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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 16 May 2023
To: Delegations

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

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as set out in CM 2601/23 was adopted.

2. Information by the Presidency

The Presidency informed about the EU-US senior officials meeting on 16-17 March 2023, the European seminar on access to data on 27 April 2023, the EU-Western Balkans senior officials meeting on 15 May 2023, the upcoming EU-Interpol senior officials meeting on 31 May 2023, the expected adoption of the Civilian CSDP compact by the Council, the work done regarding Chinese overseas police stations, and the state of play of ongoing legislative files: the adoption by the Council of the negotiation mandates for agreements on the exchange of personal data between Europol and five Latin American Countries and the state of play of the revision of Directive 2019/1153 laying down rules facilitating the use of financial and other information for the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of certain criminal offences.

Discussion items

3. Fighting drug trafficking

3.1 Detection of illicit wholesale trafficking of drugs and drug precursors at EU points of entry and exit

COSI discussed the matter based on the EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025 and agreed that both big and small ports deserve attention, that it should be considered to apply minimum security standards at ports, and that secondary movements of goods beyond ports should be observed. Member States should continue to produce and share risk analysis and to improve the intelligence picture by real time information exchange. Public private partnerships with harbour companies and other private parties should be enhanced. In international cooperation, the issue of non-compliant countries of origin and transit should be addressed to avoid safe havens. The EU and its Member States should focus on the reduction of both drugs supply and drugs demand, to address the drugs situation from all angles.

3.2 New mandate for the EMCDDA – opportunities for cooperation with the law enforcement community

COSI welcomed the forthcoming adoption of the new mandate of EMCDDA, which will become the EU Drugs Agency. Complementarity with the work of other JHA agencies should be ensured.

4. Dialogue on internal security with Ukraine

COSI took note of the state of play of the activities under the dialogue on internal security with Ukraine. COSI will continue to monitor the progress made in the implementation of the specific actions.

5. Artificial Intelligence from a law enforcement perspective

COSI welcomed the establishment of a sandbox environment by Europol to train and assess Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. Europol was invited to support Member States with developing a common strategic approach to tackle the risks of criminal abuse of general-purpose AI tools including picture-based tools and to address the use of AI tools together with other technologies, e.g. crypto currencies. COSI welcomed the Accountability Principles for AI (AP4AI) framework as a useful tool. COSI stressed the importance of a clear legal framework for the design and use of AI tools.

Items for information/endorsement

6. Customs contribution to the internal security of the EU

COSI took note of the updated draft Council Resolution and Strategy for customs cooperation in the area of law enforcement and its contribution to the internal security of the EU, and of the 2023 Situational Awareness Paper prepared by the Law Enforcement Working Party (Customs).

7. EU internal security support to Moldova

7.1 Civilian CSDP mission in Moldova – state of play

COSI took note of the state of play of the European Union Partnership Mission in Moldova (EUPM). The EEAS is invited to keep COSI updated about the EUPM to explore synergies, following the discussions at the COSI-PSC meeting on 22 February 2023 and the JHA Council on 9 March 2023.

7.2 EU Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management

COSI took note of the state of play of the EU Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management. The Commission is invited to keep COSI updated about the progress of this initiative.

8. Digital Files

COSI took note of the state of play of key digital files with implications on internal security, as set out in 8875/23 and will follow up on further developments. Delegations were invited to ensure an effective national coordination on relevant files.

9. Counterterrorism and violent extremism

9.1 EU threat assessment in the field of counterterrorism: recommendations

COSI endorsed the recommendations based on the six-monthly EU threat assessment in the field of counterterrorism.

9.2 Violent right-wing extremism and terrorism - achievements and challenges

COSI took note of the document taking stock of the achievements and challenges regarding the rise of violent right-wing extremism and terrorism in Member States and endorsed the update of the four work strands in this area.

10. High-level Expert Group on access to data for effective law enforcement

COSI took note of the progress made towards the establishment of the High-level Expert Group on access to data for effective law enforcement.

11. EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security: composition of the Steering Group

COSI endorsed the composition of the Steering Group of the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security for the period from July 2023 to December 2024, as outlined in 8877/23.

12. Items concluded by the COSI Support Group

COSI took note of the items concluded by COSI Support Group as set out in 8949/23 and endorsed the revised EMPACT Terms of References, as outlined in 9921/3/21.

13. Presentation of the work programme of the incoming Spanish Presidency

COSI took note of the presentation of the work programme of the incoming Spanish Presidency.

14. AOB

COSI took note of:

- The information by the Portuguese delegation in relation to the Conference and Joint declaration of the European Police Chiefs in Lisbon on 30 March 2023.
 - The request by the French delegation to consider working on violent extremists taking advantage of big events in both the COSI Support Group and the TWP.
 - The information by the Presidency about the EU-CELAC Summit taking place in Brussels on 17 and 18 July 2023.
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