



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 11 December 2001 (13.12)
(OR. fr)**

14841/01

LIMITE

ENFOPOL 144

NOTE

from : Belgian Presidency
to : Article 36 Committee

No. prev. doc. : 10564/2/01 ENFOPOL 73 REV 2

Subject : Conclusions of the EU Police Chiefs Operational Task Force meeting on
31 October 2001 on combating terrorism

1. At its meeting on 23 October 2001 the Article 36 Committee examined the above conclusions, which are set out under B on pages 3 to 6 of 10564/2/01 ENFOPOL 73 REV 2.
2. The text resulting from the Committee's discussions is given in the Annex.
3. The Committee is invited to examine this text.

B. Suggestions

V. Combating terrorism

1. Meeting of heads of counter-terrorist units

The EU Police Chiefs Operational Task Force noted with satisfaction the discussions of the meeting of heads of counter-terrorist units on 15 October 2001. The meeting was organised around three workshops: information processing, measures to be adopted to ensure a high level of security and cooperation between operational intervention units.

1.1. Regarding information processing, the EU Police Chiefs Operational Task Force:

- 1.1.1. recommends that the Working Party of Experts on Information Processing should meet at least once every six months,
- 1.1.2. notes that Europol does not yet have all the relevant information regarding terrorism and asks the Member States' police authorities and intelligence services to make every effort to facilitate the forwarding of that information so that Europol is in a position to improve the quality of its analyses. The team of counter-terrorist specialists set up within Europol has a priority role in this area,
- 1.1.3. recommends that, at the national level, threat assessment be carried out by the appropriate services at regular intervals and on the basis of common criteria¹. Moreover, the Task Force fully supports Europol in its work on threat assessment at the European level,

¹ The Finnish delegation stressed the need to define these criteria.

- 1.1.4. asks the European Police College (CEPOL) to draw up training modules on information in the fight against terrorism,
- 1.1.5. asks Europol to set up a European "Bomb Data Centre" within the framework of the Europol Convention,
- 1.1.6. expresses satisfaction with the work of the ad hoc meeting of the heads of counter-terrorist units with a view to drawing up a list of terrorist groups in the European Union and recommends that this list be confirmed by the Working Party on Terrorism,
- 1.1.7. [suggests a study of legal instruments which might be applied to the aforementioned list or to an additional list] ²,
- 1.1.8. [recommends a review of Article 99 of the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement with a view to relaxing the procedure to bring it more into line with practice] ³,
- 1.1.9. suggests a study of the feasibility of establishing uniform codes for informants ⁴,
- 1.1.10. recommends a better balance between the rules for data protection and adequate research possibilities, particularly in the fields of telecommunications and electronic data ⁵.

² Several delegations considered that this paragraph was too vague and needed to be more explicit.

³ The Netherlands delegation was against this paragraph, while the German delegation requested that the passage from "with a view to" to "practice" be deleted.

⁴ The Finnish delegation wondered what the aim of this paragraph was.

⁵ The Netherlands delegation was against this paragraph, while the German delegation entered a scrutiny reservation.

1.2. Regarding the measures to be adopted to ensure a high level of security, the EU Police Chiefs Operational Task Force:

- 1.2.1. encourages on-going discussions within the relevant bodies of the European Union with a view to harmonising the technical aspects of the production and design of identity, residence and travel documents within the European Union,
- 1.2.2. recommends the establishment, in cooperation with Europol, of procedures to enhance collaboration and the exchange of information between police services and airline companies as well as with air safety services,
- 1.2.3. asks CEPOL to set up training in the field of document forgery.

1.3. Regarding cooperation between operational intervention units, the EU Police Chiefs Operational Task Force:

- 1.3.1. recommends that a meeting of the heads of intervention units of the Member States of the European Union take place during the second half of every year. The meeting will take the form of a meeting of Task Force experts,
- 1.3.2. instructs an ad hoc group of experts to examine the need to set up a secure information and communication network between counter-terrorist operational units to allow more effective operational cooperation and mutual support between the Member States. The Task Force welcomes the idea of promoting the principle of a "pilot Member State" rather than centralised management of the technical aspects by Europol,

- 1.3.3. approves the Belgian Presidency's initiative in organising a forthcoming meeting in Brussels at the end of January 2002.
- 1.3.4. asks that the possibility of Community financing for the proposed projects be examined.

The EU Police Chiefs Operational Task force calls on Europol to define the tasks to be entrusted to Europol's team of counter-terrorist specialists more closely on the basis of the findings of the meeting of heads of counter-terrorist units.

