



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 25 July 2013
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 16 July 2013
To: Terrorism Working Party
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as outlined in doc. CM 3659/13.

2. Information by the Presidency

– *TWP work programme during Lithuanian Presidency*

The Presidency presented its priorities for the semester. The main priority would be the preparation of the update of the strategy on radicalisation and recruitment, following the adoption of Council conclusions in June. The conclusions highlighted important issues like foreign fighters and the role of social media. The Presidency would organise a debate on these issues in the TWP.

– ***Announcement on orientation discussion on updating the EU Strategy for combating radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism***

Following the adoption of the conclusions in June, the Presidency announced its intention to organize an orientation debate on the update of the strategy. In order to prepare this debate, the Presidency would distribute in the coming days a list of questions and issues for reflection to be discussed at the meeting in September. The Presidency aimed to cooperate closely with COTER in the process.

3. Incidents of significant interest - Information from Member States

The Presidency requested delegations to be informed in case the threat level in Member States would change. Some Member States provided information on incidents of significant interest in their countries.

4. Use of firearms for terrorist purposes

The Presidency set the context on this issue recalling the Council conclusions adopted by the Council in June on the new priorities for the fight against serious and organised crime in the framework of the EU Policy Cycle 2014-2017. The reduction of the threat deriving from firearms and the fight against illicit trafficking figured among the new priorities. In view of the fact that firearms were used more and more often by terrorists instead of explosives, the Presidency aimed to organise at the meeting in October a debate on the use of firearms for terrorist purposes and on ways to prevent terrorists to acquire firearms. To this end, a questionnaire had been circulated in February (CM 1657/13). The Presidency also referred to the ongoing discussion in COSI SG about the Multi Annual Strategic Program on firearms.

The Presidency provided some preliminary information on the analysis of the replies to the questionnaire. The replies by MS had contributed to provide a better picture of the phenomenon and to identify best practices and open issues. The Presidency would distribute a more detailed summary of the replies after the meeting.

– ***Presentation by INTCEN (EU CONFIDENTIAL)***

A representative of IntCen made a presentation classified EU CONFIDENTIAL.

– ***Presentation by Europol***

A representative of Europol presented the threat assessment on illegal trafficking of firearms prepared in the framework of the EU Policy Cycle on serious and organised crime. Europol was planning to establish a focal point on firearms and had already contacted relevant authorities in the MS to that effect.

5. INTCEN work programme for July - December 2013 - Presentation by InCen (EU RESTRICTED)

A representative of IntCen presented the work programme for July – December 2013.

6. Croatian counter-terrorism system - Presentation by HR

HR made a presentation on the national counter-terrorism system in Croatia.

7. Ensuring airport security

– ***One year after Burgas attack - Presentation by BG (EU CONFIDENTIAL)***

BG made a presentation classified EU CONFIDENTIAL.

– ***Airpol: the project and its future perspective - Information by Airpol***

A representative of Airpol made a presentation about the Airpol project and its future perspectives. Airpol's purpose was to enhance the overall security in the EU airports and civil aviation by optimizing the effectiveness of security and efficiency of airports, and contributing to a harmonised approach in the domain. Airpol worked as a network of law enforcement agencies working at EU airports and its activity focused on three main themes, namely airport policing, air border security and aviation security. The representative of Airpol provided an overview of past initiatives and actions as well as planned activities.

The Commission expressed its continued support for Airpol and in general for the network approach bringing together practitioners working on the ground. With regard to future work, the non-aviation parts of airport security were raising important issues that would also apply to other transport modes as well as to cultural events and sport events. The Commission suggested a possible use of the network to conduct vulnerability assessments to airports in Europe but also outside of the EU. Delegations indicated that any initiative should be closely coordinated with all EU actors as well as relevant international organisations.

Answering questions from delegations, the representative of Airpol said that Airpol was considering how to identify potential actions that might contribute to the enhancement of security in EU airports through cooperation with third countries in key regions, in particular through encouraging cooperation of third countries authorities with law enforcement authorities in EU Member States. Capacity building would be considered in this respect, in close cooperation with the Commission. In addition, the representative of Airpol shared with delegations its reflections on the possible establishment a manual for law enforcement agencies to identify indicators of radicalisation in the airport community.

8. Atlas - Information by the Atlas president

A representative of Atlas made a presentation about Atlas, the forum of law enforcement Special Intervention Unit of EU MS. The CTC underlined that Atlas was a valuable tool that would prove more and more useful also externally. Financial support for exercises and research was essential. The possible use of Atlas in the context of the solidarity clause should also be explored. The Commission reiterated its support for Atlas and informed the group that it was planning to increase the financial support.

9. Counter-radicalisation - information from the Commission

- *Update on RAN activities*
- *Update on meetings with experts from Member States*

The Commission said that the communication on violent extremism would be published in the second half of November and would serve as an input for the discussion within the Council on the review of the Strategy for combating radicalisation and recruitment. The ministerial conference that had taken place in January in the context of RAN had already provided an outcome to be considered for the review of the strategy. In view of the update of the strategy, the Commission had offered to continue consultations on three tracks. First, it would conduct consultations with RAN practitioners in a meeting with group leaders to be organised in September. Secondly, it was organising informal brainstorming meetings with MS experts . The first meeting had taken place in June, the second in July, and the third was scheduled on 3 October. Third, the Commission was participating in the discussions organised by the Presidency on topics relevant to radicalisation and recruitment in the context of the TWP on the initiative of the Presidency. With regard to the meeting with MS experts held in July, the group had explored definitions and issues such as prevention and disengagement and the internal/external link.

10. Information on counter-terrorism activities

- *Commission*

The Commission announced it would prepare a Commission staff working paper on critical infrastructure protection. Work had been undertaken on air cargo in response to the request of the Council in March that had recommended to reassess the risk arising from freight and cargo in airports in countries in the Sahel region. DG Move had requested a risk assessment on passenger screening in order to consider how to optimise passenger controls in airports.

- *Europol*

Europol informed the group about the latest developments, underlining in particular the shortage of analysts for CT also as a consequence of internal reorganisations.

– **EEAS**

The EEAS recalled that a GCTF workshop for Member States experts would take place in Brussels on 18 July. With regard to EEAS activities on CT, a robust strategic framework had now been established and the focus for the coming months would be on delivery

11. AOB

No item was raised under AOB.

