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Subject: Council conclusions on certain aspects of European preventive policing
– Council conclusions (6 June 2019)

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on certain aspects of European preventive policing, adopted by the Council at its 3697th meeting held on 6 June 2019.

Council conclusions on certain aspects of European preventive policing

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

RECALLING that in accordance with Article 67(3) TFEU, the Union shall endeavour to ensure a high level of security, inter alia through measures to prevent and combat crime and through measures for coordination and cooperation between police and judicial authorities and other competent authorities,

ACKNOWLEDGING that strategic guidelines in the field of internal security¹ have emphasised the importance of crime prevention,

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the Council conclusions on the Renewed European Union Internal Security Strategy 2015-2020, which underline the importance for all the relevant actors in accordance with their respective competences to contribute to shaping the positive security conditions within the European Union and its Member States and to promote preventive measures, in particular through a multidisciplinary and integrated approach,

AWARE that in an era of mobility, challenges are becoming more complex, and law enforcement authorities should therefore continuously adapt their conduct to keep up with the dynamics of the criminal environment,

¹ Tampere 1999, The Hague Programme 2004, The Stockholm Programme 2010

RECOGNISING that linguistic and cultural differences can be seen as a challenge for local police officers when dealing with concentrations of citizens from another Member State,

CONVINCED that some of these linguistic and cultural challenges regarding major concentrations of citizens from another Member State could be overcome by certain aspects of European preventive policing, which means strengthening cooperation, particularly through joint patrols and operations where police officers of the same nationality are sent to work side by side with the police forces of the host State,

NOTING that preventive policing is inherently linked to crime prevention, which covers all measures that are intended to reduce or otherwise contribute to reducing crime and citizens' feelings of insecurity, both quantitatively and qualitatively, primarily through policies and actions designed to reduce the potential for crime and the causes of crime, as well as by directly preventing criminal activities,

RECALLING the Prüm Decisions, which enable the Member States to carry out joint patrols and other joint operations to prevent criminal offences and to maintain public order and security on the territory of another Member State and to provide mutual assistance to each other in the case of mass gatherings and other comparable major events, disasters and serious accidents,

RECALLING the Council conclusions on *convergence of internal security*², adopted during the French Presidency in 2008, establishing temporary exchanges of personnel among law enforcement authorities of the Member States, in particular within the framework of European police stations³, and calling on the competent bodies to carry out regular evaluations of the measures taken,

² JHA Council, October 2008

³ Based on the provisions of the Prüm Treaty, in force at that time.

RECOGNISING the added value of joint training activities, such as those developed between Spain and France (Valdemoro), creating closer ties, increasing interoperability and mutual knowledge, and enhancing the action of law enforcement forces in border zones (cross-border cooperation and joint patrols),

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the fact that the different kinds of joint patrol implemented by the Member States have already proven their added value and brought tangible and visible results, as well as sustainable solutions as regards enhancing security,

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the contributions of the Member States received by the Romanian Presidency in the **Law Enforcement Working Party**,

BUILDING on the experience gained in the implementation of the Prüm Decision in the Member States, and more particularly the joint patrols introduced under Article 17 thereof,

UNDERSTANDING the importance of focusing on these specific aspects of European preventive policing,

UNDERLINING the need to identify and allocate adequate resources, and make efficient and strategic use of available European Union funding instruments in the internal security field,

The Council of the European Union

1. **UNDERLINES** the need for an enhanced, preventive approach to policing methods, striving to contribute to the development of a safer area for all European citizens,
2. **INVITES** Member States to make more efficient use of the existing legal framework at national and European level regarding the deployment of officers involved in joint patrols and other joint operations in order to ensure public security in relation to EU nationals on the territory of other Member States,

3. **CALLS** on Member States, EU institutions and JHA agencies to actively commit to ensuring effective operational implementation of certain aspects of preventive policing related to enhancing joint patrols and operations between Members States, providing, where necessary, adequately trained police officers with the necessary professional background to address the specific aspects of all forms of cooperation covered by the joint patrols,
4. **INVITES** the Commission to identify suitable financial instruments to cope with the dynamic challenges of the European environment, perform its cross-border and international activities and achieve its objectives in an efficient and faster manner,
5. **NOTES** the importance of initial and continuous training in law enforcement activities and **INVITES** CEPOL to develop targeted training curricula, subject to available resources and in close cooperation with the Member States and with national practitioners, and promote sharing of best practices between Member States,
6. **WELCOMES** the active participation of the relevant LEWP networks⁴ in enhancing preventive policing,
7. **INVITES** future presidencies to continue work in this area, and

CALLS on the Law Enforcement Working Party to evaluate, whenever needed, the added value of the joint patrols and other joint operations and discuss challenges encountered by the institutions involved and officers deployed.

⁴ Drafting guidelines and exchange of best practices