



Brussels, 18 September 2019
(OR. en)

12224/19

LIMITE

COSI 184
ENFOPOL 400
CYBER 257
JAI 949

NOTE

From: Presidency

To: Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security
(COSI)

Subject: The future direction of EU internal security: new technologies and internal security
- Preparation of the Council debate

DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (04.12.2019)

Introduction

At the JHA Council meeting in June 2019 and the informal COSI meeting in July 2019, detailed discussions about the future of EU internal security took place, raising a number of topics that will require further, more focused discussions. One of those topics was ‘disruptive technologies’, and the Presidency intends to continue the debate on relevant threats, challenges and opportunities. The overarching aim of these discussions is to put European law enforcement in a position to benefit from major new technologies, while anticipating and minimising the risks associated with them.

The introduction and increased use of new technologies unquestionably poses a threat to the legitimate needs of the law enforcement sector. In general, facing the challenges which new technological innovations cause for criminal investigations is a complex and many-sided problem that is not only limited to criminal proceedings. Also, the legitimate need of individuals, companies and authorities to protect their information must be taken into consideration. Therefore, it is important to identify the relevant threats, challenges and opportunities that come with the new technological measures, as well as to find a balance between efficient criminal investigations on the one hand and the protection of fundamental rights and data protection on the other.

Key technology trends with the most significant impact on internal security

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