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From:	Presidency
To:	Law Enforcement Working Party
No. prev. doc.:	6883/3/16 REV 3, 11842/17, 13383/1/17 REV 1
Subject:	Overview of LEWP Networks and Expert Groups and their Strategic Objectives

The aim of this document is to follow-up on recent discussions concerning the update of strategic objectives of LEWP networks and expert groups (I) and to provide an up-to-date overview of those networks, reflecting the creation of new entities or the decision of the LEWP to consider additional networks as related to the LEWP (II).

I. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF LEWP NETWORKS AND EXPERT GROUPS

Over the second semester of 2017, the Estonian Presidency launched a discussion on the revision of strategic objectives of LEWP networks and expert groups¹. As a result of this discussion, the LEWP decided that its networks and expert groups should be invited to consider updating their strategic objectives in the light of the new Policy Cycle as appropriate and without prejudice to their independence in terms of mandate and specific expertise. This should be done in consultation with relevant EMPACT drivers and taking into account the corresponding new MASPs.

¹ 11842/17, 13383/1/17 REV 1

The Bulgarian Presidency provided a valuable follow-up to the above discussion by organising a first meeting of Chairs of LEWP networks and expert groups on 26 March 2018. During that meeting, the Chairs have been informed of the above instruction of the LEWP and committed to discuss and implement it within their respective formats.

However, since adequate coordination between the individual networks and the LEWP in its plenary configuration proves complicated on such a broad topic, the Presidency suggests that representatives of 2 or 3 networks be invited to each of its regular meetings of the LEWP², in order to discuss and define the degree of integration of SOCTA findings and the priorities of the new Policy Cycle into their activities.

As a result, the second part of this document, containing an overview of networks and expert groups currently related to the LEWP, would be updated with information on the compliance of their strategic objectives with the new SOCTA and the new Policy Cycle, as required by the renewed Guidelines for LEWP networks and the abovementioned documents discussed under previous Presidencies. **A reference to this overview will be added to the future mapping of LEWP activities, as also discussed at the LEWP meeting on 24 July 2018³.**

² This idea takes into account the fact that not all of the LEWP networks and expert groups meet on a very regular basis, and not all of them will be able to integrate the new priorities, considering the specific scope of their activities.

³ 11056/18.

II. OVERVIEW OF CURRENT NETWORKS/EXPERT GROUPS RELATED TO THE LEWP

Since the last overview contained in 6883/3/16 REV 3, the following developments took place with respect to the relationship of police cooperation networks and their relationship with the LEWP:

- An informal network of Experts in the area of Disaster victim identification (DVI) has been created under the Maltese Presidency; the first and constitutive meeting of the DVI network took place in Brussels on 20 February 2018 under the Bulgarian Presidency;
- Following the termination of activities of the GENVAL Working Party, two networks previously related to GENVAL have been integrated under the LEWP during the Bulgarian Presidency - the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) and the European Network on the Administrative Approach tackling serious and organised crime (ENAA);
- The Radio communications experts group (RCEG) now operates together with the European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Services (ENLETS).

Consequently, the following networks and experts groups are currently considered as related to the LEWP:

1. Operational network to counter mafia-style serious and organised crime groups (**@ON**)
2. European network of airport law enforcement services (**AIRPOL**)
3. **ATLAS**
4. EU contact points for tackling cross-border vehicle crime (**CARPOL**)
5. Law Enforcement authorities and expertise competent in the field of cultural goods (**CULTNET**)
6. European Firearms Experts (**EFE**)

7. European medical and psychological experts' network for law enforcement (**EMPEN**)
8. European Network on Fugitive Active Search Teams (**ENFAST**)
9. European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Services - Radio communications experts group (**ENLETS - RCEG**)
10. European Network of Protection of Public Figures (**ENPPF**)
11. Informal network for countering environmental crime (**EnviCrimeNet**)
12. Experts for major sports events (**MSE**)
13. Network of police dog professionals in Europe (**KYNOPOL**)
14. European Traffic Police Network (**TISPOL**)
15. Liaison Officers Management Services (**LOs**)
16. Experts in the area of Disaster victim identification (**DVI**)
17. European Crime Prevention Network (**EUCPN**)
18. European Network on the Administrative Approach tackling serious and organised crime (**ENAA**)

1. @ON - The operational network to counter serious, organised and mafia-style crime

@ON is based on the Council Resolution of 4-5 December 2014 on the creation of an operational network - @ON - to counter mafia-style serious and organised crime groups (14929/1/14 REV 1).

Strategic objectives:

- To strengthen and further develop the cooperation and communication between law enforcement authorities of Member States to counter mafia-style serious and organised crime groups through:
 - Making available on-site specialised investigators with a consulting capacity regarding the specific investigated OCG;
 - Improving information exchange, through the SIENA channel, to develop a more accurate intelligence picture of organised crime, in cooperation with Europol;
- To support the existing initiatives to improve the administrative approach in the fight against mafia-style serious and organised crime groups, in coordination with the Network on Administrative Approach to Prevent and Fight Organised Crime, including the recovery of the assets illegally acquired by criminal organisations;
- To cooperate with CEPOL as regards training on specific investigative methods in the fight against such crime, and the European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Services (ENLETS) in identifying the necessary improvements of technological equipment used by specialised units.

2. AIRPOL - the European network of airport law enforcement services

This network is based on the Council Resolution on the creation of a European network of airport law enforcement services (16417/10), which was adopted at the Council (JHA) of 2 and 3 December 2010. The mission of AIRPOL is to enhance, through its activities, the overall security in the EU airports and civil aviation domain:

- by optimising the effectiveness and efficiency of airport and aviation related law-enforcement and border guard issues and by contributing to a more harmonised approach of enforcement in this domain;
- through the activities of the AIRPOL project and network, a significant and lasting added value is to be generated in the prevention of and the fight against criminal activities in the European aviation sector.

As regards its scope, AIRPOL deploys its activities over three aviation and airport related themes and will actively explore potential synergies between them:

- Airport Policing, comprising all first-line police functions around airports, such as airport crime, contingency management, counterterrorism strategies, VIP-protection, protection of critical infrastructure;
- Aviation Security, which consists of all necessary actions and regulations to secure civil aviation. Examples of relevant issues are: engagement of air marshals, dealing with unruly passengers, access and security checks, airport badges management;
- Air Border Security in all of its aspects: immigration issues, return operations, border surveillance on smaller airports or landing strips, document fraud. In this domain any overlapping with FRONTEX will be avoided by a proactive communication and a most intense cooperation with the agency.

Strategic objectives:

As to AIRPOL's output and deliverables, three major output elements must be distinguished:

- The development of a permanent and functional network, focused on the sharing of best practices, intelligence, general information and the exchange of staff in the future in several areas;

- The coordination of high impact Cross Border Actions;
- The establishment of a representative body of experts with an advisory role.

Other deliverables include syllabuses, inventories of best practices, and advice to European and national authorities.

The expected impact of AIRPOL's mission is the following:

- In the short term (operational): Improve the mutual understanding and creation of good direct relationships at the operational level between involved partners which entail a better common approach in fighting trans-border crimes.
- In the medium term (tactical): Consolidation and strengthening of a structural functional body leading to an optimised coordination and cooperation, supported by a.o. specialised WG, a website and other deliverables.
- In the long term (strategic): Improvement of the effectivity and efficiency, as well as an enhancement of the harmonisation of law enforcement units; development of a common approach (preventive and reactive) for strategic security matters.

3. ATLAS

In 1996, the Council of the European Union decided to establish a network which would increase the skills, knowledge and expertise about counter-terrorism among the law enforcement agencies of the Member States. After the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, the ATLAS Network was formed in order to prevent similar attacks in Europe.

The cooperation of Special Intervention Units as realised by ATLAS was subsequently formalized by Council Decision 2008/615/JHA on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime.

Objectives (2018)

- Implementation of common platforms for training and tactics, equipment sharing and by establishing close cooperation in order to increase the proficiency and expertise of all special intervention units;
- Implementation of special "theme groups", called "Expert Groups" or "Forums": "Aircraft (Aviation)", "Naval (Maritime)", "Building", "Transport (Mass/public transit)", "Entry", "Command & Control (C4)", "Medic" and "Sniper". All these theme groups are focusing on the development of training and operational tactics;
- Development of new techniques to gain entry into buildings and airplanes (e.g. explosive charges);
- Analysis of new intervention approaches/techniques
- Development of new forms of "rapid response" reactions to respond to new forms of terrorism (e.g. "lone wolves" phenomenon);
- Implementation of a communication plan to standardize and improve the information exchange between the ATLAS SIU in terms of efficiency, tempo and security ("SIENA access");
- Execution of joint training operations among the Member States' SIUs;

4. CARPOL – EU contact points for tackling cross-border vehicle crime

The EU has created a police network for the exchange of knowledge and mutual understanding about vehicle crime, called CARPOL. One of the tasks given to members of CARPOL by EU Council Decision 919/2004 is to create public-private cooperation for the fight against vehicle crime in each of their home countries. CARPOL has put the creation of such a platform at EU level on their strategic agenda.

5. CULTNET - informal network of law enforcement authorities and experts competent in the domain of preventing and combatting crime against cultural goods

EU CULTNET, set up by Council Resolution on the creation of an informal network of law enforcement authorities and expertise competent in the field of cultural goods of 25-26 October 2012 (14232/12 + COR 1), aims at strengthening coordination between law enforcement and cultural authorities and private organisations (e.g. antique shops, auction houses, online auctions), by identifying and sharing, in compliance with data protection rules, information on criminal networks suspected of being involved in illicit trafficking of stolen cultural goods, in order to determine the links between such networks and other forms of (organised) crime and to identify routes, destinations, modi operandi and types of criminal activities, in close cooperation with relevant international and European organisations and agencies, such as UNESCO, Interpol, Eurojust and Europol.

An overall strengthening of the network is currently under discussion in the LEWP, with the particular aim of creating a permanent secretariat and a position of a permanent Chair of the network. A first draft of the relevant Council Resolution, containing the above modifications, also contains an overhaul of the strategic objectives and tasks of the network (11054/18).

6. EFE - European Firearms Experts

The European Firearms Experts was formed in 2004 as an informal working group during the Netherlands Presidency of the Council of the EU, because it had become clear that firearms were being trafficked across Member States, that the latter experienced similar firearms related issues, and that the EFE could provide a mechanism to share best practice and increase cooperation.

Today, the EFE includes all the 28 Member States as well as the Associated Countries including Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Other regular members and attendees at EFE meetings are the European Commission, Europol, Frontex, and Interpol and, since 2012, a representative of the Law Enforcement Working Party (LEWP). The EFE has representatives from Member States law enforcement authorities, including police, customs and forensics and is open to all partners at a practitioner level with similar goals and tasks as below:

- Supporting the LEWP and the Firearms EMPACT in combating illegal trafficking of firearms and their use in crime;
- Strengthening international police cooperation in the investigation of firearms crime;
- Exchange of experiences and identified ‘best practices’;
- Assisting to coordinate law enforcement operational activity in the fight against firearms trafficking;
- Informal enquiries amongst members and participants within the group.

7. EMPEN - The European medical and psychological experts’ network for law enforcement

EMPEN was created by a Council Resolution in 2011⁴ to provide a platform and promote the scientific activities of medical and psychological experts, as well as to change experiences and best practices in this field. The network is planning to enhance cooperation between the experts for DNS, forensic medical experts/forensic pathologists, police surgeons, as lately the activity of psychological experts increased in the network.

8. ENFAST – European Network on Fugitive Active Search Teams

The legal basis is the Council Resolution on ENFAST - European Network on Fugitive Active Search Teams of 8-9 November 2010 (15382/10). ENFAST is a network of highly specialised fugitive search units and was set up to constitute a forum for the exchange of non-operational information and experiences throughout the EU and to facilitate the establishment and active maintenance of contacts between its members.

⁴ 9044/11

9. European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Services - Radio communications experts group (ENLETS - RCEG)

ENLETS

The European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Services (ENLETS) is an informal network for exchange of information on needs, problems and solutions concerning special equipment, technology or methods that are used by the law enforcement agencies (mainly police). Most Member States (27) have appointed a national contact point to participate in the network.

The idea is that an organisation which has identified a need, should be able to ask the other Member States informally if they know of any solution to the problem or if they also see a need for development in this area. The informal nature of the cooperation aims to facilitate a straightforward and honest discussion of problems and the advantages and disadvantages of existing solutions. In both cases there is a strong interest on the part of the organisations concerned that no outside attention is drawn to the discussion.

(Strategic) objectives:

ENLETS invites end users and experts from the Member States' law enforcement authorities to meet in interest groups to connect and share their operational expertise. Technology cuts across all operations from front line policing to serious and organised crime, from pan European EMPACT priorities to local operational challenges. ENLETS offers Member States' law enforcement authorities the possibility to learn and exchange information on technology used in daily operations, to find synergies and to cooperate in finding best practices, co-creation and research.

In 2013, the Council has tasked ENLETS Core Group to establish a Technology Watch in the Security domain. Its aim is to ensure a better and effective involvement of the end users of the internal security authorities.

The ENLETS work program 2014-2020 describes how ENLETS various tasks will be met in short, mid and long term objectives.

Short term:

- Executing the ENLETS Disseminates Best Practices Program (EDBP);
- NCP's mapping their environment;
- Exchange of technology (knowledge);
- Actively coordinating and monitoring end user needs and emerging technologies;
- Exploring funding opportunities.

Medium term:

- Building a relationship with industry;
- Overview of ongoing developments;
- Supporting other European Enforcement Expert groups (E-Mobidig).

Long term:

- Matching research to end user perspective;
- Technology radar;
- Establish structural resources (funding and personel).

RCEG

The RCEG was established based on the Council Recommendation of 4 and 5 June 2009 on improving radio communication between operational units in border areas (10141/09) for the purpose of coping with the growing need for mission - critical communication by examining the issues involved in the development of intersystem interfaces, including cost and funding opportunities. The RCEG contains technical representatives from the Ministries of Law, Order, Justice, Interior and Home Offices of all 28 Member States, but also from Schengen Associated countries focusing on improving radio communications.

Strategic objectives:

The RCEG aims to prepare the creation of an EU-interoperable broadband radio communication solution for public safety and security, providing better services to first responders and police agencies and to support the LEWP with an advice for secure and mission oriented mobile communication development.

Amongst its long-term objectives beyond 2018, the RCEG mentions:

- A solution for mobile broadband data is required. A common standard operation in a harmonised frequency band will make this possible;
- After the life cycle of current TETRA and TETRAPOL systems has ended, voice and all data functionalities (high and low speed) should be incorporated in a tightly integrated solution that provides a migration path including interoperability from existing law enforcement and public-safety systems to the new solution;
- Law-enforcement and public-safety radio communication systems will need to support and be able to exchange high-speed mobile data information and satisfy the need for roaming possibilities as well; current law-enforcement, public-safety and commercial networks may not be able to do so;
- The RCEG should facilitate the future mobile broadband secure communication solutions through:
 - close contact with the end users and thus the ability to develop realistic future broadband communication scenarios to support the law enforcement authorities; and
 - communicate the law enforcement needs for harmonised frequencies to the political level both in the EU and also the Member States' top management.

10. European Network for the Protection of Public Figures ENPPF

The European Network for the Protection of Public Figures was established by Council Decision 2002/956/JHA ⁵.

The main strategic objective for 2018 consists in bilateral and multilateral cooperation, with the operational activities such as:

- Development and Extension of cooperation via Europol Platform for Experts (EPE) within the ENPPF Updating the ENPPF-handbook,
- Holding a UAV WG meeting with the Bulgarian ENPPF chair in Sofia in June 2018 and sharing the findings with the forum
- Collection of funds for Capacity Building and Training (e.g. through the ISF).
- Exploring the possibility to use the CEPOL Exchange programme
- Drafting of a complete set of Rules of Procedure and assessment by member states

11. EnviCrimeNet – the Environmental Crime Network

EnviCrimeNet, which was created on the basis of the EU Council Resolution of 9-10 June 2011 (10291/11), is an informal network connecting police officers and other crime fighters in the field of environmental crime and aims to improve the results of the fight against environmental crime.

Strategic objectives:

- Ensuring that Member States become aware of the fight against environmental crime at the strategic level;
- Mutual sharing of expertise;

⁵ Council Decision 2002/956/JHA of 28 November 2002 setting up a European Network for the Protection of Public Figures (OJ L 333, 10.12.2002, p. 1) as amended by Council Decision 2009/796/JHA of 4 June 2009 amending Decision 2002/956/JHA setting up a European Network for the Protection of Public Figures (OJ L 283, 30.10.2009, p.62)

- Establishing relevant risk assessments that can be exchanged amongst the participants;
- Learning from one another in the fields of risk assessments and intervention strategies;
- Establishing tactical analyses of particular forms of environmental crime;
- Establishing joint investigations into environmental crime;
- Exchanging investigation methods;
- Exchanging information prior to initiating the operational phase;
- Creating the right training and schooling possibilities in cooperation with Cepol.

12. Experts for Major Sports Events (MSE) and Think Tank of Policing Football Experts (TT)

The Experts for Major Sports Events is based on Council Decision 2007/412/JHA of 12 June 2007 amending Decision 2002/348/JHA concerning security in connection with football matches with an international dimension and on Council Decision 2008/615/JHA of 23 June 2008 on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime. Further, in the Council Conclusions of 2 and 3 December 2010 adopting the 2011-2013 EU Work Programme on minimizing safety, security and public order risks in connection with sports events, in particular football matches with an international dimension, mention is made of the work of the LEWP football experts group which “provides an appropriate basis for taking forward most of the annexed work programme and, where necessary or desirable, for preparing proposals for approval by the Council.”

The Think Tank of Policing Football Experts has provided input on the relation between the MSE and the TT, explaining that the MSE is not a network as defined in the current LEWP review on networks, but rather a gateway to the LEWP and beyond through which the TT submits a range of documentation providing inter alia analyses, work programs and action plans. The potential importance of the MSE gateway is reflected in Council Resolution 2010/165/01, which provides for the current (soon to be updated) EU Handbook on International Police Cooperation in connection with football matches with an international dimension (the “football policing handbook”). This urges each Presidency to convene and host a MSE meeting and report to the Council on the results.

Strategic objectives (Work programme 2018):

- Maximise international police co-operation in respect of preventing and tackling football related violence and disorder in connection with football matches with an international dimension
- Provide specific training on policing football events to European football policing practitioners (match commanders, football intelligence officers, spotters, NFIP personnel and police trainers), in the form of pan-European and customised national training events
- Enhance police liaison with supporters in order to reduce risks, prevent escalation of emerging incidents and isolate and marginalise influence of persons seeking confrontation.
- Provide support and advice to countries hosting forthcoming major football tournaments
- International police co-operation arrangements / infrastructure for multi-hosting of UEFA 2020 European Championship Finals.
- Revise key documentation on safety and security at football and other sports events
- Preventing and countering terrorist threat to football and other sports events.
- Enhanced co-operation with partner organisations.
- Preventing and countering use of pyrotechnics in stadia.

13. KYNOPOL

The network was established by a Council Resolution on the use of police dogs in the European Union, adopted in 2011 (8178/11).

The main strategic aim of KYNOPOL is to promote the sharing of knowledge and best practices on the use of service dogs.

In strategic terms, this main objective translates to

- enhancing the deployment of narcotic and explosive detection dogs, as well as poison and cadaver dogs on airports and border crossing points (external borders), as well as on the territory of the EU MS
- exchanging information (best practices, general knowledge) in the field of dog training and deployment

14. TISPOL – European Traffic Police Network

The TISPOL Organisation has been established by the traffic police forces of Europe in order to improve road safety and law enforcement on the roads of Europe. Its main priority is to reduce the number of people being killed and seriously injured on Europe's roads. TISPOL believes the enforcement of traffic law and education, where appropriate, will make a significant contribution to reducing the carnage on European roads. TISPOL further supports the security of the road network by tackling criminality and cross border crime.

Strategic objectives:

- 1) **SAFE:** to work in partnership, to deliver a safer European road network for all users. The key focus of the TISPOL approach will be:
 - Reduction of road deaths
 - Reduction of serious injury
 - Life long education for all road users in road safety
 - Enforcement
 - Protecting vulnerable road users

- 2) SECURE: to work in partnership, to detect and prevent crime on the road network within Europe. The key focus of the TISPOL approach will be:
 - Detection and prevention of crime and cross border crime on the European road network
 - Understanding “what works” and sharing good practice
- 3) EFFECTIVE: to effectively engage in partnerships and activity that deliver a safer and secure road network throughout Europe by inter alia:
 - Developing effective partnerships with other road safety organisations and networks partnerships.
 - Identifying “emerging issues” within the areas of road safety and security
 - Focusing on technology advancements, sharing of information and crime pattern analysis
 - Be a proactive European road safety and security network. Supporting all Member States in enforcement, education and sharing best practice

Further, TISPOL will support the implementation of adequate policies and legislation by the EU as well as the EU policy orientations, the campaigns in the field of road safety and security, the further development of cross-border enforcement and the adoption by the EU and its Member States of minimum common standards.

15. Liaison Officers Management Services

This network was established in 2003 by Council Decision 2003/170/JHA of 27 February 2003 on the common use of liaison officers posted abroad by the law enforcement agencies of the Member States.

According to the decision, liaison officers shall establish and maintain direct contacts with competent authorities in the host State or the international organisation, with a view to facilitating and expediting the collection and exchange of information.

They shall also contribute to the collection and exchange of information which may be used to combat serious cross-border crime, including information providing a readier knowledge of the legal systems and operational methods available in the States or international organisations concerned.

16. Experts in the area of Disaster victim identification (DVI)

This informal network of contact points was set up on the basis of Council Conclusions on the creation of an informal network of experts competent in the field of Disaster Victim Identification, adopted by the Council on 8 June 2017 (10159/17).

The first and constitutive meeting took place in Brussels on 20 February 2018, electing its Chair and Vice-Chair. The terms of reference and strategic objectives are currently under development.

17. European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN)

The European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) was set up by the Decision of the Council of the European Union of 28 May 2001⁶ to promote crime prevention activity in Member States across the EU. Its main objective is to develop a platform for the Member States to exchange knowledge and best practices in the field of crime prevention. The founding instrument was later repealed and replaced by a new Council Decision on 30 November 2009⁷. The new legislation kept the objectives and tasks of the EUCPN broadly unchanged, nevertheless the creation of a Secretariat was added.

Following the decision by COREPER in December 2017 to terminate the activity of GENVAL, the question of the future affiliation of the network arose, especially in the context of its useful activities in the past and the future involvement within the EU Policy Cycle. Based on discussion in the LEWP on 27 March 2018, EUCPN was affiliated to this Working Party.

⁶ Council Decision 2001/427/JHA

⁷ Council Decision 2009/902/JHA

18. European Network on the Administrative Approach tackling serious and organised crime (ENAA)

The Informal Network of Contact Points on the Administrative Approach to Prevent and Disrupt Organised Crime was established by the Council Conclusions on the fight against crimes committed by mobile (itinerant) criminal groups,⁸ agreed under the Belgian Presidency of the Council in 2010 after an examination in the GENVAL Working Party.

Following the decision by COREPER in December 2017 to terminate the activity of GENVAL, the question of the future affiliation of the network arose, together with the perceived necessity to change the network's name in order to better reflect the scope of its activity and its European dimension. Based on discussion in the LEWP on 27 March 2018, the network was affiliated to this Working Party and its name was changed to the current European Network on the Administrative Approach tackling serious and organised crime.

⁸ 15875/10, page 7