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NOTE

From:	EUROPOL, EUROJUST and FRONTEX
To:	Standing Committee on operational cooperation on internal security (COSI)
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Subject:	The Joint Report by EUROPOL, EUROJUST and FRONTEX on the State of
	Internal Security in the EU

KEY FINDINGS

Organised crime is growing in scale and sophistication, responsible for sustaining a buoyant international trade in illicit drugs and other commodities, propagating dangerous new threats across the Internet, and generating exceptionally high criminal profits;

The affluent consumer base and open business environment of the EU makes the region particularly vulnerable. The high numbers of illicit drug users and trafficked victims in the EU, and the multi-billion Euro industry in organised fraud, are among many indicators of the widespread impact on our society of organised crime;

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9359/10

The number of terrorist attacks in the EU is declining but both violent separatist groups and Islamist extremists remain active and pose a clear threat to internal security. The threat of a mass casualty terrorist attack remains very real;

Most threats to internal security are generated outside the EU. Africa, South Asia, the Former Soviet Union, and the Western Balkans carry particular significance;

Organised crime and terrorist groups are increasingly mobile, exploiting existing transport infrastructure and establishing new routes to penetrate the internal security of the EU. Key hubs in and around the external border of the EU have developed as the principal staging posts for the inward flow of illicit goods and people from other parts of the world;

Border security is compromised by groups exploiting vulnerabilities in the transport sector, including through corruption and the use of counterfeit, forged and fraudulently obtained documents, which are indispensable facilitators for illegal migration, trafficking in human beings, identity fraud, and terrorism;

The threat from cyber crime is multi-dimensional, targeting citizens, businesses, and governments at a rapidly growing rate. Cyber tools pose a direct threat to security but are also increasingly important facilitators for most forms of organised crime and terrorism;

European citizens and businesses are increasingly exposed to systematic violence and corruption at the hands of organised crime groups, terrorist groups, and, increasingly, street gangs;

The substantial illicit proceeds generated by organised crime deprive millions of citizens and their governments of significant revenue. They also underpin the further development and expansion of organised crime and offer a source of funding to terrorist groups.

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1. Introduction

The Stockholm Programme aims to build an **open and secure Europe** to serve and protects its citizens. The adoption of an **Internal Security Strategy** for the EU¹ is a major underpinning element in efforts to realise this goal. It provides the basis for concerted action in the EU to tackle the threat from organised crime, terrorism, and illegal migration.

This Strategy assumes that effective action against these threats will be informed by a clear understanding of their nature and impact, as per the methodology set out in the European Criminal Intelligence Model. This Report satisfies that requirement by providing a current assessment of the principal threats to internal security in the EU. It has been drafted jointly by Europol, Eurojust, and FRONTEX, based primarily on three strategic documents – Europol's Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA) and Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT), and FRONTEX's Annual Risk Analysis (ARA).

The Report analyses the specific threats posed by organised crime, terrorism, and illegal migration, highlighting both their distinctive characteristics and the commonality they share in terms of modi operandi and impact. The Report is a relatively short assessment. The three strategic documents on which it is based offer a more comprehensive analysis of the issues involved.

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¹ Adopted by the European Council, 25/03/10 (5842/2/10)