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NOTE

from: UK delegation

to: Customs Cooperation Working Party

No. prev. doc. : 10349/1/08 REV 1 ENFOCUSTOM 63 ENFOPOL 112 COTER 39 UD 90
14054/05 ENFOCUSTOM 68 ENFOPOL 144 COTER 64 UD 137
13532/2/06 REV 2 ENFOCUSTOM 66 ENFOPOL 165 COTER 39 UD 94
6507/1/08 REV 1 ENFOCUSTOM 28 ENFOPOL 35 COTER 7 UD 22

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

Delegations find in the Annex the draft fifth action plan of the Customs Cooperation Working Party's project group on counter-terrorism (Counter-Terrorism Project Group – CTPG), submitted to the CCWP for approval.

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 Group (CCWG) 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 action plan details how the CTPG will take these objectives forward.

ACTION PLAN FOR THE COUNTER TERRORISM PROJECT GROUP (CTPG) FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2008- 31 DECEMBER 2009

Action	Response to proposals	Deadline / Responsibility	Current Activities and Position
1. Increase the level of terrorism awareness within Customs			
1.1 Member States to ascertain whether any Terrorism Threat Assessments (TTAs) are available which cover: DELETED	The Hague Programme EU Plan of Action	Ongoing / Europol / UK Ongoing / UK	DELETED
1.2 Produce inventory of threat assessments and risk analyses.	The Hague Programme	July 2009 / All CTPG members	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 / UK and NL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission, UK and Netherlands are participating in a secure supply chain pilot project with China Customs; HK Customs may participate in future. DELETED • UK Customs gave updates at the CTPG meetings in October 2008 and July 2009. • A Phase 2 is likely to take place in 2010. Other MS, e.g. Germany, Belgium and Spain are likely to participate.

<p>2. Identify ways customs administrations can enhance their capabilities to combat terrorism.</p>			
<p>2.1 Explore possibilities for dissemination of information and exchange of best practices.</p>	<p>EU Plan of Action The Hague Programme</p>	<p>Ongoing / UK Commission / Spain</p>	<p>DELETED</p>
<p>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 frontier</p>	<p>EU Plan of Action The Hague Programme</p>	<p>Ongoing / UK Ongoing / UK Ongoing / All CTPG Members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK has canvassed interest from CCWP members to create an EU Technology Group to achieve a common approach towards detection technologies through interaction between public and private sectors to focus investment on standardisation, research, certification and interoperability of detection systems, to transform research results into useful and applicable tools, share information on technology development, consider the need for new / improved technology at the border, establish the specification requirements, work with suppliers to develop it and test equipment before procurement. DG JLS meet with TAXUD and DG Tren to discuss the possibility of such a group. UK Customs will be meeting with these to discuss the way forward in September. • Research, development and deployment part of the Integrated Border Management Action Plan. A meeting is planned for September and an update will be provided at the next meeting. • Equipment to be deployed where available as part of Operations.

3. Carry out operations to test Customs ability to respond to the terrorist threat			
3.1 Identify, co-ordinate and carry out targeted Joint and Multi-agency (i.e. with other Law Enforcement Agencies, including FRONTEX) Operations that verify and inform TTAs and support the work in other groups.	The Hague Programme EU Plan of Action	Ongoing / All CTPG Members Ongoing / Germany / Sweden Ongoing / All CTPG Members Ongoing / All CTPG Members	<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 ISEC programme. DELETED
DELETED	DELETED	DELETED	DELETED

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 other groups. • 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. 	The Hague Programme	Ongoing / UK Ongoing / Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the work of CTPG to be made regularly to Terrorism W/G and CCWP Plenary. • In December 2009 a new programme for an area of freedom, security and justice, the "Stockholm Programme", will be adopted by the European Council. Sweden to report back to Summer 2010 meeting of CTPG in order for a discussion to be held on how this programme may impact on CTPG.
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4.3 Counter-Terrorism Data Exchange and Exchange of Risk Indicators

DELETED

The Hague Programme

Ongoing / Commission
Ongoing
Ongoing
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 / All CTPG Members Ongoing / Commission	DELETED
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. Four reports provided to CCWG with updated mandate agreed in April 09.

Closed Actions

Action	Response to proposals	Closed Action
1. Increase the level of terrorism awareness within Customs		
1.1 Member States to ascertain whether any Terrorism Threat Assessments (TTAs) are available which cover: DELETED	The Hague Programme EU Plan of Action	DELETED
2. Identify ways customs administrations can enhance their capabilities to combat terrorism		
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; explore possibilities for dissemination.	EU Plan of Action The Hague Programme	<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 MS. 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 – at least 12 MS do not offer such training at present. Germany and UK have together developed training guidelines, using the German Risk Analysis Manual as a basis. They compared their national training programmes and legal differences and have completed the guidelines, which they presented to the CTPG. Comments were sought from CTPG members before the guidelines were distributed as an Enfocustom document in May 2009. DELETED

<p>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 frontier</p>	<p>EU Plan of Action The Hague Programme</p>	<p>DELETED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An EU delegation has been to Southampton to study the results of the 100% scanning trial there. • Commission Green Paper on detection technologies for law enforcement, customs and other security authorities, published in September 2006. DELETED • The CTPG has been informed of 2 EC-funded preparatory actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ STABORSEC (Standardisation of Border Security): will produce a detailed prioritised inventory of the standardisation efforts to be deployed to cover appropriate interoperability needs. ○ SOBCAH (Security of Borders, Coastlines & Harbours): to report on what equipment will be mandatory at the frontier. <p>These two projects have been concluded and the findings are available from Europa.</p>
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3. Carry out operations to test Customs ability to respond to the terrorist threat		
3.1 Identify, co-ordinate and carry out targeted Joint and Multi-agency (i.e. with other Law Enforcement Agencies, including FRONTEX) Operations that verify and inform TTAs and support the work in other groups.	EU Plan of Action The Hague Programme	DELETED
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 DELETED	The Hague Programme	<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. • MS to ensure that they identify those groups in which they are represented and ensure they are briefed on the work of the CTPG.

4.3 Counter-Terrorism Data Exchange and Exchange of Risk Indicators DELETED	The Hague Programme	DELETED
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