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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 26 June 2018
To: Delegations

Subject: Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security
(COSI)

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as set out in 3350/18 was adopted.

2. Information from the Presidency

The Presidency reported on the progress made in the implementation of the Council conclusions on the strengthening of the ATLAS network. At the latest Law Enforcement Working Party (LEWP) meeting of 21 June 2018, Europol informed that a formal agreement with ATLAS commanders would be submitted for adoption to the Europol Management Board meeting on 3 October 2018. The ATLAS Support Office (ASO) is expected to be established by mid-2019. COSI will continue monitoring future developments of the ATLAS network.

3. Roadmap to enhance information exchange and information management including interoperability solutions in the Justice and Home affairs area: annual implementation report

- Endorsement

The Committee endorsed the annual implementation report as set out in 7931/1/18 REV 1.

4. Smuggling of migrants

- = Thematic discussion

Based on the contributions by Europol (European Migrant Smuggling Centre activity report), Frontex (presentation of the Centre of Excellence on Document Fraud) and Eurojust (Report on case work on migrant smuggling), the Committee held a thematic discussion and confirmed the way ahead for optimising the use of EU tools to fight migrant smuggling while building on the progress achieved so far (10256/18). The important role of the operational activities in the context of the EU Policy Cycle/EMPACT was underlined. The full implementation of the Information Clearing House should be pursued. Engaging with third countries (source and transit) was reiterated as a main focus of future work, where the involvement of the European migration liaison officers in third countries could be enhanced. The need to integrate better the judicial dimension in fighting migrant smuggling was pointed out on several occasions.

4.1. Activity report of the European Migrant Smuggling Centre

- = Presentation by Europol

9811/18

The Committee took note of the presentation by Europol.

4.2. Centre of excellence on Document Fraud

- = Presentation by FRONTEX

The Committee took note of the presentation by FRONTEX.

5. Fight against Terrorism

5.1. EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) 2018

= Presentation by Europol and exchange of views

The Committee took note of the TE-SAT 2018 Report, as set out in 10259/18.

5.2. Final report of the High Level Commission Expert Group on Radicalisation (HLCEG-R)

= Exchange of views

COSI exchanged of views on the final report of the High Level Commission Group on Radicalisation (HLCEG-R) as set out in 10239/18. Delegations confirmed the report as a good basis for further work, including the structures suggested and the two new working methods (peer reviews and enhanced study visits). The vacancy note for cost free seconded national experts (SNEs) to the taskforce/coordination hub was published on 26 July 2018 with deadline for applications by the end of July. A number of delegations stressed that the Council preparatory bodies (COSI and TWP) should be involved in the monitoring and follow-up and informed on a regular basis about progress achieved. Some Member States underlined the importance of setting out clear benchmarks for an evaluation, while others deemed appropriate to discuss assessment at a later stage.

6. Organised and serious international crime

6.1. Organised domestic burglary

DE presented a progress report (10260/18) which was prepared in close cooperation with BE, FR, SE and Europol regarding the follow-up to the Council conclusions on organised domestic burglary (13268/16). The conclusions build upon the operational action plans (OAPs) on organised property crime (OPC) under the EU Policy Cycle promoting a holistic approach. While some actions set out in the conclusions seem to be completed, some others still require further work.

A decrease in this type of crime in 2016 and 2017 was noted, which might be a result of organised mobile criminal groups having moved their activities to other Member States. The importance of comparable data in this context was underlined.

The importance of the multidisciplinary approach in relation to this crime phenomenon, including better involvement of Eurojust and integration of the judicial dimension, as well as operational cooperation with non-EU countries of origin was pointed out. Work on that matter will continue in the COSI Support Group.

6.2. Trafficking in firearms: National Firearms Focal Point approach

The Chair of the European Firearms Experts (EFE) network presented best practice guidance for the creation of national firearms focal points within the EU Member States (8586/18), as endorsed by the LEWP on 17 May 2018. The purpose of the focal points is to gather, analyse and improve the flow of information regarding the criminal use and illicit trafficking of firearms into and within the Member State and throughout the EU at a strategic and operational level. COM called upon the 15 Member States which have not yet nominated focal points to do so as soon as possible.

COSI invited LEWP to monitor the further developments.

7. Internal/External dimension of security

7.1. Pilot project on Crime Information Cell in EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia: state of play

= Update by EEAS/COM

EEAS informed the Committee that following the endorsement of the amended OPLAN of operation Sophia by PSC on 21/06, all legal conditions are in place now, so the Pilot project can be effectively launched in the beginning of July 2018.

7.2. Strengthening EU-Ukraine cooperation on internal security

= Follow-up to the 2017 Council conclusions (15615/17)

COSI was briefed by INTCEN and EUAM Ukraine on the security situation on Ukraine.

7.3. Western Balkans

a/ EU- Western Balkans Senior Officials Meeting on JHA (Brussels, 25 June 2018)

= Debriefing by the Presidency

The Presidency debriefed COSI on the outcome of the first EU-Western Balkans senior officials level meeting held in Brussels on 25 June 2018. COM confirmed the added value of this exercise also in the run up of the regular ministerial meetings with the partners from the Western Balkans in the autumn.

b/ Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association (SEPCA) region threat assessment

= Presentation by Europol

Europol presented its input to the SEPCA region threat assessment (10261/18) and gave a state of play of the involvement of the Western Balkans partners in the EU Policy Cycle. It was noted that a number of actions are ongoing, but there is still room for improvement.

7.4. EU - Interpol Senior Officials meeting (Lyon, 21 June 2018)

= Debriefing by the Presidency

The Presidency debriefed the Committee on the outcome of the EU - Interpol Senior Officials meeting held on 21 June 2018 in Lyon. An outcome of proceedings from the meeting will be circulated. With regard to the WHOIS database reform, it was underlined that the active engagement and support of the Commission in swiftly finalising asap the assessment of the technical, legal and financial aspects of the interim solution option proposed by Europol is crucial. Europol underlined once again the legitimate need of law enforcement authorities to restore access to WHOIS data as soon as possible and confirmed its readiness to assist in putting forward a viable solution to that end. Substantive work on this matter will continue in the Horizontal Working Party on Cyber issues.

8. Presentation of the work programme of the incoming AT Presidency

The incoming AT Presidency presented its main priorities. As regards COSI it will focus inter alia on promoting and strengthening operational cooperation, strengthening the JHA agencies, (further) developing, monitoring and implementing the Internal Security Strategy, supporting the Council with regard to the solidarity clause(Article 222, TFEU).

The following COSI meetings are initially foreseen: 2-3 July 2018 (informal), 28 September, 23 November and (possibly) 18 December 2018.

9. AOB

The Italian delegation gave a presentation on Italy's participation in the exercise on cyber-attacks against IT infrastructures.

The Romanian delegation briefly presented the Declaration of the Salzburg Forum Ministerial Conference, which took place in Bucharest on 14-15 June.

A leaflet prepared by the General Secretariat of the Council on the EU Policy Cycle 2018-2021 was distributed. It will be made available in all the EU official languages and published on the Council website.
