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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 16 September 2015
To: Law Enforcement Working Party
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting adopted the agenda as set out in CM 3623/15 with the deletion of point 5.3. and with the addition of two information points by the NL delegation and the Commission under AOB.

2. Information from the Presidency

The meeting took note of the information by the Presidency about the dates of the upcoming LEWP meetings (23 October, 25 November, 21 December 2015) and its related networks and expert groups.

3. The LEWP contribution to the implementation of the renewed Internal Security Strategy

The meeting took note of the presentation by the Presidency about the envisaged way forward as regards the LEWP contribution to the implementation of the renewed Internal Security Strategy in line with 10854/15. The Presidency noted the suggestions made by delegations, in particular in relation to the role of the LEWP in coordinating the contribution of its networks, its possible input as regards the assessment of strategic training needs in the area of law enforcement and its cooperation with the CCWP.

4. Discussion on the relationship between the LEWP and its related expert groups and networks

The LEWP held a detailed discussion on the relationship with its related expert groups and networks, on the basis of the discussion paper presented by the Presidency (11666/15). A number of delegations suggested to follow a balanced approach with an increased involvement of the LEWP in steering and coordinating the activities of the networks while at the same time avoiding micro-managing them. In particular it was proposed that the LEWP sets strategic objectives for its networks and expert groups based on EU priorities and ensures that the work programmes of the networks are in line with such objectives. On the other hand, the specific objectives of the networks should also be taken into account. Some delegations suggested that the LEWP should give advice to the networks on the funding opportunities under various EU programmes, such as ISF or Horizon 2020. As regards the evaluation of the networks, a number of delegations underlined that the networks should not be overburdened with self-evaluations and that such evaluations should mainly focus on whether the strategic objectives have been reached.

Delegations were invited by the Presidency to submit further written contributions on this subject by 30 September 2015, on the basis of which further Presidency proposals would be developed.

5. Reports from LEWP-related expert groups and networks:

5.1. Report from the ENPPF meeting held on 25 June 2015: ENPPF work programme

Following the presentation by the Chair of the ENPPF, the LEWP took note of the results of the latest ENPPF meeting set out in 10367/15 and approved the ENPPF work programme for 2015 set out in 9742/15. The LEWP was also informed about the results of the meeting of the sub-working group of ENPPF on its general coordination, which was held on 13 August 2015 at Europol. This sub-group aims to develop ideas on improving the efficiency of the network, for example, by appointing a permanent Chair of the network and using English as its working language. A few delegations intervened expressing their support for these ideas.

5.2. Relations between ENLETS, RCEG and e-MOBIDIG

The LEWP agreed to the proposal by the Presidency to contact the Chairs of ENLETS, RCEG and e-MOBIDIG in order to ask for their opinion on the possible merger of these three networks, as a follow-up to the discussion on this matter held by the LEWP on 25 June 2014 (DS 1276/14).

5.3. Report on the activities of TISPOL

The item was deleted from the agenda as TISPOL could not attend the meeting due to logistical problems.

6. Europol-related issues:

6.1. Europol Platform for Experts (EPE)

The LEWP took note of the presentation by Europol on the Europol Platform for Experts (EPE), in particular focusing on the possibility for LEWP-related networks and expert groups to use this platform in line with their needs. Some delegations suggested that the LEWP should further inform its networks about the possibility to use EPE, and also exchanged some ideas on who should administer the platform of each network.

6.2. Europol's cooperation agreements

The LEWP took note of the brief information by the Council Legal Service on the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the case C-363/14 relating to the list of third countries with which Europol shall conclude agreements.

The Presidency also informed the meeting that the EP and the Management Board of Europol would be consulted on the draft implementing Council Decisions approving the conclusion of Europol's cooperation agreements with Bosnia and Hercegovina and United Arab Emirates (9384/15 + COR 1 + COR 2, 10509/15 and 9394/15 + COR 1 + COR 2, 10510/15 respectively).

7. CEPOL-related issues:

7.1. CEPOL Annual Report for the year 2014

Following the presentation by a representative of CEPOL, the LEWP took note of the CEPOL Annual Report for the year 2014 set out in 10829/15, and agreed to submit it to COREPER and the Council for endorsement. A few delegations intervened to express their appreciation of CEPOL's operational effectiveness despite its relocation in 2014 and inquired about the new Regulation on CEPOL. They were informed by the Presidency that the lawyer-linguist revision of the politically agreed text was ongoing, that the Regulation should be adopted by the co-legislators by mid-November, enter into force before the end of the year 2015 and enter into application as from 1 July 2016.

7.2. CEPOL's cooperation agreements

Delegations exchanged their views on the texts of CEPOL's cooperation agreement with the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety (KAPS) (9552/1/15 REV 1) and the draft Council Implementing Decision approving the conclusion of this cooperation agreement (10313/1/15 REV 1). These texts were revised on the basis of written suggestions by a few delegations following the discussion on these documents at the LEWP meeting on 25 June 2015. As delegations raised further concerns, they were invited to provide additional written comments on these documents and lift their reservations by 30 September 2015.

8. AOB

The NL delegation informed the LEWP that 15 replies had been received to the questionnaire on the European Forensic Science Area 2020 (CM 3080/15), and invited other delegations to provide their contributions as well.

A representative of the Commission informed delegations that at the upcoming LEWP meeting it plans to present a questionnaire regarding the use by Member States of Interpol's notices.
