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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 8 November 2018
To: Law Enforcement Working Party
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The working Party adopted the agenda, as set out in CM 4842/18, without any additions under AOB.

2. Information by the Presidency

The Presidency provided information on meetings of LEWP networks that had taken place since the previous plenary session and outlined the calendar of meetings to take place until the end of the year.

3. EU CULTNET

A representative of the EU CTC presented a document containing arguments relating to the way forward in stepping-up cooperation in the fight against crime with cultural goods (13246/18).

Europol presented its initial assessment of the EU CTC's proposal (13247/18) and provided insight on possible practical implications of the various options, e.g. with respect to protection of confidential information and use of its premises.

The LEWP expressed broad support to the EU CTC's proposal to deploy Seconded national experts (SNEs) at Europol, and more specifically within AP Furtum where the fight against crime with cultural goods would become a specific area handled by the above SNEs financed by their respective Member States. Italy and Cyprus expressed their readiness to consider seconding the first national experts.

The LEWP decided to request the Management Board of Europol to discuss all relevant practical implications at its next meeting in December 2018, as well as to initiate a study concerning the current level of threat posed by crime with cultural goods, in order to assess specific needs in terms of personnel and resources in the future.

In this context, the LEWP also discussed the possibility of physically locating the envisaged secretariat of the EU CULTNET network at Europol, and came to the conclusion that such a step would be premature at this stage. The Presidency concluded that a revised version of the draft Council Resolution on CULTNET (11054/1/18 REV 1), taking into account the above results of the LEWP's discussion, would be drawn-up and circulated before the end of the year.

4. LEWP Networks and Expert groups: European Firearms Experts (EFE)

The Chair of the European Firearms Experts group presented the network's achievements in 2018 and objectives for 2019. Four topics were of particular importance in 2018: Sharing of ballistic data, countering the use of false and forged documents for the illegal movement of firearms across the EU, creation of National Focal Points, and assessment in relation to the source of firearms seized within Member States. For 2019, EFE should also maintain and update the Glossary of Firearms Terminology as a living document and assist FRONTEX in the production of a Handbook for use by Customs and Border Guards and Police Officers to increase their knowledge in the recognition of weapon types to combat firearms trafficking.

5. LEWP Networks and Expert groups: Major Sports Events (MSE)

Based on 13618/18, the LEWP discussed possibilities to finance the deployment of police officers during the EURO 2020 football championship. The Commission indicated that financing under ISF Police / EU action was most probably impossible, as a specific project would have to be established and a recipient would have to be identified. Therefore, the Commission advised to explore the possibility, for each Member State, to finance the deployment of its police officers from a national program within ISF Police.

6. Mandate of the LEWP

Based on 13621/18, the LEWP decided that the information concerning the LEWP as a Preparatory body on the Council's website should read as follows:

„The Law Enforcement Working Party handles both legislative and non-legislative activities including related operational issues in the area of police cooperation and law enforcement, such as maintenance of public order, prevention of and fight against crime, and strengthening cooperation between police and law enforcement authorities and their specialised services. Relevant EU bodies and agencies, especially CEPOL and Europol, may be invited to attend the Working Party meetings and share their expertise on specific items.”

Relevant services of the Council Secretariat will be contacted in order to modify the information on the website accordingly.

On the other hand, the formal mandate, as agreed by COREPER in 2009 when the LEWP was created, shall remain the same for reasons of strict consistency with the Treaty.

7. Priorities of the upcoming Romanian Presidency

The Romanian delegation presented the priorities of its upcoming Presidency. Concerning the priorities for the LEWP, most attention will be devoted to preventive policing (e.g. deployment of police officers abroad in the context of tourism), creating synergies between LEWP networks and interoperability of police communication tools, such as common mobile applications and common frequencies.

8. AOB

No items were raised under this point of the agenda.
