



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 25 November 2011

17555/11

**ENFOPOL 416
JAIEX 125**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat

to: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. prev. doc. : 16593/11 ENFOPOL 389 JAIEX 115

Subject: Draft Council Conclusions on strengthening police cooperation with non-EU countries in the area of sports events safety and security

1. The Law Enforcement Working Party at its meetings on 14-15 September, 24 October and 23 November 2011 discussed the Presidency's proposals on strengthening police cooperation with non-EU countries relating to sports events safety and security, and agreed to the draft Council Conclusions on this subject aiming to indicate the direction and scope of further work to be accomplished in this area.
2. On this basis, COREPER is requested to invite the Council to adopt the draft Council Conclusions on strengthening police cooperation with non-EU countries in the area of sports events safety and security set out in annex.

Draft Council Conclusions
on strengthening police cooperation with non-EU countries in the area of sports events safety
and security

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

BEARING IN MIND that one of the European Union's objectives is to provide citizens with a high level of safety within an area of freedom, security and justice by developing common action among the Member States in the field of police cooperation as laid down under Title V of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;

RECALLING the Stockholm Programme, where the European Council stresses the need for a development of ad hoc law enforcement cooperation at sporting events or large public gatherings (e.g. the 2012 Olympic Games, Euro 2012) as well as the Internal Security Strategy for the European Union stipulating the need to make progress in the development of a cooperation framework to improve security and safety at major and mass international events;

HAVING REGARD to Council Decision 2002/348/JHA of 25 April 2002 concerning security in connection with football matches with an international dimension¹, as amended by Council Decision 2007/412/JHA of 12 June 2007²;

RECALLING the Council Resolution of 3 June 2010 concerning an updated handbook with recommendations for international police cooperation and measures to prevent and control violence and disturbances in connection with football matches with an international dimension, in which at least one Member State is involved³ ("the Football Handbook");

¹ OJ L 121, 8.5.2002, p. 1.

² OJ L 155, 15.6.2007, p. 76.

³ OJ C 165, 24.6.2010, p. 1.

REFERRING to Council Resolution concerning recommendations for hosting major football and other sports events, in particular tournaments with more than one organising country⁴;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Annual Action Plan implementing the 2011-2013 EU Work Programme on further measures designed to maximise safety and security in connection with sports events, in particular football matches with an international dimension⁵, which expresses the need for continuing to review "the Football Handbook";

REFERRING to the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches of 19 August 1985;

EMPHASISING the important role of National Football Information Points (NFIP) in international cooperation and information exchange in the field of safety and security of sports events, in particular football matches;

REAFFIRMING the necessity of improving cooperation with non-EU countries in the field of safety and security of sports events, in particular football matches;

CONSIDERING that

- the international character of sports events in Europe is constantly changing and the number of travelling supporters is growing;
- many sports events are organised by Member States together with non-EU countries or take place in non-EU countries with participation of teams from EU countries;
- it is important to establish certain common standards for cooperation with non-EU countries in the field of safety and security of sports events;

⁴ 8179/11 ENFOPOL 79.

⁵ 8097/11 ENFOPOL 77.

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES to strengthen police cooperation with non-EU countries in the area of sports events safety and security and to take the following actions in this field:

- evaluate the work of the National Football Information Points, in particular with regard to their cooperation with non-EU countries;
- examine the existing agreements with third countries in the field of law enforcement and international police cooperation, especially in the field of sports events safety and security;
- examine if and how the principles of the Council Resolution of 3 June 2010 concerning an updated handbook with recommendations for international police cooperation and measures to prevent and control violence and disturbances in connection with football matches with an international dimension, in which at least one Member State is involved, could be transformed into a recommendation at the level of the Council of Europe;
- examine if and how the European Convention on Sport Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches could be amended to facilitate cooperation between European countries;
- analyse the existing possibilities of personal data exchange with non-EU countries, including the use of Europol and Interpol channels in line with their mandate;
- examine the possibilities for making the exchange of information with Interpol more efficient in relation to information exchange with non-EU countries where National Football Information Points or other (similar) police contact points responsible for the exchange of information regarding the safety and security of sports events do not yet exist;
- promote the use of "the Football Handbook" in relation to the exchange of information and the joint supportive actions carried out with non-EU countries in connection with international sports events;
- promote establishing NFIPs or other police contact points with similar structure to that of NFIP, responsible for the exchange of information regarding the safety and security of sports events in non-EU countries;
- promote the NFIP website as the main platform for exchanging information about football matches with an international dimension;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT

- lessons to be learnt from the preparation and organisation of the European Football Championship UEFA EURO 2012, especially in connection with international police cooperation at the Final Tournament;
- the experience of cooperation in connection with the UEFA Champions and Europa Leagues;
- the experience of the organisation of the European Basketball Championship EuroBasket 2011;
- lessons to be learnt from the preparation and organisation of the Olympic Games 2012;
- the outcome of the initial Pan-European Football Police Training Programme;

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES to propose, on this basis, appropriate amendments to respective Council acts concerning safety and security of sports events, in particular football matches;

INVITES THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, in line with Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union, to support Member States in activities aiming at developing the safety and security of sports events, in particular football matches, by closer cooperation with the Experts for Major Sports Events as well as to consider providing appropriate funding;

INVITES EUROPOL, in line with its mandate, to support the competent authorities of countries organising major international tournaments, especially where held together with non-EU country.
