



## Working document No 3

# Informal Meeting of the Ministers of the Interior on the Future of Europol and EU Law Enforcement Cooperation

1 October 2009 in the Hague, Netherlands

---

## *Developing synergies between Internal and External Security*

1. The objective of this paper is to trigger a discussion on concrete measures to enhance the interface between the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) sector and the European Security and Defence (ESDP) in order to ensure maximum optimisation of resources in EU efforts in the fight against organised crime, thus increasing internal security.
2. Police officers, judges and civilian administrators from the EU Member States are making an important contribution to the prevention of conflicts and re-building of states in conflict ridden areas within the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy. Human resources for ESDP civilian crisis management missions are mainly drawn from the Justice and Home Affairs sector. Despite this fact, there is limited third pillar engagement in the planning of these missions.
3. The need for closer inter-pillar cooperation has previously been identified in the Report on the Implementation of the European Security Strategy as well as by the EU Chiefs of Police. In these fora, it was established that EU external action can help improve internal security. EU efforts in the fight against organised crime would highly benefit from closer cooperation with ESDP missions.
4. A consistent and coherent EU response in the form of common regional approaches between the second and third pillar would increase the efficiency of the efforts and initiatives in any given area. EU initiatives in the Western Balkans are obvious examples in this regard. Afghanistan is another example where the need for an improved inter-pillar cooperation would limit a



duplication and allow for more streamlined efforts. Illicit drugs, terrorism and illegal migration constitute real problems in this region and the EU's police mission has challenging tasks with regards to provide advice and support to the Afghan police force. Greater coherence between EU initiatives would ensure an optimisation of invested resources, but also ensure that the beneficiaries of the EU initiatives receive a common message from the EU in the region.

5. A closely related and equally important aspect of enhancing the EU's fight against organised crime is the development of efficient intelligence capabilities. Improved information sharing between the second and the third pillar structures is imperative in this regard. One concrete measure is enhanced cooperation between Europol and ESDP-missions. Some results have already been achieved. A cooperation framework has been set up to allow the exchange of information between Europol and all civilian ESDP missions, including the information exchange mechanism allowing for the exchange of personal data between the EULEX Kosovo Mission and Europol, via the Europol National Units (ENUs) of volunteering Member States. Initial evaluation shows positive results and the cooperation could be further explored and structured in order not to depend on voluntary member state participation.

6. The Swedish Presidency is initiating discussions on the need for improved cooperation in various fora, such as the European Chiefs of Police Task Force and in the Article 36 Committee. The purpose of this is twofold. First, an optimization of the third pillar resources put to the availability of the second pillar can be ensured. Second, this in turn will benefit second pillar activities as the resources made available would increase as they become better targeted. A number of constructive suggestions have already been put forward by Member States. These examples include giving Europol an increased role in ESDP, adopting common training activities, highlighting the importance of this issue in the Stockholm programme and increasing synergies between liaison officers and civilian ESDP missions.

7. Against this background, the Presidency invites the Ministers to address the following questions:

- How can civilian ESDP missions contribute an increased EU internal security?



- Ministers are invited to identify possible areas of ESDP where an increased role for JHA is called for in order to optimise efforts in the fight against organised crime.
  - Ministers are requested to reflect upon how to improve cooperation and increase the inter-relationship in identified processes between JHA and ESDP.
- 
-