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LIMITE

JAI 81

NOTE

from : German delegation

No. prev. doc. : 13176/01 JAI 120

Subject : Additional measures to combat terrorism

Delegations will find attached a note from the German delegation dated 19 February 2002 on the campaign against terrorism.

Note from the German delegation

1. The action plan adopted by the Justice and Home Affairs Council at a special meeting on the prevention of terrorism held on 20 September 2001 (12156/01 JAI 99) is an important contribution by the Member States towards preventing international terrorism. The progress made so far in implementing the adopted measures demonstrates the determination of all Member States to continue their fight against terrorism. Germany takes the view that in addition to these measures, preventive information gathering in the fight against terrorism needs to be significantly improved. At the meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 27 and 28 September 2001, Germany tabled further proposals for anti-terrorism measures in order to take this aspect into due consideration. The Belgian Presidency forwarded these proposals to the Member States and to the EU Commission in 13176/01 JAI 120. It announced that these measures would be examined by the Council's subordinate bodies, if necessary on the basis of a Commission proposal.
2. Considerable progress has already been made on the individual proposals. A number of proposals – in particular those relating to visa security and the development of a uniform European visa identification system – were included in the draft action plan submitted under the Spanish Presidency of the Council with a view to fighting illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings. (5398/02 JAI 5 REV 1).

3. The German delegation specifically proposes taking the following steps:

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Other anti-terrorism measures are also being implemented outside the global action plan for the prevention of illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings, that are closely associated with this plan in terms of their content. Germany considers it vital that progress be made specifically in the following areas:

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The German delegation is of the view that the higher priority should be attached to dealing with these issues and tasks in the field of the prevention of terrorism. The proposals ensure that:

terrorists can be identified before they enter the country (measures taken in the visa-issuing procedure),

identification documents are protected and cannot be misused,

the exchange of information on terrorists, their movements and on falsified and forged documents is expedited,

and

the misuse of refugee status for terrorist activities is prevented.

The German delegation requests the Presidency, the Member States and the Commission to ensure that the issues currently in the pipeline are brought to a speedy conclusion. With this in mind, the German delegation kindly asks the Commission to table relevant proposals, insofar as this is necessary. The German delegation wishes to thank the Spanish Presidency for tackling the issues of visa files, visa consultation procedures and the use of biometrics.

The German delegation also requests the Presidency to intensify discussions on access to the SIS and to submit drafts of the necessary legal texts as soon as possible.
