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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 17 November 2015
To: Terrorism Working Party
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted, as set out in CM 4509/15.

2. Information by the Presidency

To commemorate the victims of the Paris terrorist attacks on 13 November 2015, one minute of silence was observed. The Presidency gave a short summary of events since the previous TWP. Following the Paris attacks an extraordinary COSI meeting had been held on 16 November 2015. At this meeting information was provided by the Presidency and France on actions taken after the Paris terrorist attacks. An extraordinary Council meeting would be held on 20 November 2015 with the aim of accelerating the measures already agreed upon in February 2015. The different stakeholders had been asked to provide the requested written reports on the implementation of the five priority short-term actions, agreed upon by the JHA Council on 8 October 2015, and as set out in 12551/15, to be presented to the JHA Council in December. Furthermore, a brief update was given on the state of play on the PNR Directive. A conference organised by the Commission, the CTC and the Presidency on "The criminal justice response to radicalisation" had taken place on 19 October 2015, and Council conclusions on this topic were to be adopted on 20 November 2015.

3. Latest incidents of significant interest

- Information from the Member States

The chair of the TWP gave the floor to France to give a brief account of the situation following the terrorist attacks. Seven delegations took the floor to report on recent events and the situation concerning foreign terrorist fighters.

- Aviation Security following Sharm El Sheikh

The UK delegation briefly informed about the latest findings, establishing that an explosive device had caused the crash. There was a keen interest from third countries to work with European partners on aviation security issues.

4. BONAS (BOmb factory detection by Networks of Advanced Sensors) project and related research projects in the area of explosives detection

- Presentation by the Commission

A comprehensive briefing (power point (ppt) distributed after the meeting) was given by a representative from the Commission's unit for Innovation and industry for Security.

5. Islamist radicalisation and terrorist recruitment in European prisons (EU CONFIDENTIAL)

- Presentation by INTCEN

Delegations took note of the presentation made by INTCEN.

6. Dealing with radicalisation in the prison and probation context: lessons learnt, challenges and outlook from the practitioner's perspective

- Presentation by the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) working group on prison and probation

Presentation setting out the experiences of the RAN prison and probation WG, which had been in existence for three years and today included 146 practitioners. Many observations were made concerning both radicalisation, lessons learned, prison regimes and possible ways ahead.

The RAN representative stressed that RAN expertise could be deployed in Member States upon request, e.g. in the form of workshops or "train the trainers" courses, or the establishment of national groups with RAN in a supporting role.

7. Radicalisation in prisons and Danish rehabilitation programmes

- Presentation by the Danish delegation

The Danish delegate gave an overview of the activities aimed at countering radicalisation in Danish penal institutions, and the results of an evaluation completed in 2015 by the Ministry of Justice of the efforts to counter radicalisation and extremism in Danish prisons.

8. Draft guidelines for the EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism (CM 4136/15)

- Presentation by the Presidency of the outcome of the questionnaire

The Presidency presented the outcome that will be circulated in written form to delegations.

9. Western Balkans counter-terrorism initiative

- State of play / follow-up

The Presidency informed that it was envisaged to adopt the draft Council Conclusions at the JHA-Council of 3-4 December 2015. The integrative action plan would then be endorsed by the WB side at the Ministerial meeting to be held in Sarajevo on 7-8 December 2015.

10. Programme of the incoming Dutch Presidency

Dates for TWP-meeting during next semester: 20 January, 8 March, 6 April and 7 June. Joint TWP/COTER on 19 April.

Two conferences were announced: One in Amsterdam on 1-2 February 2015 on "A comprehensive approach to countering radicalisation and violent extremism" and a second on 1 March 2015, equally in Amsterdam on "Countering Terrorist Travel". A "save-the-date" with descriptions of the two events has been circulated to delegations.

The incoming Presidency informed that, apart from continuing the among the topics to be discussed would be radicalisation, security in relation to travel and information exchange. Other topics were under preparation.

11. Information on counter-terrorism activities

- CTC
- Commission
- EEAS
- The EEAS and the Commission with the support of the EU CTC had accelerated the implementation of the FAC (Foreign Affairs Council) Conclusions of 11 February: CT/security experts have been deployed in Morocco, Tunisia, Nigeria, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. In Egypt and Algeria CT experts would be deployed soon. Experts' workshops had been organised in Lebanon and Turkey to identify the CT needs of these countries. The first enhanced security and CT dialogue had taken place in Tunisia. A workshop on CT in Jordan would take place on 15-16 December 2015, on 16 December an upgraded dialogue in Lebanon following a workshop in February. Two main activities for the beginning of 2016: in January the EU CTC/EEAS would visit Morocco and Algeria (CT workshop) to develop ideas to strengthen CT cooperation.
- Europol

Europol briefly informed on the European Counter-Terrorism Centre (ECTC) to be established by 1 January 2016. In relation to information exchange, a new version of SIENA only for Counter-Terrorism, allowing also bilateral cooperation without involving Europol, would be upgraded to "confidential" in 2016. Last deadline to ask for connections had been mid November. UK and AT had been testing, additionally 14 Member States had asked to be connected. 15 third countries would be associated as well. This was considered a major step ahead for information sharing.

11. AOB

No items were raised under this point.