



**Brussels, 8 December 2023
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 22 November 2023
To: Delegations

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

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda in CM 5021/2/23 REV 2 was adopted.

2. Information by the Presidency

The Presidency informed COSI about the second plenary meeting of the High-level Group on access to data for effective law enforcement that took place on 21 November. The Presidency also debriefed the Committee on two ministerial meetings: with the US in Washington D.C. on 13 and 14 November 2023 and with the Western Balkans in Skopje on 26 and 27 October 2023.

The Presidency announced that an EU-Interpol senior officials meeting would take place in Brussels on 7 December 2023. Together with the EU CTC, the Presidency gave the Committee an update on the Internal Security Dialogue with Ukraine. The Presidency updated COSI on the recent political agreement on the Prüm II Regulation and on the state of play regarding the CSA Regulation; it also raised awareness about a proposal for a Directive on European cross-border associations which would be negotiated outside JHA but might have internal security implications. Lastly, the Presidency mentioned the draft Council conclusions on crime prevention, victims of terrorism, and individuals released from prisons, which was to be adopted by the JHA Council on 4 and 5 December 2023.

Discussion items

3. Implications of the situation in the Middle East for the EU's internal security

COSI prepared the discussions ahead of the JHA Council on 5 December. Following the presentation of a Presidency paper, COSI held an exchange of views on implications of the situation in the Middle East for the EU's internal security, covering matters ranging from protection of public spaces to prevention, as well as financial investigations and the online dimension. There was broad consensus on the need to remain vigilant and in particular to ensure the full use of EU legal instruments (TCO and DSA) in order to counter the spread of disinformation and illegal content online.

4. Environmental crime

COSI held an exchange of views on ways to enhance the fight against environmental crime in the EU. The debate identified various areas for improvement, which included closer cooperation between Member States, increased resources at national level and specialised training in this very technical area for investigators and prosecutors. COSI also welcomed the upcoming revision of the EU directive on the protection of the environment through criminal law, following a recent political agreement between the co-legislators.

5. Preventing and combatting illicit trafficking of firearms

COSI held an exchange of views on the prevention and combat of illicit trafficking of firearms in the EU and particularly on the need to regulate 3D printing of weapons. The Commission announced an evaluation of the relevant existing directive next year. COSI considered that existing databases, such as the SIS, should continue to be used to register illegal weapons. Cooperation with customs should also be strengthened in order to keep track of postal shipments of firearms or their components.

Items for information/endorsement

6. Tackling drug trafficking and organised crime (EU roadmap)

COSI took note of the presentation made by the Commission on the EU Roadmap to fight drug trafficking and organised crime adopted on 18 October 2023.

7. The European Union Satellite Centre and its contribution in the area of internal security

COSI took note of the presentation given by the European Union Satellite Centre.

8. Digital files – state of play

COSI took note of the state of play on digital files provided by the Presidency.

9. EU threat assessment in the field of counterterrorism: recommendations

COSI endorsed the updated EU threat assessment in the field of counterterrorism.

10. Items concluded by the COSI Support Group

COSI took note of the items concluded by the COSI Support Group in 15045/23.

11. Presentation of the work programme of the incoming Belgian Presidency

COSI took note of the work programme presented by the incoming Belgian Presidency.

12. AOB

At the request of Lithuania, COSI was informed about the two draft resolutions tabled by Russia and Belarus at the upcoming Interpol General Assembly in Vienna on 28 November 2023.

COSI was also informed about the current situation at Finland's border with Russia. Finally, the Commission informed about the upcoming presentation of their migrant smuggling package on 28 November 2023.