



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of : 8th Meeting of the Task Force of the Chiefs of Police of the EU Member States
6 and 7 October 2003 in Rome

Subject : Presidency Conclusions

Background

The 8th Meeting of the Task Force of the Chiefs of Police of the EU Member States took place on October 6 and 7, 2003, in Rome under the Italian Presidency.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the Member States, the acceding countries and candidate countries. The representatives of the European Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council, the Director of Europol, the President of Eurojust, the Chairman of the Board of CEPOL also participated in the meeting. On the second day of the meeting, participants included the General Secretary of Interpol. Norway participated as an observer.

The working sessions were focused on the following issues:

A. Follow-up of the JHA Informal Council held in Rome on September 12 and 13.

The Task Force considered the guidelines given by the JHA Informal Council and assessed the technical and operational follow-up to strengthen the police cooperation and the role of Europol.

The Task Force decided to adopt the following measures:

1. To promote closer relations among the law enforcement agencies and the intelligence services, in order to strengthen prevention activities in the fight against organised crime and terrorism.

To this end, during the next meeting of the Task Force of the Chiefs of Police, the Director of Europol will

- Assess the forms of cooperation established between the law enforcement services and the intelligence services within the “Counterterrorism Task Force” set up by the Council after September 11
 - submit to the Task Force practical proposals aimed at improving the relations among the law enforcement agencies and the intelligence services.
2. To enhance the information exchange among the Member States and the third countries, by eliminating the obstacles of technical, organisational or legislative nature that prevent the complete and rapid exchange of information.

During the next meeting of the Task Force of the Chiefs of Police, the Director of Europol will provide an updated overview on the current implementation of the agreements signed within the framework of Europol’s tasks.

The Director of Europol will submit to the Task Force a draft project aimed at establishing the possibility for the Member States to

- a) Gain rapid access to information gathered by Europol within the framework of cooperation agreements with third countries and other international organisations;
 - b) specify which information can be shared with third countries and other international organisations within the framework of the agreements signed by Europol, and which information, once communicated to Europol, is to be disseminated exclusively among the Member States.
3. To promote the exchange of information on illegal immigration and related criminal trafficking activities, in line with the EU responsibilities in the field of the integrated management of external borders.
- To this end, the Director of Europol will contact the Presidency of the “Common Unit” to check how the exchange of information with Europol on illegal immigration and related criminal trafficking activities could take place. The Presidency will convene a meeting of the Heads for borders control services with Europol and Member States experts in the field of organized crime.
4. As far as document checks and flight security are concerned, the Presidency will liaise with the relevant authorities (SCIFA, Commission, ICAO, etc.) in order to assure that the public security needs within the Third Pillar are duly taken into account when discussing the exchange of information on passenger personal data.

B. Strengthening of the Task Force of the Chiefs of Police

The Task Force had an in-depth discussion on the way it functions with a view to giving a more operational steer to a police cooperation in Europe.

In this connection, it was decided to strengthen the role of the *Steering Committee*, by agreeing that it shall

- meet more frequently than it has done in the past;
- when necessary, allow its sessions open to representatives of the International Relation Unit of the Member States Police;

- insert in the agenda of the Task Force specific items on operational projects under way including strategic issues, identification of problems and comprehensive feedback.

Furthermore, it was agreed to ensure that the conclusions of each Task Force meeting must clearly indicate:

1. the decisions made by the Task Force;
2. the follow up that the Task Force members are to deliver at national level, in their own capacity ;
3. the operational projects and the cooperation initiatives that Europol will develop based on strategic guidelines given by the Task Force.

In order to guarantee continuity in the activities of the Task Force, the Dutch delegation suggested a three-year programme and an annual report on the results achieved to be submitted to the relevant fora; it will present a document to outline this proposal in detail.

The Council Secretariat offered to prepare, in cooperation with the incoming Irish presidency, a reflection document on the future of the Task Force in the light of the proposal set out in the Draft Treaty on a Constitution for Europe.

C. Strengthening of Europol

1. The Task Force decided the following measures of technical/operational nature to enhance the operational role of Europol.
 - Participation of Europol in the joint or multinational investigative teams that are to be established by the Member States.
 - Drawing up by Europol of a handbook on “best practice” to be applied in the investigative phase the law enforcement agencies are responsible for.
 - Creation by Europol of a list containing the *main targets* to be pursued by employing the joint or multinational investigative teams.

- Possibility for Europol to establish joint or multinational investigative teams for the fight against the euro counterfeiting and the apprehension of criminals wanted for serious crimes of terrorism.
- Establishment of stronger relations, between Europol and Eurojust in order to provide assistance and advice to the joint or multinational investigative teams, to ensure a combined police and judicial approach for the best chances of successful outcomes.

2. The Task Force also decided the enhancement of the role and shared use by Europol of Member States liaison officers seconded to third countries.

In this regard, the Task Force members are committed to implement fully and quickly the Council Decision 2003/170/JHA dated February 27, 2003, in particular to put in place measures so that:

- Liaison officers from Member States may provide to Europol, through the National Units, information of investigative interest for the other Member States that are not directly represented in a third country by their own liaison officers (art. 5, para 1);
- Liaison officers from Member States may transmit information of investigative interest for another Member State directly to the liaison officers of the Member State concerned – and for information to Europol through the National Units – if that Member State has already a representative of its own in the same third country (at. 5, para 2);
- Member States which do not have a liaison officer of their own in a third country may ask Europol – through the National Units and following authorization by the Authorities of the Member State to whom the request for assistance is addressed – to use the liaison officers seconded in that third country by another Member State (art. 5, paras 3 and 4);
- Europol may transmit, through the National Units, ad-hoc requests for information to the liaison officers of Member States deployed in the third countries (art. 8, para 1);

- Europol, in cooperation with the Member States who deployed the above mentioned liaison officers and based on strategic instructions provided by the Task Force of the Chiefs of Police, may organise operational meetings on a regular basis of the liaison officers stationed in the same third country or in neighbouring geographical areas affected by the same criminal phenomena (art. 4, para 1 and art. 6, para 1).

The Task Force welcomed the suggestion to set up, by the end of the Italian presidency, a mechanism to optimise the sharing of information related to organised crime in the Balkans.

3. Enhancement of professional skills of those working at Europol, at the ENUs or at the national law enforcement agencies that operate more closely with the “Europol system”.

The Task Force asked CEPOL to submit an operational proposal for the organization of training and updating courses for the staff concerned.

Europol will provide CEPOL with any useful information to identify which areas such training should address.

4. Full exploitation of the potential cooperation provided for by the Cooperation Agreement between Europol and Interpol, signed on November 5, 2001.

The Task Force took note with satisfaction of the reports made by the Director of Europol and the Secretary General of Interpol on the existing relations between Europol and Interpol. The Europol Director was invited to explore the possibilities of improving cooperation in areas like terrorism and money laundering.

The Director of Europol will regularly report on the implementation of the Europol-Interpol Agreement at each Task Force meeting.

The Task Force agreed on the need to develop the coordination among Member States inside the Interpol bodies.

D. Europol's activities

1. The Task Force welcomed the summary presented by the Director of Europol of the 2003 report on organized crime whose quality is improving year by year.

The Presidency recalled a seminar on Community policing to be held on 15th November in Rome which will discuss the recommendation made by Europol to tackle increased use of violence against ``low profile`` targets.

2. The Task Force noted with interest the report by Europol on a database on forensic ballistics, it being understood that the final decision has to be made by the Europol Management Board taking into account the competences of Europol.
3. The Director of Europol made a comprehensive presentation of the progress made by the Action Plans that the Task Force entrusted to Europol during the meeting held in Copenhagen in July 2002, i.e.

- The Action Plan for the fight against trafficking of human beings for Bulgaria
- The Action Plan for the fight against facilitators of illegal immigration for Ukraine.

The Task Force welcomed the positive results achieved in the implementation of said Plans and ensured its full support to Europol for their carrying out.

E. Preparation of 2004 Olympic Games

The Task Force agreed that the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, because of their symbolic significance and mass-media importance, represent an opportunity for terrorist organisations to commit serious attacks.

Based on decisions made in Creta on 19 and 20 May 2003, during the 7th meeting of the Task Force of the Chiefs of Police, it was decided to draw up a specific Security Handbook to be used to develop a direct police cooperation during said Olympic Games, focussing on the specific nature of the threat.

The Task Force insists on the involvement of Europol especially in collecting, processing and exchanging information *related to terrorism*.

The Task Force also decided that the Member States concerned should set up an ad-hoc multinational team, with the participation of Europol, tasked not only with the early identification of the most concrete threats of terror attacks which may be posed to such sport event, but also with the identification of the source terrorist organisations.

In order to prepare the work of this multinational team, experts from the current and incoming Member States, representatives of Europol as well as experts from third countries will meet in Athens in October/November 2003 *with the responsibility of the Greek Police*.

F. Employment of Law Enforcement Agencies in Civil Police Missions Abroad

At the end of the meeting, among the items included under the heading “Miscellaneous”, Italy mentioned the use of law enforcement agencies in civil police missions abroad.

The Task Force examined the situation of missions under way and other commitments that the Member States law enforcement agencies may be called on to fulfil in new scenarios of crisis.

The Task Force decided to monitor, in the current and forthcoming missions, the allocation of human and material resources involved and assess the technical, logistic and organisational implications that the participation in international civil police missions implies.