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NOTE

from :	Presidency
to :	Article 36 Committee
No. prev.doc.:	8839/1/02 ENFOPOL 63 REV 1
Subject :	Presidency conclusions from the 6 th meeting of police chiefs task force (Copenhagen, Denmark, 22-23 July 2002)

The Police Chiefs Task Force met in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 22 to 23 July 2002 for its 6th meeting. The meeting was attended by delegations from all EU-countries, The General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, EUROPOL and CEPOL. Delegations from Norway, Iceland and the applicant countries (with the exception of Bulgaria) participated in the session on 22 July 2002.

Joint session (22 July 2002)

The joint session with Norway, Iceland and the applicant countries was opened with a Europol *situation report on cross-border crime in Europe*.

The Task Force took note of the current status and results achieved in a number of *ongoing operations* with reference to the Task Force, including operations on

- illegal immigration
- trafficking in human beings
- car theft
- child abuse

A plenary discussion on *current trends in cross-border crime in Europe* followed, during which the attention of the Task Force was directed towards a variety of areas in need of further attention. There is a clear tendency towards criminals in Europe displaying a significantly increased level of multinational networking. Another trend is that an increasing number of criminals appear to be using the asylum procedure as a time-limited platform for committing crime of an organised nature. Fighting financial crime should be a key factor in the fight against organised crime in general, as the processing of profit is a common denominator for all types of organised crime. The importance of a proactive approach to criminal investigation was emphasised. The need for regional co-operation and a common approach to include the applicant countries in the efforts to combat organised crime was also mentioned. As an example of this type of close regional co-operation, the Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region was mentioned.¹

The Copenhagen Police provided a briefing on the security set-up in Copenhagen during the Danish Presidency. An open discussion on *security on high-profile events* in general ensued. The demand for mutual assistance in terms of equipment and staff was pointed out by some delegations.

Finally, the delegates were briefed on the status for the European Police Academy (*CEPOL*) and given an overview of the work programme for 2003. An invitation was issued for a series of seminars on “Strategic Policing Issues for the Europe of 27”, which will be held during the autumn of 2002 and spring of 2003.

1 The Task Force on Organised Crime in the Baltic Sea Region was established by the Heads of Government at the Baltic Sea States Summit in 1996. The Task Force consists of personal representatives of the Heads of Government from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, the Presidency of the EU and the European Commission. The Task Force was established as a response to the urgent need for direct and concerted operational action and co-operation between law-enforcement agencies to combat organised crime in the region. Further information can be found on www.balticseatastaskforce.dk

Task Force meeting (23 July 2002)

The Task Force adopted the *conclusions from the 5th meeting* of the EU Chiefs of Police Task Force (document 8839/02 ENFOPOL 63).

On the basis of a presentation on an intelligence-led model for a structured approach to concrete operations, the Task Force had an extensive discussion on the priorities, planning process and structure of *future operational projects*. A flow-chart illustrating the model structure was presented, which is attached as Annex A.

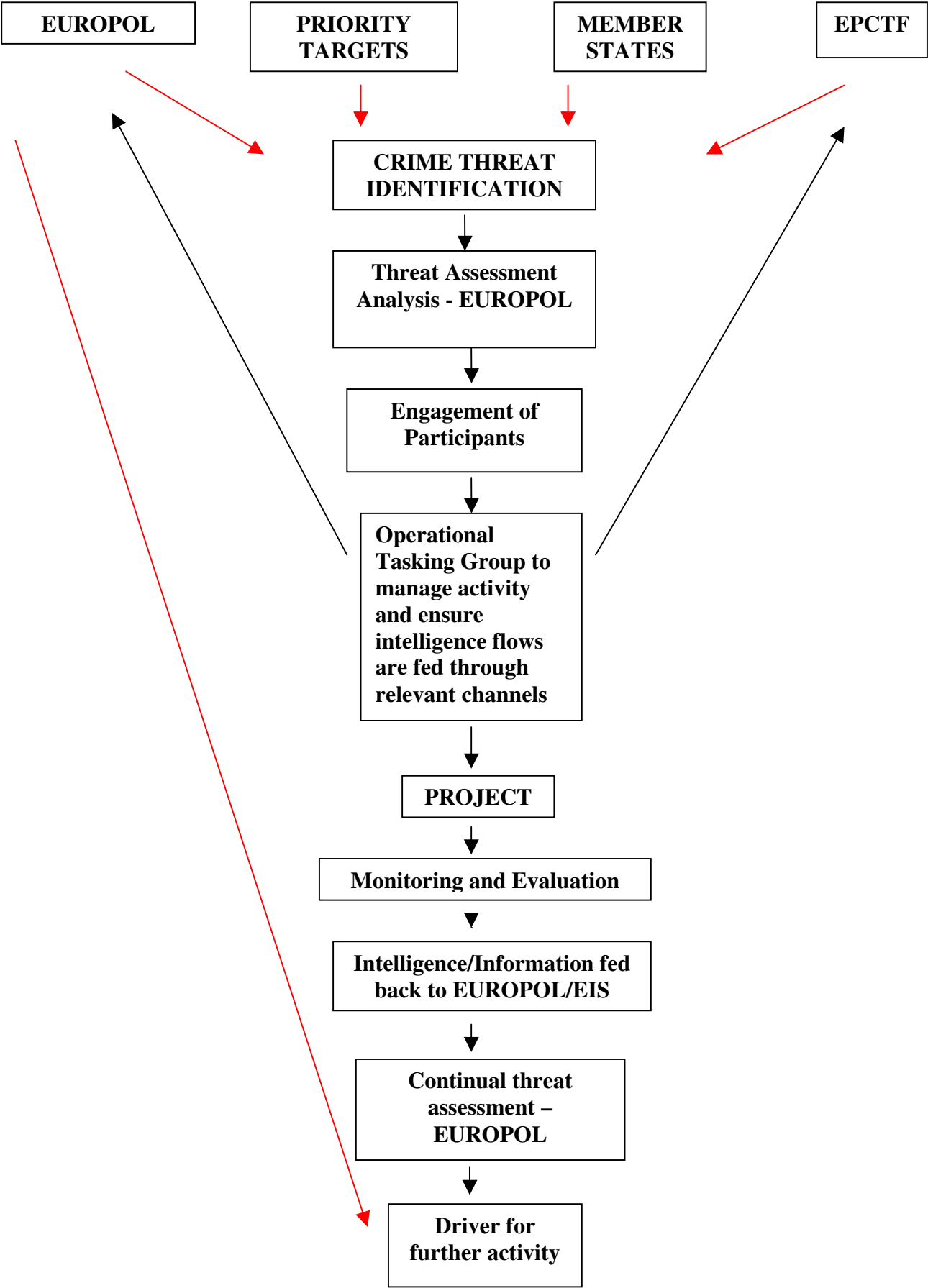
As an extension of previous discussions, a draft conclusion on the future *functioning of the Task Force* was presented by the Presidency in co-operation with the “Steering Committee”. Written remarks were tabled by Austria, Belgium, Finland and The Netherlands. Pursuant to an in-depth discussion of the document, the Task Force agreed on a revised version reflecting the current state of play, which is attached as Annex B.

In the area of *combating terrorism*, the Task Force took note of the results achieved so far by the Europol Counter Terrorism Task Force. The Task Force was informed of recent developments in Greece. The Task Force, furthermore, took note of the current status as presented by the Presidency in relation to the implementation of the conclusions from the Task Force meeting in Brussels in October 2001 within this important field of co-operation. The Task Force was pleased with the progress presented and agreed that on some points, further work should be undertaken. The Danish initiative to establish terrorist perpetrator profiles was mentioned. The German delegation pointed out the value of co-ordinating with the German initiative to introduce computer-aided profiling and searches. It was proposed to add a sub-file on “Islamic combatants/participants in training events in Islamic camps” to the Europol analysis data file on Islamic terrorists.

Some aspects of *illegal immigration* were touched upon, including the need for developing co-operation with third-countries and the importance of distinguishing illegal immigration from trafficking in human beings. The Task Force noted, that Europol will convene a new experts meeting to finalise the Action Plan for combating illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings. The Task Force further noted that in parallel with its meeting, the Strategic Committee on Immigration (SCIFA) met in Elsinore (Denmark). The SCIFA meeting included the Heads of Border Control Services and was tasked with addressing illegal migration issues.

The Task Force took note of the ongoing efforts in the Police Cooperation Working Group with regards to *community and neighbourhood policing*, including status on the drafting of a handbook on the subject. The subject is also included in the agenda of a police seminar, which will be held in November 2002 in Aalborg, Denmark.

The Greek delegation informed that the *7th meeting of the Task Force* is scheduled to take place in Crete on 5 and 6 May 2003.



CONCLUSIONS ON THE CURRENT FUNCTIONING OF THE TFCP

- I. The decision to establish the European Police Chief's Task Force (TFCP) is reflected in Conclusion 44 of the European Council in Tampere on 15-16 October 1999:
- “The European Council calls for the establishment of a European Police Chiefs operational Task Force to exchange, in co-operation with Europol, experience, best practices, and information on current trends in cross-border crime and contribute to the planning of operative actions.”*
- II. To date, the TFCP has convened six times:
1. Lisbon on 7-8 April 2000
 2. Paris on 14-15 September 2000
 3. Stockholm on 8-9 March 2001
 4. Brussels on 30-31 October 2001
 5. Las Palmas on 9-10 April 2002
 6. Copenhagen on 22-23 July 2002

During these meetings, a number of significant operational matters have been considered;

- Euro2000
- EURO
- Terrorism
- Safety during high profile events – summits etc.
- Anti-globalism problems
- Organised crime inter alia regarding illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings
- High Impact Operations and other operational projects
- Community and neighbourhood policing in the EU

Furthermore, extensive discussions have taken place regarding the functioning of the Task Force.

- III. A report from the Presidency on the evaluation of the implementation of the Tampere conclusions was submitted to the Laeken European Council on 14-15 December 2001. This report stated:

“Police Chiefs Task Force: when it became apparent that the Police Chiefs of the Member States had no forum in which to decide to launch police operations on the basis of Europol analyses, the Tampere European Council decided to set up this Task Force. It has met on four occasions since then. The tasks attributed to the Task Force must be specified. By virtue of their function within the Member States, the Police Chiefs have an important role to play in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the decisions taken by the Council. While their work has gradually become more specific, it would be better, to meet the expectations of the Heads of States and Government, if it focussed to a greater extent on the planning and executions of actual police operations at Union level. After a running-in period, we must also define the exact place of this Task Force in the Union’s institutional architecture, and fine-tune its working methods.”

- IV. On the basis of the above, the TFCP has concluded that the Task Force will assume the following functions:

- Promote and develop a strategic approach to cross-border crime and law-enforcement in the EU on the basis of, among others, Europol crime analysis.
- Initiate, plan and implement operative actions involving two or more member states targeting identified priority areas of organised crime. The actions should focus on serious transnational organised crime, drug smuggling, illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings and terrorism. Security at meetings of the European Council and similar events also deserves particular focus.
- Serve as a forum for the exchange of information and discussions on inter alia crime tendencies and strategies for law enforcement and ongoing EU- and international initiatives as well as matters of a more operational and confidential nature.

- Advice the Council and other EU-bodies on policy matters and law-enforcement priorities related to the police as well as ensuring the implementation and follow-up on stated policies.
- Develop and promote a close and efficient co-operation with Europol and Eurojust.
- Contribute to a high professional standard within the European Police systems based on the rule of law and democratic principles.
- Contribute to the EU-enlargement process in the field of law enforcement as well as promoting practical co-operation with the applicant countries
- Efforts on other police-related areas

V. The TFCP realises that the Task Force progressively should fulfil its potential on the realisation of concrete operational actions in every aspect. The TFCP is committed to focus to a greater extent on the planning and executions of actual police operations at Union level (cf. the Tampere evaluation).

In future, the planning and implementation of operations should to a larger extent be based on the mentioned strategic approach and on criminal intelligence and analysis of the available information (intelligence led policing). To this end, co-operation with Europol, as a centre for gathering and analysis of intelligence as well as co-operation, is vital. Accordingly, Europol should be more closely included in the planning of concrete operation – particularly by providing tailor-made crime analysis.

The optimal set-up is for Europol to identify modus operandi for organised crime in Europe with regards to various types of crime, e.g. routes for smuggling narcotics, human beings, and stolen vehicles. Subsequently, this will enable the countries through which the identified smuggling routes are passing to plan concrete operations in close cooperation with Europol. Operations can be controlled through appointing a member state as the focal point or pilot country for each specific operation.

Other EU- and international bodies, institutions or countries should be included in the process when appropriate. Especially, operational co-operation with Norway, Iceland and the applicant countries should be promoted.

- VI. During each EU presidency the TFCP has one meeting. Under exceptional circumstances further meetings may be held. Experts meetings can be arranged – normally in co-operation with Europol.

The TFCP is, for the moment, an informal forum under the authority of the Council. In order to avoid duplication of efforts, the TFCP should avoid direct involvement in the preparation of decision-making instruments, which fall within the competence of other EU-bodies.

The Council and other relevant EU-bodies will receive progress reports on operational actions and other activities as well as the conclusions of the TFCP meetings.

The TFCP evaluates its functioning – particularly with regards to concrete operations – on a regular basis.

- VII. To the furthest possible extent, the TFCP decisions are made by consensus.

Divergent opinions are reflected in the minutes drafted by the presidency and distributed to the Task Force members.

- VIII. At the TFCP's 5th Meeting on 9-10 April 2002 in Las Palmas de Grand Canaria, it was decided to establish a steering committee – composed of the past, present and future presidencies, Europol, the European Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council, which will also provide secretariat support.

The Steering Committee prepares the task force meetings and ensures continuity to its work, particularly by enhancing operational impact and co-operation with Europol. All Task Force members may submit proposals to the Steering Committee, which advises the Presidency on the drafting of the agenda.

IX. Appointing the respective national representatives to the TFCP is a national competence.

The European Commission, the General Secretariat of the Council, Europol, Eurojust and CEPOL will participate in the TFCP meetings.

Other EU-bodies, institutions, persons or countries - especially Norway, Iceland and the applicant countries - are invited when appropriate.
