ec 4
DG D 2B EN

Existing Extranet accounts work

The GSC will inform delegations of any possible changes to such provisional calendar in due time.