



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	JHA Counsellors / COSI Support Group Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security
No. prev. doc.:	7796/16, 6215/16, DS 1130/16
Subject:	Strengthening cooperation on counter-terrorism threat analysis

1. BACKGROUND

- Following the Paris attacks on 13 November 2015, the Council on 20 November 2015 in its conclusions on counter-terrorism¹ (CT) called for the Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) to liaise with competent Working Parties of the Council and with the Commission and EU agencies to ensure effective implementation of the operational measures agreed. The Council asked COSI to examine the possibility of developing a methodology for a structured and multilateral approach for operational cooperation on countering terrorist threats.
- On 17-18 December 2015, the European Council stipulated in its conclusions² that "*The commitment made by the Heads of State or Government last February for deeper cooperation between security services should be further pursued, in full respect of Member States' sole responsibility for national security, notably by structuring further their information exchange so that interested Member States can engage in enhanced joint operational threat analysis*".

¹ 14406/15 + COR 1

² 28/15

3. At its meeting of 3 March 2016 and at the informal dinner the evening before, COSI delegations discussed the possible development of a structured and multilateral approach for operational cooperation on countering terrorist threats. A joint contribution by BE, FI, FR, DE, ES, SE, RO and the UK to the Presidency was presented³ outlining some principles to guide COSI's and the Council's work on counter-terrorism. **DELETED**
4. At the meeting of COSI on 18 April 2016, delegations discussed the possibility of developing a structured approach for operational cooperation on countering terrorist threats, on the basis of a Presidency paper⁴. **DELETED**

In its conclusions, the Presidency announced that it would draft a paper for the COSI meeting on 17 May 2016, developing further ideas and possible approaches for the development of a more comprehensive threat assessment.

³ 6215/16

⁴ 7796/16

2. CURRENT REPORTING AND ANALYTICAL DELIVERABLES

5. Europol produces the EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT)⁵ annually. The report provides an overview of the terrorism phenomenon in the EU from a law enforcement perspective. It seeks to record basic facts and figures regarding terrorist attacks and arrests in the EU. The reports also aims to present trends and new developments identified from the information available to Europol.

The latest edition of the TE-SAT⁶ was produced by Europol in consultation with the 2015 TE-SAT advisory board, composed of representatives of the Trio Presidencies (IT, LV and LU), along with permanent members, representatives from FR and ES, EU INTCEN, Eurojust, the office of the EU CTC and Europol staff. EU INTCEN is thus already involved in the production of Europol's TE-SAT.

6. EU INTCEN is the exclusive civilian intelligence analysis function of the European Union⁷. Its mission is to provide intelligence analyses, early warnings and situational awareness to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and to the EEAS. The Centre does this by monitoring and assessing international events, focusing particularly on sensitive geographical areas, terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other global threats.

EU INTCEN also offers its services to the various EU decision-making bodies in the fields of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and Justice and Home Affairs (JHA), as well as to the Member States.

EU INTCEN is not an operational agency and does not have any collection capability. The operational level of intelligence is the Member States' responsibility. EU INTCEN deals only with strategic analysis. Its analytical products are mostly based on information provided by Member States' security and intelligence services, but can also be complemented by open sources (media, websites, blogs etc.), diplomatic reporting, consular warden networks, international organisations, NGOs, CSDP missions and operations, the EU Satellite Centre, visits and field trips.

⁵ The proposal for the current TE-SAT (8196/2/06 REV 2) was endorsed by the Council on 1 and 2 June 2006.

⁶ 12168/15

⁷ [EU INTCEN Factsheet-PUBLIC-UE-05022015](http://eeas.europa.eu) (<http://eeas.europa.eu>)

7. EU INTCEN regularly attends the Terrorism Working Party (TWP) and COTER meetings and provides classified ad-hoc briefings/assessments/presentations on a number of terrorism related themes decided in cooperation with the Presidency (e.g. European foreign fighters; Jihadists' modus operandi; Islamist radicalisation and terrorist recruitment in European prisons; the link between organised crime and terrorism; the terrorist threat in the North Africa region; reporting on narratives and counter-narratives, terrorist travel hubs and routes, etc.). It also presents a six-monthly threat analysis (classified as EU CONFIDENTIAL), most recently at the TWP meeting in January 2016.

3. PROPOSAL FOR THE WAY FORWARD

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