



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 20 December 2013  
(OR. en)**

**18104/13**

**ENFOCUSTOM 201**

## **OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 18 December 2013  
To: Customs Cooperation Working Party  
Subject: Summary of discussions

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### **1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted as outlined in doc. **CM 5539/13**, with the deletion of agenda item "Outcome of the European System of Border Guards Conference." The Presidency also explained that there was no LEWP presentation to the CCWP during these 6 months, as the LEWP dealt with a legislative file in this period.

### **2. Information from the Presidency**

The Presidency gave an overview of the main issues of interest for the CCWP Experts, as referred to in doc. **DS 2039/13**. Delegates were briefed on the recent meetings of the EnviCrimeNet and of network of specialised prosecutors dealing with environmental crime. Information was also provided on a high-level seminar on cross-border excise fraud at Eurojust.

### 3. **Hercule III financial programme**

The Commission gave a presentation on the upcoming Hercule III financial programme (2014-2020), which is in the final stage of its adoption process. The purpose of the programme is "to protect the financial interest of the Union thus enhancing the competitiveness of the Union's economy and ensuring the protection of taxpayers' money" with a specific objective "to prevent and combat fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the Union's financial interest." The amount earmarked for the programme is EUR 104,918,000 to cover technical equipment (70%), training (25%) and other actions (5%) primarily through grants and procurement of services (e.g. access to databases for all MS). Customs are eligible applicants and co-financing rate from the Commission went up to 80% (from 50% in Hercule II).

### 4. **The Sixth Action Plan (January 2013 – December 2013) to implement the new strategy for the future of customs law enforcement cooperation of December 2012, based on Council Resolution of 13 December 2011**

The Presidency briefly outlined the overview of the 6th Action Plan of the CCWP, as set out in doc. DS 1471/6/13 REV 6, concluding it is completed, except for action 6.6 "The Central Coordination Unit Steering Group 2013-2015 - Improve the exchange of information and intelligence between Central Coordinating Units as well as the practical implementation of mutual assistance and cooperation," which is set to continue under the 7th Action Plan's action 7.8 "To improve the exchange of information and intelligence between Central Coordinating Units as well as the practical implementation of mutual assistance and cooperation."

- a) **Monitoring of non-implemented recommendations addressed to the CCWP and to the Commission: Follow-up to the Report on Action 6.1 "To evaluate the implementation of all previous actions plans to ensure proper follow up of the recommendations, with particular emphasis on those addressed to the CCWP and the Commission"**

The Presidency briefly presented the revised report as set out in doc. DS 1922/1/13 REV 1 and encouraged the incoming EL Presidency to continue with the monitoring work and make use of the excel database of the recommendations that was handed over to the General Secretariat of the Council.

- b) Update on Action 6.6:** Outcome of 6th Meeting of the Heads of Central Coordination Units, held in Vilnius

The Presidency briefed the delegation on the outcome of the CCU heads meeting in Vilnius. The implementation of Action 6.6 is to continue in 2014 and 2015 within the framework of the 7th AP as action 7.8.

**5. The Seventh Action Plan (January 2014 – December 2015), reflective of the EU Policy Cycle**

The Presidency confirmed that the 7th AP was adopted by written procedure on 27 November 2013 as set out in doc. 12468/6/13 REV 6 ENFOCUSTOM 120. A revised version containing the adopted AP, as well as references to relevant Operational Action Plans (OAPs) adopted by COSI on 17 December 2013 is to be issued in the follow up to the meeting. The Presidency also outlined doc. DS 1997/13 containing an overview of MS participation in 7th AP actions, as well as information on project leaders. MS were invited to provide any new information to keep the overview up to date.

**6. Initiative on identification of learning points arising from operations outside the direct auspices of the CCWP**

The Presidency briefly presented the revised report as set out in doc. 17387/13 ENFOCUSTOM 189. The delegations adopted the report with minor changes to be issued in a revised version in the follow up to the meeting.

**7. Approval of the Multi-annual plan of JCOs**

The Presidency outlined the upcoming JCOs planned for 2014 as referred to in the multi-annual overview of JCO set out in doc. 5194/6/13 REV 6 ENFOCUSTOM 6 RESTREINT UE. The delegates approved the plan.

**8. Threat assessment 2013. Environmental Crime in the EU**

Europol gave a presentation on its environmental crime threat assessment (doc. 15915/13 COSI 123 ENFOPOL 352 ENV 1049 ENFOCUSTOM 158) focused on trafficking of illicit waste and endangered species.

## **9. Coordination of JCOs and OAP actions**

The Presidency brought up the issue of coordination of actions under the 7th AP of CCWP and OAPs. Many delegations and COM took the floor and welcomed this initiative – supporting both options presented by the Presidency – national coordination in the first place, but complemented by close co-operation of project leaders of 7th AP actions and drivers of OAPs.

## **10. Information from the incoming EL Presidency**

The incoming EL Presidency briefly presented its priorities. The full presentation would be given in the first CCWP plenary meeting on 21 January 2014.

## **11. AOB**

- **Integrated Border Management Capacity Building Project in the Eastern Partnership countries**

Frontex gave a brief presentation on its integrated management capacity building project in EaP countries.

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