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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	25 November 2022
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI)

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as set out in CM 5212/1/22 REV 1 was adopted.

2. Information by the Presidency

The Presidency presented the outcomes of the international conference on “Urban Environment – Security Threat or Opportunity for Prevention?” held in Prague, on 6 October 2022. The Presidency also informed the Committee on the incoming semestrial EU-Interpol senior officials meeting on 16 December 2022, as well as on the activation of the coordinated approach for evaluating information on suspected Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) received from third countries for possible processing in the Schengen Information System (SIS).

Items for discussion

3. Counteracting migrant smuggling effectively: towards a resilient Schengen area

COSI had a consensual exchange and broad support for the suggested areas of actions to strengthen responses to migrant smuggling, with delegations noting increase of smuggling activities in 2022. Maintaining a comprehensive intelligence picture and enhanced information exchange with relevant actors in and outside the Union, addressing the poly-criminal and digital dimension of migrant smuggling, as well as the increasingly violent nature of the smuggling networks are key. Some delegations flagged an increasing concern with hybrid influencing and involvement of state actors in migrant smuggling related activities. The outcome of this discussion will be presented to at the Council in December.

4. Trafficking in cultural goods: operational outlook

In a follow up to the discussion under the French Presidency, COSI exchanged views on the operational responses to trafficking of cultural goods. There is an expectation that the incoming EU Action plan on cultural goods trafficking (due in December) will support further measures on traceability and enhanced information exchange in the area. The involvement of a broad range of actors and developing appropriate data bases on stolen art is key in this respect. Reviving CULTNET and enhanced operational action under EMPACT are also areas of attention.

5. Dialogue on internal security with Ukraine

EU CTC, COM, Europol, Frontex and EEAS briefed COSI on latest developments regarding the internal security dialogue with Ukraine. Delegations welcomed the outline of the structured dialogue (with its four strands of action) and the more detailed action table on security implications as practical tools that facilitate the follow up on the various work strands. Delegations called for a continuous involvement of COSI in monitoring the developments.

Items for information and endorsement

6. Counter terrorism

6.1. EU Threat assessment in the field of counterterrorism: recommendations

The Committee endorsed the EU threat assessment, as set out in 14691/22.

6.2. Feedback to COSI on the TWP-debates in the second half of 2022 on the impact of the war in Ukraine on counterterrorism (CT) and countering violent extremism (CVE)

The Committee took note of the feedback provided by the TWP, as set out in 14874/22.

7. Digital files – state of play

The Committee took note of the state of play on cross-cutting digital files that bring implications for internal security.

8. EU Innovation Hub on internal security – common innovation picture

The Committee took note of the Report on common innovation picture produced by the Innovation hub team and endorsed by the Hub Steering Group. It is important that all stakeholders including the Member States commit to this process since this exercise needs to be updated in due time. This information will lead the future work on innovation.

9. Items concluded by COSI SG

The Committee took note of the items concluded by COSI SG set out in 14696/22.

10. Priorities of the incoming SE Presidency

The Committee took note of the presentation of the incoming SE Presidency.

11. AOB

The Committee took note of the presentation by the JITs Network Secretariat of the outcome of the 18th JITs network annual meeting, as well as of the information provided by Europol on the conclusions of the European Police Chiefs Convention of 4-5 October 2022.
