

Brussels, 3 March 2025
(OR. en)

6505/25

COSI 35
JAI 231
COMIX 73

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 21 February 2025
To: Delegations

Subject: Standing Committee on operational cooperation on internal security (COSI)

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in CM 1325/1/25 REV 1.

2. Information provided by the Presidency

The Presidency provided information about the state of play of legislative proposals and the ongoing work on preparing Council conclusions. The Presidency reported on the outcome of the informal meeting of ministers of home affairs in Warsaw on 30 January 2025 and presented the agenda of the upcoming Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting in March 2025. Reference was made to the EU's planned agreements with Brazil and Ecuador on cooperation with Europol, the recent meeting of EU law enforcement officials with the Gulf Cooperation Council in Abu Dhabi on 5 and 6 February 2025, the upcoming senior officials' meetings with the United States of America and the Western Balkans partners in March/April 2025, and the symposium on lawful access to data organised by the United Kingdom and the Commission in London on 10 and 11 March 2025.

Items for discussion

3. Preventing and combating migrant smuggling in the digital age

COSI exchanged views about the main challenges of countering migrant smuggling in the digital age and considered tools and solutions that could be developed or enhanced in this regard. The Presidency presented the work of the specialised cyber department within the Polish Border Guard as an example of an effective national solution. In the discussion, delegations referred to the need:

- to strengthen cooperation and information exchange between Member States and with third countries and international organisations, facilitated by Europol whenever appropriate;
- to further develop the dialogue with private parties, including through the EU Internet Forum;
- to ensure the effective implementation of existing legislation (e.g. Digital Services Act, e-evidence package);
- to endeavour to reach a swift political agreement on the proposed new legislation under the anti-migrant smuggling package; and
- to make best use of existing structures such as the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), the EU Internet Referral Unit (IRU) at Europol and the ‘DigiNex’ expert network.

4. Situation in Syria and its potential implications for EU internal security and counter-terrorism

Based on an action plan presented by the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, COSI assessed the situation in Syria and its implications for the EU’s internal security, in preparation for the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting in March 2025. Delegations agreed that there was a need to remain vigilant and to be prepared, in the form of stepping up information sharing, enhancing border controls and making best use of the Schengen Information System.

5. Monitoring weapons and ammunition smuggling from Ukraine – preventive measures

With Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine having now entered its fourth year, COSI exchanged views about preventive measures related to the threat of weapons and ammunition being smuggled from Ukraine. While the EU has not experienced a massive inflow of firearms from Ukraine so far, delegations agreed that the situation could change in the future. Therefore, further preventive measures should be considered. Delegations confirmed their willingness to continue working closely with Ukraine on the implementation of the EU list of actions to counter firearms diversion.

Items for information/endorsement

6. EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security: state of play and way forward

COSI took note of the information provided by the Steering Group of the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security (mid-term review of priorities, 2025 work plan, 2024 annual activity report and report on the 2024 annual event) and asked the Steering Group to keep COSI updated about the planned high-level seminar on innovation and the 2025 annual event 2025.

7. Justice and Home Affairs Agencies Network (JHAAN): 2024 activities and 2025 priorities

COSI took note of the 2024 JHAAN annual report and of the Network's priorities for 2025.

8. Draft report to the European Parliament and national parliaments on the proceedings of the Standing Committee on operational cooperation on internal security between July 2023 and December 2024

COSI endorsed the report on its proceedings between July 2023 and December 2024 as set out in 5572/1/25 REV 1.

9. Cooperation between the EU and the Latin American Committee on Internal Security (CLASI): ministerial meeting on 5 March 2025

The Presidency provided information about the upcoming EU-CLASI ministerial meeting in Brussels in March 2025.

10. Items concluded by the COSI Support Group

COSI took note of the items concluded by the COSI Support Group as set out in 5849/25.

11. AOB

Sweden asked the Commission to provide information about its plans regarding the roadmap on access to data for effective law enforcement that was requested by the Council in December 2024. The Commission provided information about the preparation of the new Internal Security Strategy and reassured delegations of its commitment to moving forward with the work on access to data.
