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**GENVAL 31
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: Working Party on General Matters, including Evaluations (GENVAL)
On: 3 February 2016
To: Delegations

Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in doc. **CM 3617/1/15 REV 1**.

2. Presentation of Presidency's programme

The Presidency presented its programme and priorities which were designed in cooperation with the Slovak Republic and Malta as members of the new Trio of Presidencies.

3. Seventh round of mutual evaluations

– Adoption of the Report on Romania

The draft report on Romania, as set out in doc. **13022/1/15 REV 1 GENVAL 46 CYBER 99 RESTREINT UE/RESTRICTED EU**, was adopted by the Working Party, following the discussion held at last GENVAL meeting on 30 October 2015.

The Presidency took note of the intervention of the German delegation on certain recommendations to Romania - which echoed some of its written comments distributed to GENVAL delegations prior to the meeting. The Presidency indicated its willingness to reflect on how to better give consideration to the comments made by Germany.

4. Seventh round of mutual evaluations

– Discussion of the Report on Estonia

The expert team responsible for the evaluation presented the content of the draft report on Estonia and the respective conclusions and recommendations, as set out in doc. 10953/15 GENVAL 27 CYBER 73 RESTREINT UE/RESTRICTED EU. Estonia expressed its comments on the findings of the evaluation team and replied to the questions asked by other delegations.

The German delegation suggested some changes to three of the recommendations made to Estonia, which the expert team did not agree with.

Some Member States noted that, although national experts in charge of peer evaluations should have the final say on the content of a specific report, GENVAL delegations should be given the opportunity to contribute horizontally to important questions of substance stemming from that mutual evaluation round; the final report of the round might be an appropriate medium to this end.

The Presidency concluded that positive consideration should be given to this constructive way forward.

The draft report on Estonia will be presented at next GENVAL meeting for adoption.

5. Seventh round of mutual evaluations

– Discussion of the Report on Bulgaria

The evaluation team presented the content of the draft report on Bulgaria and the ensuing conclusions and recommendations, as set out in doc. 5156/16 GENVAL 2 CYBER 2 RESTREINT UE/RESTRICTED EU. Bulgaria expressed its comments on the findings of the evaluation team and replied to the questions asked by other delegations.

The draft report on Bulgaria will be presented at next GENVAL meeting for adoption.

6. Improvement of the follow-up to mutual evaluation reports

- Approval of conclusions and recommendations

General approval was given to conclusions and recommendations contained in doc. 5538/15 GENVAL 85 COPEN 358 DROIPEN 173 JAI 1026, however several delegations expressed concerns over any additional administrative burden that may arise from the newly designed follow-up procedure. Some delegations underlined that the purpose of the improvements made to the follow-up mechanism was not to review in all details the situation of Member State as regard recommendations made to it.

The Presidency concluded that the follow-up process should ensure the right balance and stated that delegations' concerns would be reflected in a new revised version to be presented at the next GENVAL meeting.

7. Follow up to sixth Mutual Evaluation Round

- **Presentation by Eurojust and EJM and discussion**

Delegations welcomed the detailed presentations made by Eurojust and by EJM on the implementation of the recommendations made to each of them during the sixth Round of mutual evaluations dedicated to “the practical implementation and operation of Council Decision 2002/187/JHA of 28 February 2002 setting up Eurojust with a view to reinforcing the fight against serious crime and of Council Decision 2008/976/JHA on the European Judicial Network in criminal matters”.

8. Outcome of Eurojust independent external evaluation

- **Presentation by Eurojust and discussion**

Eurojust made a presentation of the context, the main conclusions and the follow-up of recommendations of the first independent external evaluation pursuant Article 41a of the consolidated Eurojust Decision (the evaluation report can be found in doc. 11260/15 EUROJUST 153 COPEN 216 GENVAL 32 COSI 100).

9. Outcome of last Genocide Network meeting

– Presentation by the Genocide Network and discussion

GENVAL marked its interest to the information provided by the Genocide Network about its most recent activities on the basis of doc. 13994/15 GENVAL 54 COPEN 302 EUROJUST 189 ENFOPOL 334 COHOM 109 and 13995/15 GENVAL 55 COPEN 303 EUROJUST 190 ENFOPOL 335 COHOM 110.

The representative of the Genocide Network underlined notably the need for accessing to relevant and accurate information on both perpetrators and victims of crimes, and the necessity for enhanced specific training of EU competent practitioners in this area of major importance at international level.

10. Trafficking on human beings (THB)

– Strengthening multidisciplinary cooperation against THB for labour exploitation

The Presidency informed GENVAL delegations about the outcome of the Conference TeamWork on 18-19 January 2015 and the Teamwork Manual for experts, and invited delegations to submit their preliminary views on the Draft Council conclusions on the fight against THB for labour exploitation.

The draft Council conclusions as set out in doc. 5287/16 JAI 25 DROIPEN 9 COPEN 10 RELEX 30 GENVAL 4 MIGR 2 SOC 22 COSI 9 received broad support from delegations at this early stage. The Commission thanked the Presidency for the work done and underlined the importance of concrete initiatives as is the Teamwork Manual for experts.

11. A.O.B.

No issues were raised under this point.
