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PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

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Subject: Operational Action Plan 2018 related to the EU crime priority
"Environmental Crime"

Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



Brussels, 12 December 2017
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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	9450/17, 11806/17
Subject:	Operational Action Plan 2018 related to the EU crime priority "Environmental Crime"

Delegations will find attached the OAP 2018 regarding the EU crime priority "Environmental crime", developed under the overall responsibility of the FR driver, as agreed by COSI Support Group on 1 December 2017.

NOT DECLASSIFIED Member States participate in this OAP, as well as **NOT DECLASSIFIED**.

The OAP 2018 consists of 18 actions, 11 of which are classified as operational.

This new priority will benefit from the support of the ENVICRIMENET network. The main challenges faced by this OAP will be in terms of coordination between different actors at national levels (security forces, customs, administrative authorities) having to cope with some of them not being given access to SIENA. The OAP will also have to interact with numerous ongoing initiatives at EU and international levels.

Operational Action Plan:

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

1. Aim

This Operational Action Plan (OAP) has been created within the framework of the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime¹. This OAP corresponds to the following priority:

To disrupt OCGs involved in environmental crime, more particularly wildlife and illicit waste trafficking.

This OAP contains a breakdown of all the operational actions that will be carried out during the year 2018 as the way to reach the various strategic goals chosen during the "MASP" workshop.

It also gives a general overview of the tasks and responsibilities of the Member States, the EU institutions, agencies and other possible entities involved in the delivery of the plan.

¹ 7704/17

2. Context

Some of the operational actions (OA) of this OAP have potential for overlaps with several other OA in other OAPs.

Any overlaps identified between OAPs will be the subject of careful management attention and coordination as described below (see end of paragraph 5.1).

3. Structure

The plan is essentially a coordination overview presenting the general outline of operational actions, rather than the specific detail of each. That detail will be found in the related activity documentation which is referenced within this plan. The activity documentation should include a description of the breakdown of the activity in “What, When, Where, Who and How” the activity will be carried out.

The Annex to the plan contains a table with all operational actions.

The table will facilitate:

- Cross-reference between different, but related, operational actions within the same priority
- Cross-reference between operational actions which also contribute to a different priority
- Reference to detailed project documentation for a given operational actions
- Identification of possible JADs.

4. Management & Project Support

4.1. Management

Overall management responsibility for this OAP lies with the Drivers and Co-Drivers of each OAP as identified by COSI and set out in the list of relevant actors regularly issued.

Every individual operational action of this OAP has a designated Action Leader duly tasked and empowered for this role, assisted if required by a Co-Action Leader.

Management responsibility for each operational action is clearly shown in the list of operational actions.

The management approach shall be in line with the EU Policy Cycle Terms of Reference².

4.2. Project support

In order to allow the Driver to focus on project management (of the common actions), and to reduce the national responsibility for overall EU coordination, Europol shall provide the project support for this OAP in line with the EU Policy Cycle Terms of Reference.

4.3. Information management

The Europol Analysis Projects shall be the primary means by which operational data emanating from the operational actions within this plan shall be processed. Other Europol System may also be used where appropriate.

It is recommended that all operational information exchange and progress reporting within the OAP shall be done using SIENA (Secure Information Exchange Network Application), which provides a quick, secure and auditable means of communication between all competent authorities and Europol.

² 10544/2/17 REV2

5. Methodology

5.1. Planning

This OAP has been developed by experts of **NOT DECLASSIFIED** together with the **NOT DECLASSIFIED** are registered as Relevant Actor for this OAP; however they were not in attendance.

The scope of operational actions included in the plan corresponds to the conclusions and recommendations emanating from the specific assessment of the problem which is central to the priority crime area.

When available, the actions should also include administrative measures. Wherever possible, due use will be made of opportunities and processes for a wider inter-agency approach. The Member States are invited to integrate the relevant actions developed in the plan at the appropriate level into their national planning and to allocate resources to support a common EU approach. Similarly, the agencies should commit the actions developed into their annual work programmes pursuant to the Council conclusions on the continuation of the of the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime for the period 2018-2021 and the EU Policy Cycle Terms of Reference.

The OAP was agreed by COSI Support Group and the tasking responsibilities contained in the plan were confirmed. That process has also identified actions contained in this plan which may be related to other plans, and vice versa. These issues will be included into the agenda of the OAP kick-off meeting in early 2018 and will be addressed by the Driver in conjunction with the Action Leaders, participants and Europol, in cooperation with the Drivers of the other OAPs involved.

5.2. Implementation

The OAP will be implemented according to the breakdown of operational actions and timescales contained in the OAP. The Driver, assisted by the Co-Driver, will be the authority to execute or delegate the management/leadership of a specific action to the Action Leader, who then has the responsibility for initiating and reporting on each action to the Driver.

5.3. Monitoring and reporting

Monitoring and reporting shall be done in line with and using the template set out in the reporting collection mechanism. This mechanism will be established following Action 15 of the Council conclusions on the continuation of the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime for the period 2018-2021³.

This regime for on-going monitoring and periodical reporting⁴ should include:

- Progress and results within the individual operational actions, including targets and key performance indicators (KPIs).
- Progress and results within the overall OAP, including the measurement of achievement as agreed at the MASPs meetings.
- Cross reporting between different strategic goals/OAP's as appropriate

5.4. Good practices

Experiences within the delivery of the OAP which provide examples of good (and bad) practice will be duly recorded. This will be a responsibility of the Driver to report them to the attention of the EMPACT Support Team and of the National EMPACT Coordinators for wider sharing.

³ 7704/17

⁴ Including possible reference to resources allocated and their use

Operational Action Plan (OAP)

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

EU Crime Priority: Environmental crime OAP 2018

List of actions

Strategic Goal 1: intelligence Picture

Objective: through the detection of intelligence gaps, to identify and to monitor trends and new developments in the field of environmental crime affecting the EU, to detect its links to serious and organised crime and to identify the links between the latter and other criminal areas, in order to deliver an updated intelligence picture.

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Strategic Goal 2: operational activities

Objective: prepare and conduct coordinated controls, investigations and prosecutions to detect and disrupt organised crime groups active in the area of environmental crime affecting the EU.

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Strategic Goal 3: prevention and capacity building

Objective: increase prevention against threats relating to environmental crime, including awareness-raising amongst relevant public and private actors, and building the law enforcement capacity to tackle environmental crime by improving knowledge, skills and expertise based on training and sharing of good practices.

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Strategic Goal 4: cooperation with non EU partners (third countries, international organisations)

Objective: enhance cooperation with relevant non EU partners such as international organisations, regional fora, non EU source, transit and destination countries in the field of environmental crime.

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Strategic Goal 5: document fraud

Objective: target organised crime groups involved in environmental crime activities using document fraud and false declarations by involving specialised experts, investigators and prosecutors, where relevant, as part of investigations in the area of environmental crime.

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Strategic Goal 6: Financial investigations

Objective: Combat environmental crime by involving specialised financial investigators and prosecutors with the view to identify and disrupt financial flows, tackle money laundering and facilitate asset recovery.

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Strategic Goal 7: on-line trade in illicit goods & services

Objective: target the perpetrators, including organised criminal groups, involved in the online trade in licit and illicit goods and services in the area of environmental crime.

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