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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council

On: 16 November 2015

To: Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security

Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Paris attacks: exchange of information

The Committee expressed its deepest condolences to the victims of the Paris attacks, their families and friends. The Committee also emphasised its solidarity with the people of France and paid tribute to the courage and decisive actions of the French authorities.

The Presidency explained that this extraordinary COSI meeting had been convened to prepare for the JHA Council which would meet on Friday 20 November 2015. The Presidency referred to a joint declaration which was made by French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve, Deputy Prime Minister Etienne Schneider, representing the Luxembourg Presidency, and European Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos on 15 November 2015, which highlighted European PNR, firearms security and the reinforcement of controls at external borders as priorities to be addressed at the Council. The Presidency stressed that concrete, tangible and strong measures were expected by citizens.

The French delegation informed delegations about the Paris attacks and the immediate measures that had been taken. It stressed the need to make full use of the existing tools and to implement without delay the measures that had been agreed on 12 February 2015 by the Heads of State or Government. The French and Belgian delegations also welcomed the excellent bilateral cooperation between their countries. The French and Belgian Ministers of Interior had met on 15 November 2015 to discuss security measures. The fight against firearms trafficking, PNR and strengthening border controls were considered priority measures by both Ministers.

Europol briefly referred to the support provided by Europol in the aftermath of the Paris events and suggested three topics to maximise cooperation: reflecting on a 'policy cycle-like' methodology on terrorism, improving information sharing and establishing operational teams at Europol to combat terrorism.

2. Follow-up of current actions

Delegations exchanged views on the basis of a joint Presidency/CTC paper (14122/15), which invited Member States to comment on the following topics: firearms, external borders and information sharing as well as terrorist financing.

All delegations that took the floor expressed their broad support for the proposals contained in the paper, on the basis of which draft Council conclusions would be prepared. Delegations stressed the need for an ambitious EU PNR and to step up efforts in fighting the trafficking of firearms.

The Commission announced that the Implementing Regulation on common deactivation standards was scheduled for adoption on 18 November 2015. On the same day the Commission would present a proposal to revise the current Directive on firearms.

Delegations also acknowledged the importance of strengthening controls at the external borders and of better exchanging information. The financing of terrorism was also considered a priority field of action. Special attention should also be given to the prevention of radicalisation.

3. Any Other Business

The Presidency informed delegations about the state of play of the negotiations with the European Parliament on the PNR Directive.

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