



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**ENFOPOL 63**

**NOTE**

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from :	Presidency
to :	Article 36 Committee
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Subject :	Presidency conclusions of the 5th meeting of the Police Chiefs Task Force (Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, 9-10 April 2002)

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The Police Chief Task Force (PCTF) met in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain) from 8 to 10 April 2002 for its fifth meeting. On 10 April 2002, the representatives of the candidate countries and Norway joined the PCTF.

**Item 1: Adoption of the agenda**

The PCTF adopted the draft agenda with the amendments proposed by the Chair.

**Item 2: Report of the informal JHA Council held in Santiago de Compostela  
(14-15 February 2002)**

Under agenda item 2 (a), immigration, the PCTF *also* heard a presentation from the Spanish Presidency on the outcomes of operation Rio carried out at the EU-level with the assistance of Europol. Italy and Spain announced the organization of operation Rio-II, whose results would be submitted to the ministerial workshop to be held in Rome on 30 May 2002, at which Italy would present its feasibility study on a possible future European frontiers Service. The PCTF also welcomed the plan of action proposed by Europol to develop actions to counter illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings into the European Union.

Concerning agenda item 2(b), Europol, the PCTF noted the outcome of the discussion held on this topic during the informal JHA Council meeting in Santiago de Compostela, particularly the identification of five priority areas for Europol [terrorism, illegal immigration, organized crime (drug trafficking) as well as forgery of Euro and money laundering) on the importance of ensuring that Member States provided Europol with the information necessary to fulfil its analytical mandate. The PCTF reiterated their support and encouraged it to strengthen its operational impact on the EU law enforcement community, particularly by providing analytical support to joint investigative teams. The PCTF agreed that the EU law enforcement agencies needed access to a compatible system of databases and expressed their hope that the Europol Information System would be soon fully operational. The PCTF made clear that it is of utmost importance that Member States provide Europol with the information that is both anticipated and necessary for its proper function. The PCTF also agreed to establish a consultation mechanism to be steered by the Member

State holding the Presidency by which the MS liaison officers in third countries would regularly meet on a regional basis and prepare reports *which could made available to Europol on selected crime issues.*

**Item 3: Proposals for combating terrorism**

The PCTF took note with satisfaction of the report presented by the Director of Europol on the initial achievements of the Counter Terrorism Task Force (CTTF) established at Europol following the conclusions of the extraordinary JHA Council meeting held on 20 September 2001 and the European Council meeting held on 21 September 2001. The PCTF also noted the recommendations issued by the CTTF's Review Group established by the Europol Management Board.

**Item 4: report on security of European Council meetings and other similar events**

The PCTF took note with appreciation of the report submitted by the Presidency on this item and concerning the security master plan drawn up by the Spanish authorities in preparation for the European Council held in Barcelona on 14-16 March 2002, which was based on document JAI 82 (10916/01).

**Item 5: report on “Community Police Best Practices Manual”**

The PCTF took note with appreciation of the report submitted by the Presidency on this item and concerning the handbook prepared by the Spanish Presidency for submission to the Police Cooperation Working Party.

**Item 6: primary performance commitment of the European Police Chief Task Force**

The PCTF agreed to establish a steering committee - comprising the Troika, the European Commission, the General Secretariat of the Council, which will also provide secretariat support, and Europol – to ensure continuity to its work, particularly by enhancing operational impact and cooperation with Europol.

## **Any other business**

The PCTF took note of the proposal put forward by Denmark and the United Kingdom on strengthening the PCTF co-operation through concrete operational actions, which was accompanied by a paper on *the planned* operation “Twilight”. The meeting also took note of the situation report on operation “Track” submitted by Finland and concerning a project on stolen vehicles carried out jointly by the European Union and the Russian Federation. The PCTF also endorsed the proposal put forward by the United Kingdom concerning the study of the problems related to data retained by telephone and Internet service providers.

## **PCTF meeting with candidate countries and Norway (10 April 2002)**

During the discussion held by the PCTF with the candidate countries and Norway, agenda items 4 and 5 were discussed. *They were encouraged to participate on the future operation RIO II.* The proposal to extend the joint investigative teams to the candidate countries was also expressed.

The meeting also took note of the outcomes of the Experts Meeting on European Crime held in Valencia on 5-6 March 2002.

The sixth meeting of the PCTF will be held in Copenhagen on 22-23 July 2002.

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