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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	12 September 2019
To:	Terrorism Working Party (TWP) / Working Party on Civil Protection (PROCIV)
Subject:	Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted, as set out in CM 3621/1/19 REV 1.

2. Information by the Presidency

The Presidency briefly referred to the previous events/meetings in the summer, involving discussions on CBRN: The informal Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting in Helsinki in July 2019, where ministers had taken part in a scenario-based policy discussion on options for the management of a major hybrid threat/CBRN event; the expert workshop on "Resilience and cross-sectoral cooperation in responding to CBRN-threats with hybrid elements" of 22-23 July 2019 in Helsinki, and the meeting of the CBRN task team in May 2019, bringing together experts from the civil protection and law enforcement communities to discuss CBRN response needs and possible capacity gaps, concluding that CBRN response capacities should be further developed at EU level in three areas as a priority: (1) detection, monitoring and surveillance; (2) decontamination of infrastructure and vehicles; and (3) stockpiling (relevant for CBRN and other areas).

3. CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) threat update

- Presentation by INTCEN (*RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED*)

Delegations took note of the INTCEN presentation.

4. CBRN Action Plan

- Presentation by DG HOME

The Commission presented the state of play of its 2017 CBRN Action Plan to enhance preparedness against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security risks¹. This action plan sets the overall framework for CBRN cooperation at EU level and contains 23 actions, which are currently being implemented. Focus is on improved coordination and enhanced preparedness at EU level, better use of existing resources and research results, better exchange of information, and cooperation with relevant international partners.

5. National CBRN approaches

5.1 French approach to CBRN-E issues in line with CT

- Presentation by the DCI-IT Department, National Police Directorate, France

5.2 Response to the Salisbury incident

- Presentation by the UK Home Office

The FR DCI-IT Department (détachement central interministériel d'intervention technique), belonging to the National Police Directorate, gave a presentation of the cross-cutting set up and its tasks. The UK Home Office gave a presentation on the Salisbury incident. The restrictions on communicating on a terrorist-related CBRN-incident had been a major concern, one of the main lessons learned was the difficulty of secure communication of classified information.

¹ 13484/17

6. Presentation by the European Defence Agency (EDA)

The European Defence Agency (EDA) presented the agency, giving examples of cooperation with the non-military actors within the area of CBRN. DG ECHO expressed a wish for more cooperation and coherence in operational planning.

7. Europol's activities in the area of CBRN & Explosives

Europol presented its activities in the area of CBRN & Explosives.

8. Union Civil Protection Mechanism in countering CBRN threats

– Presentation by DG ECHO

The Commission (DG ECHO) presented the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) focusing on its role in countering CBRN threats, importance of cross-sectoral cooperation, primarily aimed at TWP for a good understanding of the shifting risk and threat landscape. The UCPM, as revised this year, is an all-hazard instrument covering prevention, preparedness and response to natural and man-made disasters. It is based on Member States' capacities pre-committed to the European Civil Protection Pool. As a last resort it also includes rescEU, composed of additional capacities, owned by Member States and co-financed from the EU budget. CBRN capacities which have been identified for the future development of rescEU include detection, surveillance and monitoring, decontamination and stockpiling.

9. Cross-sectoral cooperation in responding to CBRN threats

– Discussion

11362/19

The discussion based on the Presidency paper entitled "Cross-sectoral cooperation in responding to CBRN threats" (11362/19) showed that the joint meeting was welcomed by delegations, which found exchanges between the two communities useful, and a way become aware of (capacity) gaps. Cooperation at all levels was seen as key, horizontal, vertical, between the operational and policy side. Cooperation and coordination were needed both at national and EU level, since competence is shared among several authorities and actors, and interoperability was crucial. Knowing the right counterparts is pivotal in improving resilience to these incidents. Secure communication was a challenge and an area for further attention, since some information has to be classified. The Presidency will consider how to reflect the outcome of this meeting in the internal security strategy and in the final report to the December JHA-Council.

The Commission's 2017 Action Plan on CBRN is up for a light review this autumn, mainly on its implementation, but may include reflections on possible next steps to improve cooperation and coordination between relevant actors. A meeting is envisaged at the end of November within the COM CBRN Advisory group who could also, as deemed appropriate, look at a possible follow-up to this meeting (potential action points, good examples of cross-sectoral coop). It could also provide input for the newly established Working Party on Resilience and Hybrid Threats.

10. AOB
