



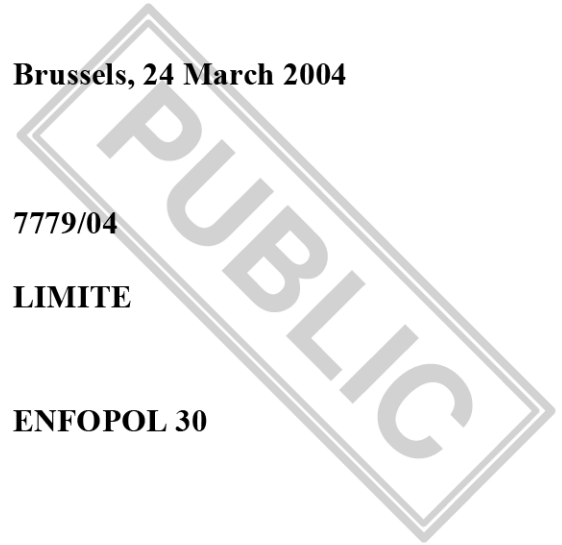
**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 24 March 2004

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LIMITE

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NOTE

by : Presidency

Subject : Conclusions of 9th Meeting of European Chiefs of Police Task Force 22–23 March
2004 in Dublin

1. Opening address

- a) The President of the Council and Irish Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform Mr. Michael McDowell gave an opening address to the aforementioned meeting that was attended on the 22nd and 23rd March 2004 by delegations from EU Member States, Accession countries, and representatives from the EU Commission, EU Council Secretariat, Europol, Eurojust and CEPOL, and on 23rd March 2004 for agenda points 7 to 12 by delegations from the applicant states Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey as well as by Norway, Iceland and Interpol.
- b) In his opening address the President of the Council highlighted the importance of the work of the meeting of the Council of 19th March 2004. He emphasized the solidarity of the European Union with the Spanish people at this time of great shock and terrible sadness. In the declaration on combating terrorism that was agreed by the Council the following key issues were identified by the President of the Council:
- Building on existing cooperation
 - Strengthening border controls and document security; and

- Sharing of intelligence

He stressed that Europol, Eurojust and the Chiefs of Police Task Force should be fully used as instruments for improving cooperation. The Task Force has a significant role by coordinating operational matters.

Moreover in the Declaration the Task Force has been invited

- to review how its operational capacity can be reinforced and to focus on proactive intelligence, and
 - to draw up, with the assistance of experts from intelligence services and from Europol, a report on the terrorist attacks in Madrid.
- c) As regards improving the exchange of information the need to provide Europol with all relevant criminal intelligence is crucial for the fight against the scourge of terrorism. The issue of intelligence is central to the fight against terrorism. Improving intelligence sharing arrangements will therefore be a key priority. Better collaboration between police, security and intelligence services should also be a priority.

2. Presidency Address and introduction of agenda

Mr. Noel Conroy, Commissioner of Garda Síochána highlighted that the Chiefs of Police Task Force should focus on practical cooperation. Concrete realities on the ground should be addressed, building on existing forms of cooperation. He affirmed that democracy and terrorism cannot coexist. Cooperation is the key to success. He recalled that paragraph 44 of the Conclusions of the European Council at Tampere in October 1999 provides for the creation of the Chiefs of Police Task Force that is called upon now, particularly by the Declaration agreed on the 19th March 2004, to give a unique contribution to the fight against terrorism.

3. Fight against terrorism

- a) Delegations very actively exchanged views on the present situation in the aftermath of the Madrid events and forwarded very constructive suggestions on how to improve the cooperation.
- b) The meeting agreed on the following conclusions of its chairman:
- Cooperation between security and police services, both in countries where these services are separate and in countries where they are part of one agency, is essential.
 - Each Member State should examine, in case it doesn't exist, the creation of a coordinating body between intelligence and police services that could be tasked to draw up common analyses. Member States should designate one single point of contact for the EU Coordinator on Terrorism
 - As regards Europol
 - all Member States are urged to forward appropriate and relevant intelligence data to this organisation
 - the Europol Management Board should commence the process to ensure that the required resources are identified and assigned as appropriate to this organisation
 - Member States are invited to ensure that appropriate and high quality information is made available to Europol
 - Rapid implementation by Europol of the Atlas Project launched during the Belgian Presidency in 2001 on Secured Communication Network for Special Intervention Units is needed.
- c) Moreover, the Presidency drew the attention upon the following suggestions made during the discussion:
- Drawing up of a long term strategy (e.g. recruitment)
 - Elaboration of a medium term strategy (threat assessment)
 - In the short term a report has to be made on the terrorist attacks in Madrid
 - Need for the protection of the territory of the European Union

The Presidency announced that it will convoke in the next weeks a meeting of the Troika and interested delegations of the Task Force to examine further action in the fight against terrorism.

4. Cyber Crime

- a) Inspector Paul Gillen of Garda Síochána presented the work of an expert group, under the auspices of the Falcone Programme, on Training – Cyber Crime Investigation – Building a platform for the future. Currently, the United Kingdom is running an AGIS programme entitled "Central Police training and Development Authority"
- b) The meeting agreed on the following recommendations of the expert group
 - The training model outlined in the programme should be adopted and supported at EU level
 - EU level harmonisation of training for high-tech crime investigators, through Europol or CEPOL
 - Accreditation for this harmonised training of high-tech crime investigators should be established as soon as possible, in partnership with academic and professional institutions
 - High-tech crime training and awareness training must be provided at all levels in law enforcement agencies
 - A follow-on project should be established as soon as possible to build on this programme
- c) The Chiefs of Police Task Force invited competent bodies of Europol and CEPOL to give the appropriate follow up to the aforementioned recommendations.

5. Europol Organised Crime Report

- a) Structure of Organised Crime Report

The Director of Europol, Mr Storbeck, presented a new approach, which provides for the cross checking of the findings of the Organised Crime Report, based on a matrix of criminal activities in the European Union. Delegations noted this approach with interest and stressed that the annual report should contain in depth analysis and threat assessment of the crime situation. The suggested matrix has to be refined, especially in depth.

At present the possibilities of the Europol Information System and AWF (Working Files) should be fully explored. Quick and accurate information has to be forwarded to Europol. The Presidency concluded that for the moment the priority is to send information to Europol that reflects as precise as possible changes in criminality patterns.

As regards forms of crime and in view of possible creation of joint investigation teams, priority is to be given to

- Fight against synthetic drugs
- Fight against criminal Turkish networks
- Fight against trafficking in human beings

b) Counterfeiting of the Euro

Mr. Storbeck presented a brief report on counterfeiting, especially of the Euro. He noted that important counterfeiting takes place in the Baltic countries and also in Columbia.

The meeting welcomed the work of Europol in this field and concurred with the suggestions of several delegations and the Director of Europol to tackle this crime notably by Joint Investigation Teams.

6. Cross Border Illegal Immigration

a) The meeting welcomed presentations on

- Modern Methods of Countering Illegal Immigration by Detective Chief Superintendent Martin Donnellan, Garda Síochána
- The Polish Initiative concerning the security of the future EU eastern Borders
- Progress report on the initiation of a Joint Investigation Team focusing on the combat of organised crime of trafficking in human beings related to Eastern Europe, specifically in Bulgaria by Mr. Jan Wiarda

b) As regards the progress report, the structure and steering of the Joint Investigation Team through a Scientific Committee were noted with great interest. The representative of Europol said that all initiatives depend on the amount and quality of information that is forwarded. The meeting looked forward to the presentation of an interim report on trafficking in human beings in Eastern Europe for its next meeting and a final report before the end of 2004.

- c) The French delegation stressed that introduction of biometric data in travel documents is accelerated pursuant to the Declaration of the Council of 19th March 2004. Since January 2003 France runs a bilateral project with Bulgaria in the field of trafficking in human beings. Moreover, it expressed its support for the aforementioned Polish initiative and highlighted the proposal for the creation of a joint investigation team on illegal immigration from China.
- d) The Presidency invited delegations to forward all appropriate information to Europol.

7. Joint Investigation Teams

- a) It was recalled that the importance of Joint Investigation Teams is highlighted in the Draft Declaration of the Council of 19th March 2004. It stipulated that the Framework Decision on the Joint Investigation Teams should be in place no later than June 2004.

Various delegations informed the meeting on the state of play as regards adoption of this instrument.

The meeting discussed certain problems related to the efficiency of this instrument. It was felt that it should be more flexible and have a wide geographical scope. Investigation Teams should be intelligence led, but Europol and Eurojust should be involved. Procedures should not be cumbersome. Several delegations suggested that at a next meeting an assessment of efforts in this field be made and in particular, on the added value of these teams. The question of the role of judicial authorities was raised.

- b) The Presidency urged delegations to make all efforts to respect the date of June 2004.

8. Future of European Chiefs of Police Task Force

- a) The meeting took note with great interest of presentations by
 - Mr. Elsen, Director General of the Council Secretariat, on the Task Force of Chiefs of Police. He outlined the following two possible scenarios concerning the role of the Task Force in regard to the possible future COSI (COmité de Sécurité Intérieure)
 - On the one side the Task Force Chiefs of Police as an advisory (brainstorming) body making suggestions to the "COSI"
 - On the other side the Chiefs of Police taking part/being the COSI which could meet one or two times a presidency in the composition "Chiefs" and in between at a lower level.

- The Netherlands delegation that explained that its comprehensive operational strategic plan drawn up pursuant to the conclusions of the meeting of the Task Force in Rome in October 2003 is based on a project management cycle. It promised that the first stage of the strategic plan will be presented at the next meeting of the Task Force.
- b) In the ensuing discussion several delegations affirmed that the Task Force should keep its focus on operational practical cooperation. Decisions on the institutional role of the Task Force should be left to higher competent bodies. Other delegations felt that a medium/long-term reflection on the role of the task force does not hinder practical cooperation as is being proved at the present meeting.
- c) The Presidency concluded that the aforementioned higher bodies will take account of the views expressed in the framework of the Task Force.

9. Fight against terrorism

The meeting welcomed the agreement of the Council on 19 February 2004 on the security handbook for the Olympic Games. The Article 36 Committee was invited to prepare a single handbook to replace the existing multiplicity of police cooperation handbooks.

10. Preparations for Olympic Games and European Football Championships

The meeting welcomed the presentation by the Greek and Portuguese delegations on the preparation as regards security for the Olympic Games and European Football Championships. Delegations were invited to provide every possible and relevant information concerning the security for both events.

11. Use of Sky Marshals

The Austrian delegation informed the meeting on the seminar on 1/2 March 2004 on Sky Marshals. At this occasion the need for standard recommendations was expressed. Delegations explained their position as regards the introduction of Sky Marshals. Many delegations stressed that the priority should be given to preventive action.

Several other delegations said that the presence of Sky Marshals is being introduced on a case by case basis. The need for a common European position on this matter as well as the importance of the draft declaration agreed by the Council at its meeting of 19 March 2004 in this field were emphasised by some delegations and the Commission.

12. Europol / Interpol Agreement

- a) Mr. Storbeck in his introductory remarks referred to the improved cooperation between Europol and Interpol since the last meeting of the Chiefs of Police Task Force.

Mr. Noble, Secretary General of Interpol confirmed this position and explained that Interpol's I-24/7 System has now been made accessible to the Europol Liaison Officer posted in Madrid. Offers have been made to Member States to connect their Liaison Officers posted at the Europol Headquarters in The Hague. The I-24/7 System is now in operation in 93 of the Interpol Member States. Among the Union Member States 14 out of 15 are connected and Denmark is to be connected in the coming days. 8 out of the 10 accession countries are connected and quick progress is expected in the two remaining countries (Latvia and Slovakia). On different examples Mr. Noble commented on the possibilities of cooperation, including in the fight against terrorism, offered by the database on stolen passports created by Interpol in September 2002 (STD database, used by 37 Interpol member states- including 7 of EU Member States and 5 of the accession countries).

Concerning recent events Mr. Noble commented on the Interpol cooperation with Spain following the tragic events in Madrid on 11 March. Concerning the Olympic Games Mr. Noble and Mr. Storbeck suggested the creation of a joint team between Europol and Interpol. In his concluding remarks Mr. Noble called for support on the Interpol sub-Sahara initiative and on the accession of all the Member States and accession countries to the STD database. He confirmed the improved relations between Europol and Interpol.

Mr. Storbeck stressed the pragmatic approach of the work of the two institutions. He mentioned the added value of the I-24/7 System on crime types like counterfeiting of the euro (especially outside Europe)

- b) The meeting expressed its support for these conclusions.

13. Update on working of CEPOL

Mr. Göransson, the administrative director of CEPOL explained the follow up which had been given by CEPOL to the discussion which took place in the Rome meeting of the Chiefs of Police Task Force concerning the training of policemen involved in Europol work (National Units, Europol staff and law enforcement personnel). He further explained to what extent the CEPOL programme addresses questions which were on today's Chiefs of Police Task Force meeting (as illegal immigration, trafficking in human beings, cyber crime and counterfeiting of the euro).

He finally called on the delegations to send to the CEPOL meeting targeted persons so as to make the best use of the programmes which were offered. Best possible use should be made of the AGIS programme.

14. Any other business

Mr. Wiarda reported on the Malta conference organised to explain the work of Chiefs of Police Task Force to acceding countries. He suggested another meeting of the Chiefs of Police of accession countries to visit European Capitals (institutions in Brussels and The Hague). The incoming Netherlands Presidency announced that the next meeting of the Task Force will take place on 11/12 October 2004.

On behalf of the Task Force the Presidency warmly thanked Mr. Elsen, departing Director General of the Council for his long and outstanding contribution to the work of the Police Task Force. His knowledge and accessibility have been highly appreciated.