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## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 21 September 2015  
To: Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security  
Subject: Summary of discussions

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### MIXED COMMITTEE

#### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda set out in 11945/1/15 REV 1 was adopted.

#### 2. Migratory pressures

##### - Trends and outlook: presentation by Frontex and EASO

The Committee took note of presentations by Frontex and EASO on the trends and outlooks regarding migratory pressures. These presentations clearly demonstrated the unprecedented nature of the migratory situation. The Frontex representative also commented on the Frontex operational response, notably operations Triton 2015 and Poseidon 2015 as well as three operational activities in the Western Balkans.

The Presidency noted the increased migratory pressure at the land borders and the need to increase the fight against human traffickers and smugglers.

- **Actions undertaken within the policy cycle in the field of illegal immigration  
(first results): presentation by Europol**

Europol referred to six key operational activities, namely operations FALKO, HUNTING GROUND and JOT COMPASS, an operation against ID fraud, an operation against marriages of convenience and JOT MARE. Europol reported an increased involvement of organised crime in illegal immigration and referred to the creation of a permanent situation centre at the request of Member States as a reaction to the illegal migration crisis. The Europol representative also referred to some ongoing developments, notably the effect of the current migration flows on related crime such as document fraud. He also mentioned the hotspot approach and the proposal to create guest officers for Europol to provide support on the ground. The Chiefs of Police from JOT MARE countries would meet during the European Police Chiefs Convention on 23 September 2015.

- **Strategic debate on possible actions in 2016**

Various delegations welcomed the possibility of having a strategic debate on migration in COSI. Delegations pointed out that COSI should concentrate on the security-related elements of migration, notably fighting organised crime groups involved in trafficking human beings and smuggling networks. Operational actions should be intelligence driven, and some delegations mentioned the need for better information exchange. Overburdening the OAPs with various new measures should, however, be avoided. Delegations nonetheless felt that the OAPs could be improved, in particular to develop cooperation with third countries as well as to develop measures aimed at tackling the financing of smuggling networks and money laundering. Delegations also supported the hotspot approach.

The Presidency concluded that it would inform the driver of the OAP 'Illegal Immigration' about the outcome of the debate so that this outcome could be taken into account in the drafting of the new OAPs. Another strategic debate on the Joint Action Days would be organised once the final results of operation Blue Amber were available. The preliminary results of that operation would be presented by the Europol Director to the Council on 8 October 2015.

### **3. Any Other Business**

No items were raised.

## **COSI**

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

The agenda set out in 11945/1/15 REV 1 was adopted.

### **2. Fight against terrorism:**

- **Follow-up to the Statement of the Members of the European Council of 12 February 2015 on counter-terrorism: State of play on implementation of measures: presentation by the CTC**

The Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (CTC) representative presented his report on the follow-up to the Statement of the Members of the European Council of 12 February 2015 (12139/15 + COR 1). Following some delegations' comments on the proposed recommendations in the report, the Presidency tasked the COSI Support Group with discussing those recommendations at its next meeting with a view to preparing for the debate at Council on 8 October 2015.

- **Follow-up of actions: state of play following the thwarted Thalys train attack of 21 August 2015**

The Committee took note of the 'Paris Declaration' of 29 August 2015 (11594/15), which was presented by the French delegation. The French representative referred to the need to make progress on PNR and the common risk indicators, have strengthened and systematic controls at the external borders, better use the SIS, have revised legislation on firearms, fight against extremist messages on the internet and fight the financing of terrorism. The French delegation also referred to the discussions at the LANDSEC meeting which the Commission organised on 11 September 2015.

The Commission representative stated that the security approach to be pursued should be proportionate to the threat and should take into account the specificities of railway transport. The LANDSEC meeting discussed a number of 'soft measures' which would be further discussed at the Transport Council on 8 October 2015. The Commission also recalled the importance of the Article 36 alerts.

- **TE-SAT: presentation by Europol**

The Committee took note of the European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) as presented by Europol (12168/15).

- **Link between organised crime and terrorism: presentation by Europol**

The Committee took note of the key findings of a Europol report on 'the nexus between organised crime and terrorism in the EU' (10689/15).

### 3. Firearms

- **Draft Council conclusions on strengthening the use of means of fighting trafficking of firearms (11623/1/15 REV 1 + COR 1)**

The text of the draft Council conclusions as it results from the discussions in COSI is set out in 11623/2/15 REV 2. The Presidency concluded that the draft Council conclusions would be submitted to Coreper with a view to adoption by the Council on 8 October 2015.

- **Europol Threat Assessment on Firearms: presentation by Europol**

The Committee took note of the Europol Threat Assessment on Firearms (12069/15).

#### **4. EU Policy Cycle:**

##### **a) Draft SOCTA Customer requirements: discussion**

The Committee agreed on the SOCTA Customer requirements set out in 12267/15. The SOCTA 2017 methodology would be submitted to COSI in December 2015.

The German delegation called on Member States to provide more and better comparable figures to Europol which would allow Europol to further improve the informative value of the SOCTA.

##### **b) Independent evaluation mechanism: information on the state of play by the Commission**

The Commission presented its initial ideas regarding the content and process of the independent evaluation mechanism for the EU Policy Cycle (11878/15). Various delegations stated that they needed more time to examine the Commission's ideas. As a first reaction, delegations stated that the evaluation should cover the impact of the Policy Cycle on organised crime rather than procedural issues. Considering this possible scope of the evaluation, various delegations opposed the idea of entrusting the evaluation to an independent consultant since this would require having access to classified and sensitive information as well as specific law enforcement knowledge.

The Presidency concluded that most Member States did not support the idea of an independent consultant and invited the COSI Support Group to further elaborate the evaluation mechanism concept, together with the incoming the Netherlands Presidency.

##### **c) State of play operation Blue Amber: presentation by Europol**

Europol presented the initial results of operation Blue Amber and stated that a preliminary evaluation would be carried out at the end of October 2015. The Europol Director would also brief the Justice and Home Affairs Council on the initial results on 8 October 2015. The final results of the operation would become available at the end of 2015.

## **5. Joint Eurojust - Europol annual report: presentation by Eurojust and Europol**

The Committee took note of the joint Eurojust - Europol annual report (10472/15) which was presented by Eurojust. Eurojust mentioned the Blackshades operation, an operation targeting an organisation developing and selling malicious software (malware).

## **6. Any Other Business**

### **- Cross border criminal motor cycle gangs: presentation by the Belgian delegation**

The Belgian delegation announced that Belgium would like to address the growing phenomenon of criminal motorcycle gangs in border regions at the JHA Council on 8 October 2015. Belgium would also present some ideas for an EU approach to tackle that crime phenomenon (12041/15).

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