



**Brussels, 17 September 2015  
(OR. en)**

**11954/15**

**JAI 653  
ENFOPOL 243  
COTER 119**

## **OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 9 September 2015  
To: Terrorism Working Party  
Subject: Summary of discussions

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### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted as set out in **CM 3566/15**.

### **2. Information by the Presidency**

The Presidency informed on CT-related developments/meetings/events since the last TWP meeting on 14 July 2015. Among the items mentioned were the following:

- the Paris declaration of 29 August 2015 following the thwarted Thalys terrorist attack of 21 August and efforts to better secure railway transport (LANDSEC meeting on 11 September, preparing the 8 October Council meetings (Transport and Home));
- the upcoming adoption of the Decision to sign the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Terrorism Convention incriminating travel of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) (implementing the requirements regarding FTF related offences as laid down in the UN Security Council Resolution 2178(2014)) and the mother Convention on behalf of the EU;

- EU-PNR: the EP LIBE Committee vote of 15 July 2015, adopting the Rapporteur's revised report and giving the mandate to enter into informal trilogues with the Council;
- initiations of negotiations on PNR-Mexico;
- in relation to the decommissioning of firearms as well as better tackling the illegal trade thereof, draft Council Conclusions would be presented at the COSI SG on 14 September 2015 with a view to a quick adoption.

Finally the Presidency drew delegations' attention to the High-Level Ministerial Conference "Criminal justice response to radicalisation" to take place on 19 October, organised by the Commission and the Presidency.

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

Eight delegations took the floor, reporting recent incidents and/or giving the most recent figures on the number of individuals (either nationals or individuals having their usual residence in the Member State concerned) travelling to Syria and Iraq and trends noticed. The number of Foreign Terrorists Fighters seemed to be stagnant. Approximately 30% of those leaving were female, and a small number were minors. France informed that following the attempted attack on the Thalys train on 21 August, security measures had been enhanced.

### **4. Six monthly threat analysis (EU CONFIDENTIAL)**

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

### **5. Islamophobia**

- Presentation by Moonshot
- Presentation by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

The Director of the UK-based "Moonshot" gave a ppt presentation on "Far right extremism - response and prevention" (distributed). One aspect of the institute's work was the projects involving "one-to-one intervention", focusing on personal messages, which had had a certain success, the exit programmes, online engagement and counter-narratives in order to dissuade young people from joining far-extremist/terrorist groups. The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) gave a presentation on islamophobia (equally distributed), focusing on the findings of its surveys undertaken since 2004. It stressed the need to base any security response to counter terrorism and radicalisation on a fundamental rights-anchored approach conforming with the principles of necessity, proportionality and legality. In view of the current refugee crisis, FRA warned against the significant risk of escalation, "requiring urgent trust-building" to keep up social cohesion. The need to use positive examples, to remove stereotypes and to enhance communication, was highlighted.

## **6. Withdrawal of travel documents**

- Presentation by UK

UK (the Home Office, National Security Directorate) gave a comprehensive presentation on its national measures on withdrawal of travel documents (ppt presentation distributed) and the range of tools available, among other things describing legislation, adopted this year, establishing power to seize travel documents at ports upon "*reasonable suspicion*" that a person intended to travel to engage in terrorism activity, which by now had been used at a number of occasions. Concerning all measures available, emphasis was put on safeguards.

The Presidency took the opportunity to remind delegations about its questionnaire on withdrawal of travel documents distributed sent to delegations on 27 August, deadline for replies 2 October 2015.

## **7. The ATLAS Network**

- Presentation by representatives of the network

The Commission presented the ATLAS Network (Cooperation of Special Intervention Units of the EU, 37 from 28 Member States) (ppt distributed), including its vision and objectives and recent exercise activity. This presentation triggered a number of interested questions from delegations, among other things on procedures, cooperation partners, and mandate.

## 8. Western Balkans counter-terrorism initiative

- State of play
- Presentation of conclusions

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The Slovenian chair of the Western Balkans Counter Terrorism initiative (WBCTi) gave an overview of activities since the start in November 2014 and the most recent meeting of 8 September gathering 17 Member States and representatives from Europol, the EEAS, the Commission and the CTC's office. Draft Council Conclusions had been elaborated which were presented by the Presidency who intended to have these adopted at the December JHA-Council after endorsement by the TWP, passing through COSI on 24 November. The draft conclusions were very well received. One outstanding issue seems to be further specifications on how a required review/evaluation should take place. Delegations were given a deadline for written comments by 5 October 2015.

## 9. Information on counter terrorism activities

The EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator (CTC) referred to the attempted Thalys attack to stress the need for more to be done in relation to railway security and for more systematic control by Member States on top of the common risk indicators, and encouraged the Commission to speed up work on the firearms' initiative. The work with Tunisia on a security package together with the EEAS was progressing well.

The Commission informed about the one-day seminar within the internet platform with industry that took place on 24 July 2015, which apart from all the big internet providers had counted 18 MSs and the CTC among its participants. A second seminar will be held on 27 October 2015 focusing on the production of counter-narratives, culminating in the launch of an IT-platform in December. A LANDSEC meeting would take place on 11 September, as part of a follow-up to the Paris declaration of 29 August 2015, preparing the JHA and the Transport Council, both taking place on 8 October, and both to deal with the need for further enhancing the operational cooperation in relation to security and transport. Finally, a brief information on a new alert system to be developed by principally DG TAXUD to detect suspicious shipments.

Europol gave an update on the EU Internet Referral Unit (IRU), set up on 1 July 2015 for a one-year pilot phase (to be assessed by the end of this year), to step up the cooperation in combating radicalisation on Internet. Currently seven persons, incl. a NL and a UK national expert, formed part of the IRU, expecting to expand to 12 persons within a year - "*extending CT capabilities from off-line to on-line*". Overall Internet providers had been responding positively to requests.

EEAS gave an update on the state of play on the CT-dialogues with the MENA countries, beginning with Tunisia on 21 September, and informed about the upcoming UNGA, focussing on the CT/CVE-related events.

## **10. AOB**

Under AOB, NL informed about the meeting to take place on 10 September on extremist speakers and the non-paper distributed in advance of this meeting.

Next TWP meeting: 21 October 2015. A joint TWP/COTER meeting will take place on 22 October 2015.

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