



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

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COMMUNICATION

REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Working Party on Cooperation in Criminal Matters (COPEN) = Preparation of the meeting on Thursday 11 February 2021 (on criminal law agreements under the EU-UK TCA)

At the informal video conference of members of the Working Party on Cooperation in Criminal Matters (COPEN) on 22 January 2021, the Member States expressed broad support for the call by Austria to organise a discussion in the COPEN Working Party regarding the texts agreed on criminal law under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA).

As a consequence, the Presidency intends organising an informal video conference of members of the COPEN Working Party on **Thursday 11 February** on the practical implementation of the agreements on criminal law in the TCA, in particular regarding Surrender, Mutual Assistance, Criminal Records, and Freezing and Confiscation.

It is recalled that at this meeting, it is not possible to discuss horizontal issues directly related to the approval, governance and negotiation of agreements with the UK, since these can only be discussed in the Working Party on the United Kingdom (WP UK). However, practical implementation issues, in particular those relating to the criminal law agreements in the TCA, can be discussed in COPEN.

Further, while issues of coordination between Member States can be addressed in COPEN, the topic of notifications themselves should be - and is being - addressed in the WP UK, as well as the preparation of the specialized committees as foreseen in the TCA, without prejudice to the input of the relevant working groups.

In the light of the above, the Presidency invites delegations to indicate which issues regarding the TCA they would like to discuss at the meeting on 11 February 2021.

Delegations are invited to communicate any wishes/suggestions to the Presidency (Pedro Almeida, pedro.a.almeida@dgpj.mj.pt and Fátima Russo, fbr@reper-portugal.be) and to the General Secretariat (steven.cras@consilium.europa.eu) before cob on **Friday 29 January 2021**.
