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## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 21 February 2020  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security  
(COSI)

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### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as set out in CM 1383/20 was adopted.

### 2. Information by the Presidency

Delegations were briefed on the EU-Interpol Senior Officials meeting of 4 December 2019. A summary of discussions is available under 15070/20. The Committee took note of the items concluded in the COSI SG meeting of 6 February 2020 (WK 1846/2020).

Delegations received an update on the upcoming senior officials meetings. A joint COSI/CATS informal meeting will be held in Sibenik (Croatia) on 6 and 7 April 2020. Delegations took note of the EU/US Ministerial meeting scheduled for 28 May 2020 in Dubrovnik (Croatia).

### **3. Enhancing financial investigations to fight serious and organised crime: the way forward (5753/20)**

Further to the discussion held in LEWP on 11 February 2020, COSI had a broad thematic debate on the adoption of a more comprehensive approach to financial investigations, covering measures on asset recovery and confiscation, on cooperation between Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) and the role of Europol in that cooperation, and on cash and virtual payments.

There was broad support for measures on asset recovery and non-conviction based confiscation. In relation to the FIUs: support was given for the creation of a coordination mechanism, but not in the form of an EU FIU as a single reporting entity for STRS - suspicious transaction reports. Many delegations stressed the urgent need to find a viable solution for FIU.net, both short- and long-term as a crucial tool for the exchange of information between FIUs. In relation to cash payments and virtual currencies, many delegations supported stronger rules.

Law enforcement working party will continue work on a draft Council conclusions in light of this debate.

### **4. Combating migrant smuggling: current operational needs and enhancing cooperation with WBs (5754/20)**

As a follow-up to the discussion at the informal Justice and Home Affairs ministerial meeting on 23 January 2020, delegations exchanged views in light of the joint report by Europol, Frontex and EASO on tackling migrant smuggling in the Western Balkans (5312/20)

Delegations supported the development of mechanism in the Western Balkans for enhanced exchange of information, e.g. of national biometric registration/data-sharing systems on asylum applicants and irregular migrants system that could be modelled on EURODAC, further roll-out of SIENA. Enhanced presence of EU agencies in the region is seen useful on many occasions, while the need for stronger coordination between the different EU actors was underlined. Building on the good operational results, the Committee encouraged a stronger engagement of Western Balkans partners in the EU Policy Cycle/EMPACT. COSI renewed its call to the Commission and relevant agencies to address as soon as possible the issue of the social media monitoring function following the shutdown of the EASO programme, as instructed by the EDPS opinion.

Frontex presented the enhanced support it can provide to Member States through its standing corps in preventing, detecting and combating cross border crime at the EU external borders.

## **5. Fighting drugs trafficking: the way forward (5756/20)**

COSI held a thematic debate in light of the EU Drug Markets Report 2019, presented by Europol and EMCDDA Directors as a 'wake-up call' to give the drugs policy greater priority in the political agenda. The delegations agreed that efforts should be stepped up to disrupt drug trafficking. Cooperation should be intensified between Member States and between law enforcement, judicial, customs and fiscal authorities. Greater focus was needed on major drugs hubs, the use of the darknet and postal services, forensics, new technologies, financial investigation, confiscation of proceeds, and on targeting top-level criminals in order to bring down the whole cycle of criminal activities. Stronger international partnerships should be developed with countries neighbouring the EU and on the main trafficking routes. Several delegations recalled the importance of a balanced approach. The Commission confirmed that integrated, balanced and evidence-based approach underpins the ongoing work on a new EU strategy on drugs should, with reduction of both drug supply and drug demand as the two main pillars. COSI tasked the **Horizontal Working Party on Drugs**, reinforced by the **Law Enforcement Working Party**, to identify steps that can be taken to improve the EU's response to illicit drug trafficking.

## **6. The JHA Innovation Hub - main principles (5757/20)**

COSI confirmed the main principles for the establishment of the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security, building on the Council mandate, e.g. a comprehensive focus on internal security, a multiagency approach drawing on complementarity and synergies of existing capabilities, inclusiveness and collective delivery with a view to addressing the needs of security actors and identifying opportunities for future developments.

Work on that basis will continue. The Committee underlined the need to develop further the operational and financial model of the Hub. Relevant JHA Agencies were invited to present pilot projects that can show case the added value of interagency approach through the EU Innovation Hub. COSI will revert to the issue by June.

## 7. JHA Agencies network (5758/20)

Delegations took note of EUROPOL's presentation of the main highlights in the activities of the JHA Agencies Network in 2019 and the main priorities for 2020 presented by EUROJUST.

## 8. AOB

Europol presented its EU digital evidence situation report (SIRIUS) and announced the upcoming visit of the Russian delegation to its headquarters on 25 and 26 February 2020, as a follow-up to the existing counter-terrorism dialogue. EEAS provided an update on the state of play of the CT/Security experts network and an update regarding the follow up to the FAC decision of 17/02 to close EUNAVFORMED Operation SOPHIA.

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