



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

Of : Terrorism Working Party

On : 23 April 2008

Subject : Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as outlined in the document CM 1405/08 of 16 April 2008.

2. Exchange of information on the latest terrorist incidents

Delegations shared information on the most recent terrorist incidents.

3. Threat assessment and priorities for combating terrorism

a) Europol: presentation of the TeSat 2008 report

A representative of Europol introduced the EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2008 pointing out the key findings and the changes in the methodology and data compared to the previous report. The report is available as a Council document 7970/08 ENFOPOL 64 EUROPOL 39.

b) SitCen: presentation of a recent reports

A SitCen representative presented a recent report and invited delegations to provide feedback.

c) CEPOL: presentation and discussion of CEPOL's work programme

The Chair of the CEPOL Governing Board made a presentation about the aims, tasks, structure, functioning, past and current activities of the agency as well as their website. She outlined the types of training offered and introduced the drafting process of the Common Curriculum on Counter-Terrorism.

According to the Chair, the main challenges CEPOL is facing now are ensuring a high quality of teachers, strengthening the reputation of CEPOL as a training institution, reaching out to all relevant stakeholders for their preferences and feedback, and avoiding overlapping with other agencies, such as Europol.

Delegations were invited to give comments and recommendations concerning the Common Curriculum and express their training needs and priorities by submitting them to the CEPOL Secretariat (info@cepol.europa.eu). With their expertise and experience delegations can define the necessary knowledge and skills in order to update relevant data and prioritise target groups. This way Member States could contribute to the competence of police officers to fight terrorism and to the efficiency of CEPOL's training efforts.

d) Customs Cooperation Working Party: state-of-play of the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Project Group

The Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Project Group of the Customs Cooperation Working Party presented the recent work of the Group, outlining matters concerning recent and future operations, new technology to detect CBRN substances, container security and intentions of the US in the field as well as drafting a new Action Plan for the Group.

Delegations were invited to provide contributions to the Action Plan forwarding them to the following contact points: **DELETED**

e) Counter-terrorism Coordinator: summary of current threats and priorities for action

The EU Counter-terrorism Coordinator, Mr Gilles de Kerchove, gave an overview of the external, internal and judicial aspects of ongoing EU work in the field of counter-terrorism. He elaborated in particular on extremist Islamist threat, home-grown terrorism, cyber terrorism, threat posed by former fighters returning from war zones, the importance of work in the field of CBRN, home-made explosives, terrorism financing as well as prevention of radicalisation and recruitment, the need for appropriate training and selection of target groups, challenges and tasks of the authorities responsible for counter-terrorism at national and EU level, enhancing cooperation with Europol and Eurojust, and cooperation with other countries and regions.

The Coordinator also presented the results of an informal meeting on 3 March 2008 of national high ranking officials in charge of coordination of national counter-terrorism policies and the agreement reached with several Member States to elaborate proposals for future work to further implement the EU Action Plan for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment. He noted that Spain will present suggestions to counter radicalisation through better training of religious leaders, Sweden will develop fresh ideas on cooperation in the field of community policing, the United Kingdom will share its views on ways to counter terrorist propaganda, and Germany will reflect on the prevention of radicalisation on the Internet. Where relevant, the proposals will contain suggestions for use of EU funds (notably Community funds in the JLS field). He stressed that although some Member States have been asked to take a leading role, others are welcome to share their ideas as well.

He also mentioned that the UN has asked the EU for information on the first round of peer evaluation on counter-terrorism arrangements.

The Presidency summarised presentations and discussions under point 3 by pointing out increasing home-grown terrorism, the use of propaganda to radicalise and recruit, and Europe being seen as a strategic location for further operations and attacks.

Delegations were invited to reflect on the questions below and to give their feedback in writing by 5 May:

- what are the threats that the EU is currently faced with,
- do delegations agree with the assessments provided by Europol, SitCen and the Counter-terrorism Coordinator,
- what would be the most appropriate measures to react to the threats, and
- how could the current counter-terrorism activities be improved,
- is there a need to prepare for an unconventional, i.e. CBRN attack,
- how to go forward in the fight against radicalisation and recruitment,
- is there a threat of terrorism, radicalisation and recruitment moving from cities to the countryside,
- how to develop community policing?

4. Draft Council Conclusions on Western Balkans and information on a recent meeting with Western Balkan authorities on transfer of best practices in counter-terrorism

8529/08 ENFOPOL 78 CORDROGUE 38 COWEB 116

The draft Council Conclusions on the co-operation with Western Balkans on the fight against organised crime and terrorism were discussed. A revised version will be issued after the meeting and discussion will continue at the next Working Party meeting. Delegations were invited to provide their comments and suggestions by 5 May 2008.

5. Draft Council Conclusions on radicalisation and recruitment

Draft Council Conclusions on radicalisation and recruitment were discussed and discussion will continue at the next Working Party meeting. Delegations were invited to provide their comments and suggestions by 5 May 2008.

6. Security aspects of the Commission's Proposal for a Directive on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts

DELETED

7. Europol's information on activities related to combating terrorism

The representative of Europol gave an overview of recent work on counter-terrorism issues:

A conference on animal rights extremists was held in Europol on 20-22 April and an expert meeting on Explosives Ordnance Disposal units will take place on 29 May.

During a High Level Experts meeting on 29 April, all developments in the Counter Terrorism Unit will be presented including the state of play of the first response network, the state-of-play of the terrorism related analytical work files (AWF), the Counter Terrorism Unit's Working Plan for 2009 as well as the developments of the First Response Network.

An EU-US meeting on returning Jihadists was held at Eurojust on 18 April, which was attended by a large US delegation.

Regarding the Check the Web initiative, phase I is ongoing and phase II is being developed and should be fully operational during the first half of 2009.

Staff changes are being carried out in the Counter Terrorism Unit. By 1 June the Unit will have its staff completed, including a new expert in terrorism financing, except for a new Head of Unit who will be recruited later in June.

8. The European Commission's information on activities related to combating terrorism

The representative of the Commission congratulated the Presidency on fast progress in work with the counter-terrorism measures proposed by the Commission in November 2007, in particular the adoption of the Action Plan on Enhancing the Security of Explosives and reaching an agreement on the general approach on the Framework Decision amending Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA on combating terrorism.

Delegations were invited to respond by 5 May to a Commission letter from 21 April 2008 addressed to terrorism focal points concerning planning an EU-US expert meeting to exchange information and best practices concerning explosives security. The contact point for the initiative is Piotr Rydzkowski (**DELETED**).

Three Commission studies on radicalisation will be published in the coming weeks and will be made available through the counter terrorism focal points.

The representative of the Commission advised delegations to consult the Commission's website for new information on financing possibilities, in particular the recently published call for proposals under the ISEC programme. The website for all relevant information is http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/intro/funding_intro_en.htm.

Concerning Member States' answers to the questionnaire on the legal framework for combating terrorism, the Commission representative asked delegations to respond to a recent letter on this if they would like to indicate which information should be kept classified if any. Also, those Member States which have not yet responded to the questionnaire itself are kindly requested to do so at their earliest opportunity.

9. Information from the Presidency on the implementation of the Action Plan for combating terrorism in other areas, such as judicial cooperation in criminal matters, civil protection, police cooperation, external aspects of counter terrorism

The Presidency presented the state-of-play of the following issues:

- Action Plan on Enhancing the Security of Explosives: the document was adopted at the JHA Council on 18 April 2008,
- Proposal for a Council Framework Decision amending Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA on combating terrorism: agreement on the general approach was reached at the JHA Council on 18 April 2008,
- Proposal for a Council Framework Decision on the use of Passenger Name Record: discussions are ongoing,
- Proposal for a Directive of the Council on the identification and designation of European Critical Infrastructure and the assessment of the need to improve their protection: discussions are ongoing,
- Recent or forthcoming meetings with Canada, Russia and the Gulf Cooperation Council,
- G8 meeting on Justice & Home Affairs on 11-13 June in Tokyo.

10. Peer evaluation on preparedness and consequence management

A representative of the Council General Secretariat gave an overview of the preparations of the evaluation visits. The timetable of the visits with the composition of the evaluation teams was approved. The first mission will take place in May 2008 to Latvia. The Council General Secretariat will be asking delegations in advance of each visit for contact points to arrange organisational matters.

11. CCTV

A representative of the Council General Secretariat informed delegations that the answers to the study on the legal framework of using CCTV in Member States have been analysed and compiled. Delegations are welcome to make suggestions on the final product, i.e. whether to issue a document with best practices or a compilation of recommendations.

The Presidency proposed to discuss and decide over the next steps of the project at the Working Party meeting in May.

12. Handbook of Terrorist Organisations

The Presidency invited delegations to provide their possible amendments to the Handbook of Terrorist Organisations to the Slovenian delegation via BdL by 5 May. The last version of the Handbook will be forwarded to Member States by the Slovenian delegation.

13. Europol Glossary of Terrorist Groups

The representative of Europol noted that the Glossary of Terrorist Groups was recently distributed to Member States via Europol National Units. Delegations were invited to provide feedback and may request the inclusion of new organisations. Responses should be forwarded to Europol via the Europol National Units.

14. AOB

- SIM cards

The Maltese delegation raised concern about the extensive use of mobile phone SIM cards without contracts where the data of the phone owner is not known, and invited delegations to respond to a questionnaire to study the existing legal framework in the Member States.

- SIS II questionnaire

The French Presidency urged delegations to respond to a questionnaire on SIS II (sent to delegations in January and available from the French delegation or the Council General Secretariat). The responses would help to elaborate proposals on improving the use of SIS. It was recalled that the deadline was 15 March and that the answers should be addressed to the Slovenian Presidency.

- **Workshop in Berlin**

The German delegation reminded delegations of the workshop "Islamist motivated violent radicalisation, particularly in prisons" to be held in Berlin on 24-25 April in the framework of the Austrian-German-French initiative "Violent Radicalisation - Recognitions and Responses to the Phenomenon by Professional Groups Concerned".

- **Meeting of the Working Party on Terrorism in June**

The Presidency informed delegations of holding a meeting of the Terrorism Working Party also on 10 June, where *inter alia* an overview would be given of the progress achieved in different areas during the Slovenian Presidency, and the incoming French Presidency would be invited to present their priorities for the next six months.

- **Meeting on financing of terrorism**

Delegations were invited to the next joint meeting of TWP, COTER and financial attachés on financing of terrorism on 9 June in the afternoon (start ca 14.30). It will be a follow-up meeting to the meeting held in December 2007 in order to inform participants of the state of play concerning the updated Strategy against the Financing of Terrorism. The invitation will be sent out in due time by the Council General Secretariat.

Deadlines

Delegations were invited to send their contributions to the following agenda items:

Item 3 - comments on the documents presented and discussions held under item 3 "Threat assessment and priorities for combating terrorism" (exact questions outlined in the end of item 3) to be sent to the Presidency (**DELETED**) and the Council General Secretariat (**DELETED**) by 5 May;

Item 3b - feedback concerning the SitCen report to be sent to SitCen via BdL;

Item 3c - comments and recommendations concerning the Common Curriculum as well as training needs and priorities to be sent to the CEPOL Secretariat (info@cepol.europa.eu);

Item 3d - contributions to the new Action Plan for the Counter-Terrorism Project Group to be sent to the following contact points: **DELETED**;

Item 4 - comments and suggestions to the draft Council Conclusions on the co-operation with Western Balkans on the fight against organised crime and terrorism (doc. 8529/08 ENFOPOL 78 CORDROGUE 38 COWEB 116) to be sent to the Presidency (**DELETED**) and the Council General Secretariat (**DELETED**) by 5 May;

Item 5 - comments and suggestions to the draft Council Conclusions on enhancing cooperation in the area of countering radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism to be sent to the Presidency (**DELETED**) and the Council General Secretariat (**DELETED**) by 5 May;

Item 8 - Delegations were invited to respond by 5 May to a Commission letter from 21 April 2008 addressed to terrorism focal points concerning planning an EU-US expert meeting to exchange information and best practices concerning explosives security. The contact point for the initiative is **DELETED**.

Concerning Member States' answers to the questionnaire on the legal framework for combating terrorism, the Commission representative asked delegations to respond to a recent letter on this if they would like to indicate which information should be kept classified if any. Also, those Member States which have not yet responded to the questionnaire itself are kindly requested to do so at their earliest opportunity.

Item 12 - possible amendments to the Handbook of Terrorist Organisations to be sent to the Slovenian delegation via BdL by 5 May;

Item 13 - feedback on and possible inclusion of new organisations to the Europol Glossary of Terrorist Groups to be sent to Eurpol via the Europol National Units;

Item 14 - responses to a questionnaire on SIS II to be sent to the Presidency (**DELETED**).
