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From: General Secretariat of the Council
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To: Delegations

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Subject: Council conclusions on the future strategic direction in the field of internal security
- Council conclusions (6 December 2018)

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on the future strategic direction in the field of internal security, adopted by the Council at its 3661st meeting held on 6 December 2018.

Council Conclusions on the future strategic direction in the field of internal security

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

HAVING REGARD to the 'Strategic Agenda for the Union in Times of Change' adopted by the European Council on 26 and 27 June 2014,

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the 'strategic guidelines for legislative and operational planning for the coming years within the area of freedom, security and justice' of 27 June 2014,

HAVING REGARD to the Council conclusions on the Renewed European Union Internal Security Strategy 2015-2020,

BUILDING on the Council conclusions on the mid-term review of the Renewed European Union Internal Security Strategy 2015-2020,

IN VIEW of the challenges in the field of internal security and the resulting need to make progress towards a genuine Security Union,

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the contributions fed in through the 'Vienna process' initiated in July 2017,¹ the G-6 and other informal settings set up by Member States in this area,

TAKING INTO consideration, together with other EU internal security related strategic deliberations, the declaration² adopted at the Salzburg Forum Vienna Process Ministerial Conference on 12 and 13 April 2018, where a number of EU Member States participated, and the intention expressed therein to work towards an EU Security Union that is citizen-focused, crisis-resistant and future-oriented, in close coordination between past and future Council presidencies,

¹ 11968/17

² 8934/18

RECOGNISING the central role of the Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI), as established by Article 71 TFEU, in ensuring that operational cooperation is promoted and strengthened within the Union and in developing, implementing and monitoring the Internal Security Strategy,

1. OBSERVES that the European Union's strategic direction in the field of internal security calls for deepening the integrated and holistic approach in the area of freedom, security and justice as set out in the EU treaties, to support the Member States in their core objective to guarantee internal security.
2. SUPPORTS involving Member States, EU institutions and relevant bodies, agencies and other stakeholders in future-oriented discussions at an early stage, and handling cross-cutting issues in as comprehensive and as integrated manner as possible.
3. UNDERLINES the complementary and ad-hoc use of informal discussion formats to support a holistic and in depth examination of relevant issues.
4. STRESSES that the present and future challenges in the field of internal security necessitate close interaction between all stakeholders in the European Union and the Member States.
5. NOTES that work under informal discussion formats has contributed to the discussions on the future strategic direction in the field of internal security.
6. INVITES the relevant future Presidencies in close coordination with the Commission to initiate discussions, as appropriate, on the future strategic direction in the field of internal security.
7. INVITES the Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI), as necessary, in accordance with its mandate and together with relevant stakeholders, to discuss the future strategic direction in the field of internal security, its key challenges and cross-cutting issues.