



**Brussels, 18 March 2016
(OR. en)**

7237/16

**GENVAL 36
COPEN 83
CYBER 25**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: Working Party on General Matters, including Evaluations (GENVAL)
On: 16 March 2016
To: Delegations

Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in doc. **CM 1709/1/16 REV 1**.

2. Seventh round of mutual evaluations

– Adoption of the Report on Estonia

The draft report on Estonia, as set out in document **10953/15 GENVAL 27 CYBER 73 RESTREINT UE/RESTRICTED EU**, was adopted by the Working Party following the discussion held at last GENVAL meeting on 3 February 2016.

3. Seventh round of mutual evaluations

– Adoption of the Report on Bulgaria

The draft report on Bulgaria, as set out in document **5156/1/16 REV 1 GENVAL 2 CYBER 2 RESTREINT UE/RESTRICTED EU**, was adopted by the Working Party following the discussion held at last GENVAL meeting on 3 February 2016.

4. Seventh round of mutual evaluations

– Discussion of the Report on Spain

The expert team responsible for the evaluation presented the content of the draft report on Spain and the respective conclusions and recommendations, as set out in document 6289/16 GENVAL 22 CYBER 16 RESTREINT UE/RESTRICTED EU. ES expressed its gratitude to the expert team for their findings and cooperation they provided and made some comments on the issues included in the report and presented by the expert team.

SK and FI asked some questions addressed to ES which were responded. The DE delegation suggested some changes to two of the recommendations made to ES and the EU. Regarding the recommendation made to ES the expert team did not agree to make any changes. However, it agreed to slightly modify the recommendation addressed to the EU.

The Chair reminded GENVAL delegations of the rule leaving national experts in charge of peer evaluations the final say on the content of a specific report and concluded that positive consideration should be given to this constructive way forward.

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

5. Seventh round of mutual evaluations

– Discussion of the Report on Lithuania

The evaluation team presented the content of the draft report on Lithuania and the ensuing conclusions and recommendations, as set out in document 6520/16 GENVAL 27 CYBER 19 RESTREINT UE/RESTRICTED EU.

LT expressed its gratitude to the expert team for their findings and cooperation they provided and made some comments on the issues included in the report and presented by the expert team.

PT and UK asked some questions addressed to LT which were responded. The DE delegation suggested some changes to two of the recommendations made to LT and the EU.

These comments were responded to by the evaluation team, which decided to not modify the content of the recommendations, based on its findings and conclusions.

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

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

- Follow-up discussion of the recommendations and conclusions

The working party discussed the revised draft of Presidency's initiative for the improvement of the follow-up to the evaluation mechanism foreseen in Joint Action 97/827/JHA, as set out in document 15538/2/15 REV 2.

The Chair introduced the revised draft and stressed the idea that the draft reflects the previous discussions.

FR, supported by other delegations, proposed to add the provision that the General Secretariat of the Council will provide to the delegations a template in order to ensure a standardised response from the Member States in the reporting process.

The Presidency proposed to delegations a new wording to be added to point 18, third indent of the document 15538/2/15 REV 2, as follow:

"A template will be provided by the General Secretariat of the Council in order to assist the Member States in the follow-up reporting process."

RO, supported by other delegations, asked for more clarification in the text of the meaning of the provision "*if necessary*".

The Presidency concluded that the revised draft will include the following mention: "*if necessary, on the request of the Member State or of the Presidency*".

7. Trafficking on human beings

- Report of the Teamwork Conference on THB for labour exploitation
- Information by the NL delegation
- Draft Council conclusions on the fight against THB for labour exploitation
- Concluding discussion

The working party discussed the revised draft Council Conclusions on addressing trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation, as set out in Annex 2 of document 5287/1/16 REV 1.

The Chair introduced the revised document, emphasising that the comments and proposals previously expressed by the delegations were included. Commission and other delegations proposed some new changes to the current text, the majority being accepted by the Presidency.

The draft Council Conclusions will be revised by the Presidency and sent to delegations for approval, with a view to their submission to COSI and Coreper/Council as I/A point for adoption.

8. European Union Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) Multiannual Strategy 2016 - 2020

- **Presentation by EUCPN**

The EUCPN representative presented the new Multiannual Strategy 2016-2020, as set out in document 6525/16, its main objectives and vision: to contribute to the development and promotion of a multidisciplinary approach to crime, by providing active support to both policymakers and practitioners.

The Presidency addressed a few questions to the delegations, as set out in the document 6525/16, in order to achieve a greater awareness of the network's activities and to increase cooperation between regional and local level and the National Representatives to the EUCPN.

Delegations expressed a broad support for EUCPN activities, emphasising the importance of the National Representatives' role and mandate, the necessity of more visibility, including by awareness campaigns, and more cooperation with international organizations. Other suggestions made by delegations referred to the necessity to create a list of national contact points and set up a budget for translation.

Due to the fact that the EUCPN cannot be chaired during the second semester of 2017 according to the usual EU Presidency calendar and following the Presidency's invitation addressed to the Member States, EE expressed during the meeting its willingness to chair the EUCPN during this period.

9. Informal European Network on Victim's Rights

- **draft Council conclusions establishing an Informal European Network on Victims' Rights**
- **first exchange of views**

The working party discussed the draft Council Conclusions establishing an informal European Network on Victim's rights, as set out in document 6526/16.

The Chair presented the document, stressing the importance of the topic. Delegations welcomed the initiative and expressed some concrete comments and suggestions.

The Presidency invited the delegations to submit written comments before cob on 4 April 2016 and announced that it will further reflect if the revised text will be presented again at the next GENVAL meeting.

10. Administrative approach to prevent and tackle serious and organised crime

- **Draft Council conclusions on the administrative approach**
- **First exchange of views**

The working party had a first exchange of views on the draft Council conclusions. Some concrete suggestions for amendments of the text were put forward by delegations.

The Presidency invited the delegations to submit written comments before cob on 4 April 2016, and announced that on the basis of the written comments, and taking into account the proceedings at the "Working apart together" conference on 21 and 22 March in Amsterdam, it would submit a new draft text. This text will then be discussed at the next GENVAL meeting.

11. A.O.B.

No issue was discussed under this point.
