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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 19 November 2019
To: Delegations

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

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as set out in CM 4550/19 was adopted.

2. Information by the Presidency

3. Future of EU internal security

3.1. EU information management – automation, access to, exchange of, and analysis of information

The Presidency paper (13510/19) initiated a detailed discussion on the topic in the context of the ongoing reflection on the future of EU internal security. MS's underlined that information management should remain on the Council's agenda with an emphasis on the necessity to look at the whole cycle of data, from access, to effective exchange and the use of data, in order to ensure a systematic approach. MS's additionally highlighted the end user perspective for further developments as well as the importance of using existing tools (legal, technical) to their full extent. Strengthening Europol's role as an information hub was also addressed. Automation was confirmed to be crucial to tackle increasing data flows with standardisation as a prerequisite.

3.2. Artificial intelligence in operational management of large-scale IT systems

Pursuant to a presentation by eu-LISA, the broader issue of AI and LEA's received a positive reaction from the floor. The Commission informed the Committee about the setting up of a roadmap (the use of possible AI tools for EU law enforcement). The importance of cooperation with all JHA agencies was highlighted on several occasions. Overall, there was an appreciation in relation to the role that AI can play for internal security and an acknowledgement that it is an area that needs to be further explored.

3.3. Law enforcement training

COSI had an active debate on the training of law enforcement in the framework of discussions on the future of EU internal security. 15 MS took the floor replying to questions outlined on the discussion paper put forward by the Presidency (13973/19). There was general agreement on the strategic importance of training and the need to invest more towards it, especially with regards to new technologies.

There was broad support for the development of standardised curricula for training activities on topics of interest across EU, taking into account the national differences, with proposals to establish quality certification standards. Broad support for further developing Erasmus like exchange programs including students. The need to engage more with customs and justice in law enforcement training to increase mutual awareness was underlined.

Calls to adequately fund CEPOL and to update the mandate of CEPOL if required to include additional tasks identified, including involvement in basic training.

4. Migrant smuggling: operational response on the Eastern Mediterranean route

On the basis of the discussion paper (13974/19) COSI took stock of the current EU engagement on the Eastern Mediterranean route to fight migrant smuggling. General support for enhancing the EU capabilities and preparedness and recognition of the excellent results achieved in the EU POLICY CYCLE/EMPACT FII was noted.

5. Counter - terrorism

5.1. Returning FTFs in view of the situation in Syria and Turkey &

5.2. EU threat assessment in the field of counter terrorism: recommendations

These items were taken together. The EU CTC briefed the Committee on the situation in Northern Syria whilst outlining concrete measures suggested to facilitate the identification and investigation of returning FTF's. The importance of improving the use of SIS, both with regard to European and non-European FTFs was highlighted. The EU Threat assessment in the field of counter terrorism: recommendations (13709/1/19 REV 1) was endorsed subject to proposals of further adjustments tabled at the meeting.

6. Enhancing customs contribution to internal security: follow up to the 2019 European Police Chiefs Convention

On the basis of discussion paper (13975/19), COSI took stock of the extensive work done by the Presidency to enhance customs contribution to internal security and discussed possible ways forward to further strengthen such cooperation which is seen as crucial in the fight against organised crime.

Delegations stressed the positive cooperation of customs with the EU POLICY CYCLE/EMPACT and encouraged deeper synergies with the Customs Action Plan. A roadmap was presented in CCWP on 26 November on customs integration in SOCTA.

Some delegations also showed support to integrate customs in interoperability and encouraged better cooperation with JHA agencies.

7. Presentation of the work programme of the incoming Croatian Presidency

The Croatian Presidency presented its programme, highlighting the thematic discussions it wants to bring forward to COSI: cooperation with the South East Europe countries (combating migrant smuggling, drug trafficking and firearms), law enforcement cooperation, interoperability, financial investigation and money laundering, new technologies and innovation lab, counter-terrorism and PNR directive.

8. AOB

Multiannual strategic policy cycle for the European integrated border management

The multi annual strategic policy for European integrated border management was presented by the FI Presidency. The current state of play was provided further to presentations of Frontiers working party and SCIFA. A presentation will be given to the Ministers in December. Clarifications were made in relation to how this Policy Cycle differs from the EU Policy Cycle / EMPACT. The next steps are the preparation of the draft policy document by the Commission based on a strategic risk analysis by FRONTEX and the MSs. This will then be discussed at the EP and Council and the Commission will then produce a Communication on the multi-annual strategic policy as a key tool for the implementation of the EIBM.

Fight against antisemitism: state of play and next steps

Further to the attack on 9 October 2019 on a synagogue in Halle (DE), the Commission informed the Committee in relation to ongoing work in this field. Further to the declaration on the fight against antisemitism and the development of a common security approach to better protect Jewish communities and institutions in Europe, as approved by the Council on 6 December 2018, the Commission established a working group on the implementation of the Council declaration, with the participation of MS's and Jewish Communities. To support implementation, funds under the ISF-Police are available. The Commission expressed interest to continue discussions about this topic at COSI in the future.

Strategic review of the EUAM Iraq: information by EEAS

In view of enhancing the internal/external security nexus, EEAS made a presentation about the EU Advisory Mission to Iraq. The strategic review was expected to be launched in PSC at the end of November.
