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## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 22 November 2021  
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 5119/21 was adopted.

### 2. Information by the Presidency

The Presidency informed on the state of play of the draft Council Conclusions on stepping up cross-border police cooperation in the area of missing persons currently under preparation in the Law Enforcement Working Party in view of adoption by the Council in December.

The Presidency also informed about the Ministerial Conference on the prevention and investigation of child sexual abuse that took place on 12 November 2021. A joint statement by the Ministers responsible for Home Affairs of the EU Member States, the Schengen Associated States, the Western Balkan partners and the United States of America was released after the Conference and available in WK 13949/2021.

## Discussion items:

### **3. EU migrant smuggling action plan: operational cooperation aspects**

COSI expressed overall support for the renewed EU Migrant Smuggling Action Plan 2021-2025 from operational cooperation perspective. Effective anti-smuggling operational partnerships with third countries and tackling migrant smuggling at origin are main priorities. The role of the EU in this context should complement the bilateral cooperation initiatives of the Member States. Delegations expressed concern about the instrumentalisation of migrants. Addressing the digital dimension of smuggling and monitoring of social media are identified as key priorities to tackle large-scale migrant smuggling. Delegations underlined EMPACT as an effective tool for operational multidisciplinary cooperation to fight migrant smuggling with delegations calling for alignment of ongoing and future initiatives under the EU Migrant smuggling action plan with the envisaged operational actions under the EMPACT priority. Earlier involvement of judicial authorities in migrant smuggling cases is deemed essential. The benefit of Joint Investigation Teams and participation in the focus group of prosecutors and investigative judges fighting migrant smuggling established by Eurojust were highlighted.

### **4. COVID -19 recovery funds – role of law enforcement authorities to prevent infiltration by organised crime**

COSI exchanged views on COVID-19 recovery funds and on how law enforcement can prevent organised crime infiltration. Delegations emphasised the role of both the national authorities and an EU level approach involving also the JHA Agencies. It was concluded that a more comprehensive intelligence picture is needed, as well as a better understanding of the criminal groups involved and the modus operandi used. A variety of tools, including administrative approach ones, should be used to proactively prevent this type of criminal infiltration.

### **5. Counter-terrorism: priorities and way forward**

The Committee exchanged views with the EU CTC on priorities and way forward in counter-terrorism.

## Items for information/endorsement:

### **6. Counter-terrorism**

#### **6.1. EU Threat assessment in the field of counterterrorism: recommendations**

The Committee endorsed the recommendations to the EU Threat assessment in the field of counterterrorism as set out in 13682/21.

#### **6.2. Procedure for enhanced security checks on persons crossing or having crossed the EU's external borders following developments in Afghanistan**

The Committee endorsed the procedure on enhanced security checks as set out in 13683/21.

### **7. Digital**

#### **7.1. AI Act**

The Chair of the TELECOM working part provided an update on the state of play of negotiations on the proposal for AI Act. A progress report will be presented to the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on 3 December 2021.

#### **7.2. Encryption**

The Commission informed the Committee of the meeting on the topic to be organised with the Member States on 1 December 2021. After the meeting and an ensuing internal consultation, the Commission will finalise the way forward on encryption to be presented in 2022.

#### **7.3. EU Innovation Hub for internal security - confirmation of the composition of the Steering group**

The Committee confirmed the composition of the Steering Group of the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security, as set out in doc 13684/21.

**8. Draft Council conclusions on stepping up cross-border police cooperation in the area of missing persons**

COSI took note of the information provided by the Presidency.

**9. Ministerial Conference on Child sexual abuse, 12 November 2021**

COSI took note of the information provided by the Presidency about the Ministerial Conference on the prevention and investigation of child sexual abuse that took place on 12 November 2021.

**10. Items concluded by COSI SG**

COSI took note of the items concluded by COSI SG, as set out in [13685/21](#).

**11. Presentation of the work programme of the incoming French Presidency**

COSI took note of the future priorities of the incoming French Presidency.

**12. AOB**

The German delegation called for support for the Czech candidate for the post of the President of Interpol in view of the incoming elections at the 89th General assembly of Interpol in Istanbul and for support for the European candidates for the positions of delegates for Europe in the Executive Committee.