



Brussels, 26 January 2018
(OR. en)

5529/18

CT 10
ENFOPOL 26
COTER 3
JAI 39

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 19 January 2018
To: Terrorism Working Party (TWP)
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted, as set out in CM 5547/1/17.

2. Information by the Presidency

The TWP chair informed the delegates about recent and upcoming CT-related events.

Among other things, the Presidency announced a conference in Sofia on 4 April 2018, organised together with the Commission, to exchange best practices and lessons learned in dealing with radicalisation focusing in particular on local multiagency approaches in the Western Balkans and responses to child returnees.

3. Radicalisation

- **The Interim Report of the High Level Commission Expert Group on Radicalisation (HLCEG-R)**

(14816/1/17 REV1)

- Presentation by the Commission
 - exchange of views on the way forward

The Commission, on the basis of a PowerPoint presentation issued under WK 712/2018 (containing all presentations made at the meeting), presented the preliminary findings and recommendations of the interim report of the HLCEG-R, as submitted to the JHA-Council in December 2017. The Commission was now following up on these recommendations for further action within a number of priority areas, one of which is to set up a reinforced support and coordination structure within the Commission. In that regard, the Commission made a call to Member States for support through the deployment of seconded national experts.

Next meetings will take place on 9 February 2018 (Member States only, focus on prevent priorities for 2018), and on 28 February 2018, where the subgroup of the HLCEG-R will meet.

On 27 February 2018, DG Justice in cooperation with the Presidency, will organise a conference on radicalisation in prisons.

TWP had a short, initial discussion on how the group could contribute to the ongoing work on preventing and combating radicalisation.

- **Countering on-line terrorist propaganda: state of play**
 - Presentation by the Commission and Europol

At the JHA Council of December 2017, ministers took stock of the progress made in the context of the EU Internet Forum with the two-fold objective of removing illegal content from the internet and promoting alternative narratives.

The Civil Society Empowerment Programme had been launched, the deadline for the call for proposals (6 mill EUR) had expired on 11 January 2018. The proposals received were now being evaluated, a database giving an overview of the companies and organisations which had applied could be found on the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) website.

On 9 January 2018, five commissioners held a meeting with high-level representatives of on-line platforms, with the aim of enhancing and accelerating the progress achieved so far. A more transparent reporting (a matrix) had been put in place, comprising a set of indicators for removal of terrorist content. Companies are to report back by 25 January 2018, in view of the next senior officials' meeting which will take place on 5 February 2018.

Europol gave the most recent numbers of referrals made. The so-called "Referral action days" had so far been conducted six times, and had involved most Member States, a number of third countries as well as also recently internet companies.

- **The Radicalisation Network (RAN)**
 - Presentation of recent and upcoming activities

The RAN chair informed the group that RAN now comprised ten fully fledged (and cross-cutting) groups. Member States were encouraged to turn to RAN for tailored support, drawing upon RAN's expert pool consisting of more than a hundred persons. More transparency of all meeting activity - plenary, practice events, etc. was announced together with a translation of all outcomes in German and French.

One delegation called for more transparency in relation to the EU funding provided and another delegation requested the annual work plans from both RAN and the European Strategic Communications Network (ESCN).

- **The European Strategic Communications Network (ESCN)**
 - Presentation of recent and upcoming activities

The European Strategic Communications Network (ESCN) presented its recent activities (which included 24 engagements with ten Member States last year), focusing on what the network could offer to Member States.

- **Good practices with regard to prevention of radicalisation**

- Presentation by a Bulgarian expert

The Bulgarian State Agency for National Security (SANS) made a short presentation on some national good practices with regard to prevention of radicalisation.

4. EP Special Committee on Terrorism

Brief information by the Presidency on the EP Special Committee on Terrorism (TERR), its mandate and the meetings held so far, most of which *in camera*. Two delegations informed about upcoming visits by TERR.

The head of the European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC) informed the working party of his appearance in front of the EP Special Committee on Terrorism, TERR. He combined this presentation with a presentation of the ECTC's tasks and ongoing activities, including recent statistics.

5. Cyber Terrorism: An attractive option (EU CONFIDENTIAL)

- Presentation by INTCEN

(EEAS (2017)10546)

Delegations took note of the INTCEN presentation.

6. Surveillance by intelligence services: fundamental rights safeguards and remedies in the EU

- Presentation by the Fundamental Rights Agency of the second volume of its report on intelligence services

The Fundamental Rights Agency gave an overview of the findings of its report on "Surveillance by intelligence services: fundamental rights safeguards and remedies in the EU".

7. Recent terrorism-related developments

(WK 14311/2017 and WK 278/2018)

One delegation took the floor to update participants on recent terrorism related events, and the Netherlands took the floor to inform the group on a report issued at the end of last year "Evaluation of the Netherlands' comprehensive action programme to combat terrorism", which can be found in WK 445/2018.

- **Reporting by Member States**

The Presidency raised the question as to whether this reporting/exchange should be done mainly in written form, as in COTER. One delegation preferred to stay with the present practice, meaning reporting only orally, while another was in favour of following the COTER example, and then leave the time for more discussion on lessons learned and policy options. Delegations were encouraged to reflect on this until the next TWP meeting, and/or to send it written proposals by 7 February to the Presidency (Vanya.Bojkova@bg-permrep.eu) and the Council secretariat (twg@consilium.europa.eu).

8. Information on counter-terrorism activities

The EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator's (CTC) office informed on the CTC's recent visit to Lebanon (TAIEX CVE) and his visit to Turkey at the end of November. Among the priorities for 2018 would be the follow-up to interim report of the HLCEG-R, the EU Internet Forum, the ECJ rulings on data retention, cybersecurity, child returnees (follow-up to a previous paper), implementation of the WBCTi (Western Balkans Counterterrorism initiative) and to follow up on the initiative on bringing Daesh to justice.

The Commission reported on several follow-up actions to its CT package, including action plans of October 2017 (protection of public spaces, CBRN).

An EU mayors' conference organised together with the Committee of Regions would take place on 8 March 2018, bringing together a number of European cities, including those cities that had been hit by terrorist attacks.

The work on the review of the Regulation on explosive precursors of 2013 would be accelerated, and the Commission hoped to be able to present a proposal by April this year.

The EU External Action Service reported on a coordination meeting of December 2017 on Western Balkans on CT capacity building; on the ongoing work on enhancing the links between the CSDP and JHA areas, and finally on a CT dialogue with China to take place on 5 February 2018, another with South Korea to follow.

9. AOB

No items were raised under AOB.

The next TWP-meeting will take place on 19 March 2018.

A joint TWP/COTER meeting will take place the day thereafter, on 20 March 2018.
