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**NOTE**

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from :	Incoming French Presidency
to :	Police Cooperation Working Party
Subject :	Presentation of the French initiative for the establishment of European police stations

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As part of its Presidency of the Council of the European Union, France has set itself the priority of strengthening operational cooperation between Member States in order to fight crime more effectively and thus to participate in the consolidation of the European Union as an area of justice, freedom and security.

Certain areas of the European Union have heavy concentrations of tourists or are from time to time venues for major events. Large numbers of nationals from Member States are to be found there either regularly or temporarily. During their stay, they might need to go to the local police to ask for information, to report the loss of identity documents or for some other reason. Linguistic and cultural differences constitute obstacles to local police officers dealing with them satisfactorily. These difficulties could be easily overcome by sending police officers of the same nationality as the tourists to work with the police forces of the host State for the duration of the event or the tourist season.

Such cooperation has already been implemented between certain Member States and has been unanimously welcomed. Its implementation relied on existing or specifically signed bilateral agreements. Article 24 and Article 28(1) of the Prüm Treaty henceforth provide a legal framework which will soon apply to all Member States. France has invited some of the States which have already ratified the Treaty to participate in the "European police stations" located in areas of high tourist presence. For this first experience, the timetable, locations and nationalities have been deliberately limited. The police officers assigned to the French forces will take part in joint patrols on the street or will be placed at reception in the police stations.

The chosen locations are:

- The Paris police stations of the 8th arrondissement (Champs Elysées district), the 7th arrondissement (Invalides district), the 1st arrondissement (Forum des Halles district), the mobile police station, the police post at the Gare de Paris Nord;
- Chessy police station (Eurodisney park);
- Versailles police station;
- Lourdes during the papal visit;
- Le Mans during "the 24 hours" and "the 24 hours classic" races.

The establishment of these European police stations will be the subject of an evaluation to determine the benefits of this type of structure for the security of European citizens and for strengthening cooperation between Member States.

These arrangements could then be made permanent, with national pools of staff resources being established.

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