



**COUNCIL OF
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NOTE

from: UK delegation

to: Customs Co-operation Working Party

No. prev. doc. : 14054/05 ENFOCUSTOM 68 ENFOPOL 144 COTER 64 UD 137
13532/2/06 REV 2 ENFOCUSTOM 66 ENFOPOL 165 COTER 39 UD 94

Subject : Third action plan to take forward customs counter-terrorism initiatives
- Report from the project group

This third action plan of the Customs Cooperation Working Party's project group on counter-terrorism (the Counter-Terrorism Project Group – CTPG) is presented for agreement of the CCWP. It has now been updated to take account of discussion at the CTPG's meeting on 22nd January 2008.

DELETED of the United Kingdom has taken over the chairmanship of the CTPG from **DELETED**, who has moved to work on the UK Border Agency project.

The CTPG will continue its work on the basis of the CCWP Work Plan 2007-2008, in particular the implementation of Action Point 4 of that plan. It will produce a new Action Plan for 2008-9 following its April 2008 meeting; this plan will run in tandem with the CCWP's own 18-month 2008-9 plan.

Working Plan for the Counter Terrorism Project Group

Introduction

The Counter Terrorism Project Group (CTPG) was created in May 2004 as an informal subgroup to the Customs Cooperation Working Party (CCWP) to action the proposals being made in the EU and WCO to combat Terrorism.

Associated Documents

- 7218/04 ENFOCUSTOM 16
- 10238/2 /04 ENFOCUSTOM 39 ENFOPOL 70 COTER 57 UD 125 REV 2
- 13793/04 ENFOCUSTOM 70 ENFOPOL 143 COTER 66 UD 150
- 10586/04 JAI 237 ECOFIN 225 TRANS 242 RELEX 291 ECO 123 PESC 536 COTER 44 COSDP 383 PROCIV 93 ENER 178 ATO 61 (EU Plan of Action on Combating Terrorism)
- 16054/04 JAI 559 (The Hague Programme)

Aim

Its aim is to identify and promote ways to enable Customs administrations to make a positive contribution to the fight against terrorism in response to and support of The Hague Programme and the EU Plan of Action on Combating Terrorism.

Objective

The key objectives of the group are to address the proposals in the Hague Programme (16054/04 JAI 559) and the EU Action Plan on Combating Terrorism (10586/04 JAI 237) and fulfil the objectives of the CCWP Strategy and Action Plan by:

1. Increasing the level of terrorism awareness within Customs administrations;
2. Identifying ways Customs administrations can enhance their capabilities to combat terrorism (EU Plan of Action and Hague Programme);
3. Carrying out operations to test Customs ability to respond to the terrorist threat (Hague Programme)
4. Enhancing inter-agency working (Hague Programme), and

5. Raising the Political awareness of the role of Customs and the contribution they can make to the fight against terrorism.

Action Plan

The following updated action plan details how the CTPG will take these objectives forward. The updates are marked in italics.

ACTION PLAN FOR THE COUNTER TERRORISM PROJECT GROUP (CTPG) - Updated as of the 22/01/2008 meeting

Action	Response to proposals	Deadline	Current Position
1. Increase the level of terrorism awareness within Customs			
1.1 DELETED	The Hague Programme EU Plan of Action	Continuing	DELETED
1.2 DELETED	The Hague Programme	July 2007	DELETED
1.3 Contribute to the development and trialling of the principals of Supply Chain Security as introduced by the CCC and WCO Framework of Standards (SAFE FoS)	CCC WCO SAFE FoS	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DELETED • In the framework of the EU-US JCCC Action Plan on transatlantic supply chain security, EU and US have agreed to work, in the interim to the formal implementation of the AEO programme on 1 January 2008, on a roadmap towards mutual recognition of respective trade partnerships programmes (EU AEO and US CTPAT).

Action	Response to proposals	Deadline	Current Position
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Customs to make presentation at April meeting of EC-China/US progress.
<p>2. Identify ways customs administrations can enhance their capabilities to combat terrorism.</p>			
<p>2.1 Identify training and best practice available in MS and other countries and develop into EU guidelines for future training that ensure an awareness of the terrorism threat and the role of Customs in combating it</p>	<p>EU Plan of Action The Hague Programme</p>	<p>October 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At CTPG’s request, Training Project Group included request for information on need for CT training in questionnaire to MSs. Analysis of replies (published as Document 16883/1/06 REV 1 JAI 722 ENFOCUSTOM 91 dated 04.01.2007) identified a need for such training • DELETED • Germany and UK gave presentations of their CT training to CTPG. • UK gave presentations on their CT awareness training to CCWP Plenary and Experts and the Terrorism W/G • Germany and UK are together developing training guidelines, using the German Risk

Action	Response to proposals	Deadline	Current Position
			<p>Analysis Manual as a basis. They compared their national training programmes and legal differences and have met three times to continue developing the guidelines. <i>These guidelines will be completed within a short time and Germany will present them to the April 2008 CTPG.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Atomic Energy Agency has also developed guidelines. • At CTPG meeting of April 2007, volunteer MS were required to prepare an inventory of the training programmes provided by US and EU under the EC-US JCCC Expert Group Action Plan and to incorporate it into a training package.
2.2 Monitor the latest research in, and development and trialling of, equipment that will assist in the fight against terrorism at the external frontier and promote the use of suitable equipment at the	EU Plan of Action The Hague Programme	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DELETED • Commission Green Paper on detection technologies for law enforcement, customs and other security authorities, published in

Action	Response to proposals	Deadline	Current Position
frontier			<p>September 2006. DELETED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finnish Licence Plate Recognition System to be used as template for such systems • Research, development and deployment part of the Integrated Border Management Action Plan • Equipment to be deployed where available as part of Operations • DELETED • The CTPG has been informed of 2 EC-funded preparatory actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ STABORSEC (Standardisation of Border Security): to produce a manual ○ SOBCAH (Security of Borders, Coastlines & Harbours): to report on what equipment will be mandatory at the frontier

3 DELETED			
3.1 DELETED	The Hague Programme EU Plan of Action	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission advised that MS had the possibility to apply for co-funding for these types of actions under the conditions of the AGIS programme and its successor programme. DELETED
3.2 Evaluate joint Customs counter-terrorism operations and identify 'lessons learnt'.	The Hague Programme EU Plan of Action	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK presented final reports on Operation Protect and Tate to the CCWP in May 2006 and April 2007 respectively.
4. Enhance inter-agency working (Hague Programme)			
4.1 Co-operation and coordination with other 1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd Pillar groups & law enforcement agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish which 1st, 2nd & 3rd Pillar groups are dealing with counter-terrorism and their plans for the future Co-ordinate Customs actions with those of 	The Hague Programme	Met & Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of organisations identified by the Commission collated and circulated to CTPG members (MEMO/05/332 of 21.09.05) CTPG recognised that regular liaison and coordination with these groups was vital as some were in a better position to know what was happening in CT arena than CTPG.

<p>other groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that Customs, as required, fully participate in other groups' actions . • Consider how to co-ordinate CTPG activities with other international groups' counter-terrorism work 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the work of CTPG made to Terrorism W/G and CCWP Plenary. • MS to ensure that they identify those groups in which they are represented and ensure they are briefed on the work of the CTPG. • MS identified other international groups with which it would be beneficial to maintain contact, exchange knowledge / information / experience and coordinate activity e.g. ASEM, OCD, APEC, WCO • DELETED of UK Customs to attend 23/04/08 TWG for item on 'threat assessment and priorities for controlling terrorism.'
<p>4.2 Investigations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine and report on requirements in relation to the exchange of information and the coordination of investigations, in particular relating to restriction on exportation and prevention of WMD 	<p>CCWP Work Plan 2004-2006 (Item 8.2) and CCWP Work Plan 2007-2008 (Item 4)</p>	<p>May 2007 September 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Germany has prepared an analysis of the situation in Germany, and sent out a questionnaire to Member States</i> • <i>Germany is currently producing an evaluation of the replies and considering which further steps to take.</i>

4.3	DELETED	The Hague Programme	Ongoing	• DELETED
5.	Raise the political awareness of the role of Customs and the expertise that can be provided in the fight against terrorism			
5.1	Provide information to relevant High-level meetings on the work of the CTPG, on terrorist issues and the contribution that Customs Authorities can and should make to the fight against terrorism.	The Hague Programme EU Plan of Action	Ongoing September/ October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidency and MS to ensure that delegates and representatives attending meetings are fully briefed. • Presentation on the work of the CTPG to be made to the GICNT Group. • <i>Presidency to bring out strategy framework (1st Pillar) for ECOFIN.</i>

6. Reports			
6.1 Report through CCWP to Directors General and Council on the work of the group and on any legal and practical constraints		Each Presidency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair to provide regular oral and written reports to CCWP.
