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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council

On: 23 September 2021

To: Delegations

Subject: Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security

(COSI)

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as set out in CM 4293/21 was adopted.

2. Information by the Presidency

The Presidency informed about the incoming JHA/law enforcement thematic workshop on AI planned for 30 September. It is organised in a follow up to the JHA Council in June and at the informal meeting in July, where Home Affairs Ministers called for a more detailed assessment of the impact of the proposed AI Act on law enforcement activities. The workshop is intended to address questions and open issues raised by the Member States in this area. COSI also took note of the incoming European Police Chiefs Convention to be held at Europol Headquarters in the Hague on 29-30 September. Furthermore, the Presidency briefed delegations about the international Conference on Missing persons held in Slovenia on 1-2 September.

Discussion items:

3. Anti-money laundering – internal security implications

Delegations expressed support for the anti-money laundering package that was presented by the Commission in July. They highlighted several aspects of interest from a law enforcement perspective, e.g. interconnection of centralised bank account registers, cryptocurrencies or the threshold for cash payments limitations. Delegations highlighted in particular the need to establish a clear cooperation framework and avoid duplication of work between the new supervision and coordination authority of FIUs and Europol, as well as Eurojust and EPPO. Commission announced two other proposals in the area for 2022, namely on Asset Recovery Offices and on Confiscation. COSI will continue monitoring the developments in order to support coordination at national level in view of bringing relevant issues to the negotiations on the proposal that are handled in the Financial Services Working Party.

4. Enhancing the role of law enforcement in cybersecurity

The debate was welcome by delegations. Broad support for getting cybersecurity and cybercrime communities closer together to maximise the resilience and response capacities to cyber incidents, e.g. more structured cooperation between CSIRTs and law enforcement authorities, simultaneous reporting of cyber incidents, possible involvement of Europol Cybercrime Centre (EC3). Following developments in the ongoing discussions on the NIS 2 proposal, or in relation to the recent COM recommendation on a Joint Cyber Unit would be relevant in this context. Encryption and access to WHOIS data are a persisting matter of concern for LEA community. The Presidency underlined the role of national coordination processes in order to ensure that law enforcements considerations are taken into account in horizontal discussions on cybersecurity.

Items for information/endorsement:

5. EU Innovation Hub – COSI representatives in the Steering group

Delegations took note of the next steps in nominating COSI representatives in the Hub Steering group. The Presidency called the concerned trio Presidencies, the Commission and the relevant EU agencies, institutions and bodies to appoint a representative to the Steering group. The final composition of the Steering group and its rules of procedures will be presented to and confirmed by COSI.

6. Items concluded by COSI support group

Delegations took note of items concluded by the COSI support group with reference to its meetings in June, July and September.

7. AOB

The Italian delegation presented the outcome of the Next generation EU LEA forum held on 21-22 September in Rome, organised jointly by IT Ministry of Interior and Europol and focused on prevention of Next Generation EU funds' misuse by organised criminal groups.

The Dutch delegation drew attention to a text proposal made at the Internal Market working party on the Digital Services Act proposals concerning measures by hosting providers to assess risk and mitigate the abuse by organised crime. They called delegations to consider the proposal and express their positions during the negotiations.

Along the same lines the German delegation called the attention to a non-paper on AI and welcomed the Workshop on AI implications for LEA, organised by Slovenian Presidency on 30 September.

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