



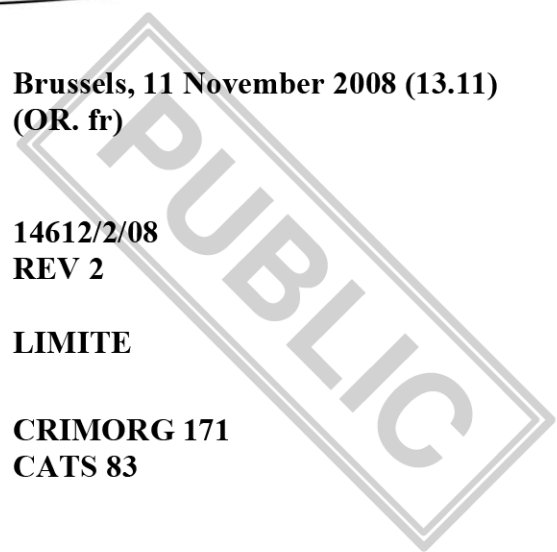
**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 11 November 2008 (13.11)  
(OR. fr)**

**14612/2/08  
REV 2**

**LIMITE**

**CRIMORG 171  
CATS 83**



**NOTE**

from :	Presidency
to :	Coreper/Council
Subject :	Child abduction alert/Draft Council conclusions

**THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,**

REITERATING its determination to make the protection of children one of the priorities of the European Union and its Member States;

EMPHASISING to that effect the importance of developing mechanisms for alerting the general public in the event of the abduction of children in circumstances where there appears to be a serious risk to their safety;

WELCOMING the initiatives taken by several Member States in the interest of the child;

AWARE that the existence of borders can compromise the effectiveness of national alert mechanisms where an abduction has taken place in a border area;

EMPHASISING that the adoption of alert mechanisms by all Member States and the introduction of suitable communication systems would provide a more effective solution in the event of cross-border child abductions and allow perpetrator and victim to be located more quickly, thanks to the development of a network bringing together police and judicial authorities;

WELCOMING the exercises conducted between Member States for the cross-border triggering of national mechanisms, which have demonstrated the usefulness of better coordination and the importance of having national systems that are compatible, while still respecting the differences in national approaches;

WISHING to define the conditions and arrangements for the effective cross-border triggering of national mechanisms in the event of child abductions [...], by promoting and setting up arrangements based on the definition of criteria and the use of joint cooperation tools;

BEARING IN MIND the Commission Communication of June 2006 entitled "Towards an EU strategy on the rights of the child";

BEARING IN MIND the Resolution of the Council of the European Union of 27 September 2001 on the contribution of civil society in finding missing or sexually exploited children<sup>1</sup>;

BEARING IN MIND the debate on the subject at the informal meeting of Justice and Home Affairs Ministers in Lisbon on 1 and 2 October 2007, at which the issue of the interoperability of national child abduction alert mechanisms was discussed;

BEARING IN MIND the Declaration adopted by the European Parliament on 2 September 2008 calling on Member States to introduce a child alert system and to reach cooperation agreements allowing cross-border alerts to be triggered;

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 283, 9.10.2001, p. 1.

REITERATING the wish expressed by the Ministers for Justice at their informal meeting in Cannes (7 and 8 July 2008) to have a common reference tool available for the development of such systems;

RECALLING the need, in developing that tool, to take account of the diversity of Member States' legal and judicial traditions and of the allocation of competences among public authorities;

AWARE that the diversity of Member States' national systems does not allow us to seek a blueprint for a uniform system at European Union level;

EMPHASISING, therefore, the need to favour compatibility between the various national systems as the means of extending to one or more Member States the effects of an alert triggered in another;

**CALLS ON Member States**

- *while respecting their individual legal and judicial traditions, to introduce and develop national mechanisms for alerting the general public in the event of alleged or actual abduction of children in circumstances where there appears to be a serious risk to their safety or to designate an existing structure to do so; such mechanisms will be notified to the General Secretariat of the Council, which will inform the Member States and the Commission;*
- *to define the implementing arrangements at national level for cross-border alerts to be triggered quickly in the event of an abduction [...];*
- *in introducing and developing such arrangements, to take as a basis, amongst other things, the good practices established by the European Commission, set out in 15084/08 CRIMORG 177 CATS 87 SEC(2008) 2754 final.*

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