



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 22 May 2003

9652/03

**CATS 32
ENFOPOL 41**

NOTE

from : the Presidency
to : the Article 36 Committee

Subject : Presidency conclusions on the 7th meeting of the Task Force Chiefs of Police (TFCP) (Agia Pelagia/Crete), 19 and 20 May 2003

1. The 7th meeting of the TFCP took place on 19 and 20 May 2003 in Agia Pelagia (Crete). Delegations of all the Member States, including the acceding Member States participated in the meeting as well as representatives from the Commission, Europol, Eurojust, Cepol and the Council Secretariat. The Police Commissioner from the EUPM in Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the discussions on EUPM.

Delegations from Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Norway attended the meeting during the second day (20 May 2003).

The agenda of the meeting is appended.

Monday, 19 May 2003

2. Combating terrorism

The TFCP took note of a report by Europol on the current terrorist threat in Europe which shows that the potential threat of the Al-Qaeda network and affiliated groups is still at a high level particularly outside the EU where very recent attacks have taken place (Marocco, May 2003). The report analyses also other forms of terrorism (Nationalist Groups (like ETA) as well as other terrorist groups) still active in the EU.

Attention having been drawn on the changing methods used by terrorist (suicide bombing targeted against innocent citizens), the TFCP decided to set up a group of experts on explosives from the Member States and Europol which will report at its next meeting.

The TFCP took stock of the different measures taken by Europol to combat terrorism, i.a.:

- strategic and operational analysis aimed at supporting the competent authorities of the MS in their counter terrorist efforts
- identification of the patterns and trends of the financing of terrorism
- setting up and update of various directories and databases such as the Bomb database
- assessment of the use of false/forged identity documents by Islamic Extremist terrorists
- development of a counter Proliferation programme

The TFCP confirmed the need that MS send more experts to Europol, in particular in the field of terrorism financing and terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction using biological or chemical agents or nuclear and radioactive substance.

The General Secretariat of the Council gave the state of play on the peer evaluation mechanism set up by the Council on 28 November 2002. It insisted on the need to be provided, as soon as possible, with the reply to the questionnaire approved by the Article 36 Committee (doc. 6337/2/03 ENFOPOL 11 REV 2 RESTREINT UE).

The TFCP invited the Europol Director to take further steps with regard to the cooperation between Europol and Interpol, especially with respect to the exchange of strategic information, based on the Europol/Interpol agreement of 6 December 2001 to avoid any duplication of efforts and to ensure complementarity between the two organizations.

In addition to national assessment, both organizations should explore the possibility to develop a common risk and threat analysis based on the strategic information at their disposal.

Eurojust reported on the experts meeting which took place in Brussels on 8 and 9 April 2003 on Al-Qaeda and the financing of terrorism. It insisted on the need for TFCP members to liaise with their member in the Eurojust college to ensure proper coordination.

The TFCP confirmed its determination to ensure a swift and complete implementation of all the measures in the field of law enforcement listed in the Action Plan against terrorism decided by the Council on 20 September 2001.

3. Olympic Games 2004

The Greek Presidency informed the TFCP of the different steps undertaken to ensure a high level of security during the Olympic Games 2004. It reported on the conclusions of the Diagoras seminar on the fight against international terrorism in relation to major sporting events (Athens, 10-11 April 2003) which highlighted possible terrorist activities, i.a. through the use of radioactive – biological – chemical substances.

The TFCP welcomed in particular the suggestion that a common manual of best practice regarding major athletic events, in particular the Olympic Games, be established by the relevant Council bodies.

Europol presented the various forms of support it could provide in this context (channel of information, weekly/daily risk assessment, early warning systems, expertise, operational center available 24/24 H, etc.).

In order to contribute to effective EU police cooperation in support of the organization of Olympic Games 2004 by Greece, the TFCP called on the incoming Italian presidency to take appropriate initiatives within the framework of EU regulations and structures with regard to cooperation on law and order and security. In order to ensure the collection, analysis and exchange of relevant information, the TFCP insisted on the usefulness to activate the network of permanent national contact points created by the Council on 13 July 2001 when adopting the conclusions on security at meetings of the European Council and other comparable events as well as making full use of liaison officers.

4. EUPM

EU Police mission in BiH had a very positive start in line with the Mission Statement. The quality of police officers and international staff allowed the EUPM to move decisively towards its strategic goals which are:

- to enhance the BiH Police capacity,
- to ensure a secure return of refugees and displaced persons,
- to combat organized crime in all forms with specific interest in countering trafficking of human beings,
- to better control BiH borders through the State Border Service,
- to enhance exchange of information.

EUPM is putting all the necessary effort to achieve timely set-up of BiH State Information and Protection Agency (SIPA), a very much-needed agency to counter criminal activities.

Achievements of EUPM, nevertheless, can be affected by the problem of underpayment of local police, situation that can result in continuous problem of corruption of some police officers.

The TFCP recognized the need for Europol to develop closer cooperation with EUPM and invites Europol to examine this question.

5. Illegal immigration

Illegal immigration is of major concern to all of the Member States and is a priority of the Greek Presidency. Following the conclusions from the Seville European Council a roadmap has been drafted and concrete steps have been taken under the guidance of SCIFA+.

The activities of the TFCP must be seen against this background. Delegations welcomed that, following the decisions taken in previous meeting of TFCP in Copenhagen, Europol had tabled working documents concerning two concrete action plans. The Director of Europol presented both action plans as long term activities and developed further steps for their implementation.

The first action plan on combating illegal immigration was welcomed as a part of broader activities with Ukraine which appears to be a country of origin but mainly also a transit country.

The second action plan deals with the problem of trafficking in human beings in Bulgaria (transit but also a source country) which is of concern to many Member States.

Both action plans were welcomed by the delegations which considered the plans as presenting good practice, including for the acceding Member States. The Presidency concluded that the work should continue on the implementation of the action plans with the assistance of Europol. At a later stage such actions could be extended to other countries and/or other types of crimes. Europol is invited to implement the two action plans with the competent national law enforcement agencies and to report to the next meeting of TFCP. The Police Chiefs will ensure that their services give full support to the implementation of these projects.

Eurojust is pleased to offer support in the work to facilitate the success of these action plans.

6. Any other business

The Dutch delegation suggested setting up a working group of experts to examine, taking into account the developments regarding enlargement and the Convention on the Future of Europe and the working methods of the Task Force. A number of delegations favored the idea, but there was no broad agreement on the question whether this reflection should take place in the Task Force itself or in an experts group.

The Presidency agreed to develop this idea further in close cooperation with the incoming Italian presidency taking into account the timetable of the Convention on the Future of Europe, it being understood that the item would be on the agenda of the next meeting.

* * *

Tuesday, 20 May 2003

7. Organised crime

The TFCP took note of the Organised Crime Report 2002 drafted by Europol. It welcomed the new orientations of this report towards a Threat Assessment-Situation Report on Organized Crime ("TASROC" as decided by the Council, see doc. 14952/1/01 CRIMORG 133 REV 1 of 8 January 2002). The TFCP insists that in the future the Organised Crime Report be more a strategic instrument for planification based on the risk and threat assessment.

On the basis of the findings of the Organised Crime Report 2002, the TFCP invites Europol to draw up concrete action plans on the following two issues:

- Ethnic Albanian OC groups,
- Drug trafficking, especially via the Balkans.

The TFCP took note of the results of four operational plans:

- Track (Finland)
- Mare (Germany)
- Hercule (Austria)
- Twilight (Denmark)

The TFCP invited Germany to set up a project group consisting of representatives from the criminal and border police authorities of interested MS to deal with the

- drawing up of an international concept
- setting up of an early warning system

in the field of illegal immigration by sea ("Mare project").

The TFCP examined possible measures to improve the fight against organized crime in the Balkans.

Two operational actions plans were presented by the Presidency (“AMFIKTYON” for combating drug trafficking and “LEDA” for combating trafficking in human beings).

Europol suggested different options to increase its role in the Balkan region.

The TFCP agreed on the need to make a common use of the Liaison Officers of the MS posted in the SAP Countries in order to improve the information flow to Europol, as it is foreseen by the JHA Council Decision of 27 March 2003.

8. Counterfeiting of the Euro

The Director of Europol presented an extensive report on counterfeiting of the Euro. According to available informations counterfeiting activities are increasing especially outside of the Eurozone. The TFCP stressed the need to make full use of the existing instruments to fight against the counterfeiting. It welcomed the work undertaken by the Greek Presidency in the framework of the Council.

9. Cepol

The Administrative Director of Cepol presented a report on the activities of Cepol since its taking up of activities in 2001. The TFCP welcomed this report focusing on the training sessions offered by Cepol as well as on the recently created European Police Learning Network.

***Agenda of the 7th Meeting of the European Chiefs of Police Task Force
Agia Pelagia - Crete, 19 and 20 May 2003***

Monday, 19 May 2003

Opening of the Meeting

Introduction by the Chairman

- 1. Adoption of the agenda*
- 2. Combating Terrorism*
 - General Evaluation*
 - Threat by Islamic Terrorism*
 - The role of Europol in combating Terrorism*
 - Questionnaire on general evaluation*
 - Discussion*
- 3. Olympic Games*
 - Cooperation among Police Forces during international athletic events*
 - Conclusions from Seminar «Diagoras»*
 - Discussion*
- 4. European Union Police Missions in Bosnia- Herzegovina*
 - EUPM Presentation*
 - Discussion*
- 5. Illegal Immigration*
 - Present situation, control of migratory flows*
 - Presentation of two Operational Action Plans: «Trafficking in human beings in Bulgaria»*
 - «Combating facilitated illegal immigration in Ukraine»*
 - Discussion*
- 6. Any other business*
- 7. Conclusions*

Tuesday, 20 May 2003

1. *Adoption of the agenda*
2. *Organized crime*
 - a. *General*
 - *Organized Crime Report 2002*
 - *Discussion on the Organized Crime Report*
 - *Presentation of the results of long term operational plans:*
 - *Operational Plan Track*
 - *Operational Plan Mare*
 - *Operational Plan Hercules*
 - *Operational Plan Twilight.*
 - b. *Organized Crime in the Balkans*
 - *Presentation of two Operational Action Plans:*
 - *«AMFIKTYON» for combating Drug Trafficking*
 - *«LEDA» for combating of Trafficking in human beings*
 - *Role of Europol in the Balkans*
 - *Discussion*
3. *European Union Police Missions in Bosnia- Herzegovina*
 - *Discussion*
4. *EURO – Counterfeiting problems and proposed solutions*
5. *European Police Academy - CEPOL*
 - Presentation of the activities*
6. *Any other business*
7. *Conclusions - End of the meeting*
