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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. prev. doc.: 8617/23

Subject: Draft Strategy for customs cooperation in the area of law enforcement and its contribution to the internal security of the EU
– Approval

1. In order to reflect the developments in the internal security area that have taken place in the recent years, the Presidency decided to prepare new draft Strategy for customs cooperation in the area of law enforcement and its contribution to the internal security of the EU.
2. The draft Strategy develops the objectives set out by the Council Resolution on customs cooperation in the area of law enforcement and its contribution to the internal security of the EU (8616/23): 1) Strengthen the capacity of customs authorities to fight cross-border crime, 2) improve information exchange (including with other law enforcement authorities), 3) enhance cross-border cooperation, including joint operations and 4) enhance intelligence and risk analysis and the interoperability between customs and JHA information systems.

3. The draft Strategy was discussed in the Law Enforcement Working Party – Customs (LEWP-C) on 10 January, 8 March and 12 April 2023 and as no substantial comments were received in the subsequent written consultation, the Strategy was agreed by the LEWP-C.
 4. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend that the Council approves the Council Resolution on customs cooperation in the area of law enforcement and its contribution to the internal security of the EU, as set out in the document 8617/23.
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