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LIMITE

COSI 31
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 20 February 2026
To: Delegations

Subject: Outcome of Proceedings of the Standing Committee on Operational
Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI)

1. Adoption of the agenda

1. The agenda was adopted as set out in CM 1079/1/26 REV1.

2. Information provided by the Presidency

The Presidency briefed COSI about the state of play of legislative proposals and the ongoing work on non-legislative files in the relevant Council structures. The Presidency presented the agenda of the upcoming Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting on 5 and 6 March 2026. Reference was made to the upcoming senior officials' meetings with the United States of America in Paphos on 26 March and with the Western Balkans in Brussels on 30 April. Delegations were informed about the publication of the vacancy notice for the post of Executive Director of the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol).

3. The future of Europol

COSI prepared the exchange of views at the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 5 and 6 March 2026 on the future of Europol. The objective was to provide political guidance to the Commission ahead of the issuance of a legislative proposal, expected by the end of June 2026, reviewing the mandate of Europol.

COSI confirmed that the role of Europol as a central hub for the exchange and analysis of information should be strengthened, in particular by improving Europol's existing tools, interoperability between systems and standardisation. COSI also confirmed that closer cooperation of Europol with other EU agencies and bodies and third parties should be ensured while respecting the individual mandates of each agency. Delegations agreed on the importance of tackling hybrid threats, but expressed caution about the involvement of Europol in that area and a possible enlargement of its mandate in that regard. Many delegations highlighted the need to limit Europol's activities to deal with cross-border criminal offences. In terms of governance, most delegations would prefer strengthening the role and responsibilities of the Europol National Units and the Liaison Officers to creating new structures.

4. Regional dialogue on internal security with the Mediterranean

Most delegations confirmed their willingness to engage in an internal security dialogue with the Mediterranean countries. They showed preference for an incremental approach, starting with a limited number of thematic priorities, building on EMPACT, and with a limited number of partner countries. COSI agreed that the new dialogue should articulate with existing initiatives, in particular the high-level EU-MENA cooperation dialogue. On the arrangements for the dialogue, delegations indicated their preference for annual meetings at senior official's level, ideally back-to-back with a COSI meeting. Last, the Chair of COSI invited the Commission to prepare a mapping of existing relevant security initiatives in the MENA region.

5. Commission communications on the EU Drugs Strategy and on the EU Action Plan against drug trafficking

COSI exchanged views on the Commission's communications on an improved framework on fighting drug trafficking, focusing on the EU Action Plan 2026-2030. Most delegations welcomed the proposed EU Drugs Strategy and the Action Plan and some of them stressed the importance of keeping COSI closely involved, in particular to provide strategic guidance on those actions that require operational cooperation. COSI agreed that the Action Plan should be complemented with activities related to, amongst other things: the follow-the-money approach; the maritime dimension including ports and the involvement of the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics) (MAOC-N); the development of public-private partnerships, for instance in relation to cooperation with postal and parcel services; the reinforcement of cooperation with tech companies to prevent online recruitment; the use of go fast and (semi-)submersible vessels; and the possible replication of

good practices in the legal framework at national level. Some delegations mentioned that the role of Frontex in the fight against drug trafficking would require closer examination.

Items for information/endorsement

6. EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security:

COSI took note of the information provided by the Steering Group of the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security (2026 work plan and 2025 annual activity report). The Presidency invited the relevant delegations to nominate their representatives to the Steering Group for the period July 2026 to December 2027.

7. Justice and Home Affairs Agencies Network (JHAAN): 2025 activities and 2026 priorities

COSI took note of the 2025 JHAAN annual report and of the Network's priorities for 2026.

8. EU-CLASI cooperation

The Presidency informed about the upcoming EU-CLASI interinstitutional meeting in Santiago de Chile on 24 and 25 February 2026.

9. Items concluded by the COSI Support Group

COSI took note of the items concluded by the COSI Support Group as set out in 5705/26.

10. AOB

- Germany announced the upcoming presentation of the “RENT project” on incriminated car rental companies as an EU-wide phenomenon at the meeting of the Law Enforcement Working Party-Police on 25 February 2025.
- Sweden informed about the organisation, in cooperation with the United Kingdom, of the second International Symposium on Lawful Access in Stockholm on 17–18 November 2026.
- Czechia raised awareness of the internal security impact of the proposed regulation on drug precursors that is currently being examined in the Customs Union Working Party.

- France referred to the internal security implications of the draft Digital Networks Act (DNA) proposed by the Commission on 21 January 2026 that is currently being examined in the Working Party on Telecommunications and Information Society.
- Hungary made reference to the ongoing selection procedure for the Executive Director of the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL).
- The Commission informed about the progress made in the negotiations of the EU-Interpol agreement, the ongoing negotiations concerning the Regulation establishing the Union Customs Code and the European Union Customs Authority and in particular the potential access by law enforcement agencies to the Union Customs Data Hub, and the upcoming consultation on the draft Commission guidelines on high-risk Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems in implementation of the AI Act.
