



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 4 February 2013

6035/13

LIMITE

**COSI 11
GENVAL 6
DROIPEN 9
JAIEX 10
RELEX 103
JAI 74
EUROJUST 11**

NOTE

from:	Presidency
to:	Standing Committee on operational cooperation on internal security (COSI)
No. prev. doc.:	16947/12 GENVAL 89 DROIPEN 175 JAIEX 117 RELEX 1094 JAI 850 COSI 126 EUROJUST 107
Subject:	Follow-up to Strategic report on "Eurojust's action against trafficking in human beings"

1. At the end of November 2012 Eurojust issued a report presenting the results of its Strategic Project on “*Eurojust action against trafficking in human beings*” (doc. 16947/12) which is a follow-up to the Joint Statement of the Heads of the EU Justice and Home Affairs Agencies signed in Warsaw in October 2011, on the occasion of the 5th EU Anti-Trafficking Day.
2. Using the main conclusions of the project, Eurojust developed an Action Plan against trafficking in human beings which is contained in appendix II of doc. 16947/12. This Action Plan covers the period 2012-2016 and lists the main priorities and actions planned by Eurojust to increase the number of prosecutions of THB cases and to enhance judicial cooperation in this area, notably;

- to enhance information exchange to get a better intelligence picture at EU level in the field of THB,
- to increase the number of detections, joint investigations and prosecutions in THB cases and to enhance judicial cooperation in this area,
- to improve the coordination mechanism in particular for training, expertise and operational activities,
- to increase cooperation with third States in THB cases,
- to use alternative approaches to combat human trafficking, such as multidisciplinary approaches, and
- to disrupt criminal money flows and asset recovery in THB cases

Each of the abovementioned actions **corresponds to a strategic goal of the priority "Trafficking in human beings"¹ and is therefore also covered by the OAP on this subject².**

4. Eurojust is currently participating in some actions of the Operational Action Plan "THB". However, it is recommended that COSI should seek a higher involvement of Eurojust in the operational implementation of the corresponding strategic goals, in particular 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8.
5. Furthermore, it seems opportune to add some other actions of the Eurojust Action Plan in the OAP "THB" 2013 which could be implemented under the leadership of Eurojust. These actions might include:
 - Member States to involve Eurojust in all cross-border THB cases in accordance with Eurojust's mandate and the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of THB 2012-2016,
 - Member States to notify Eurojust of serious THB cases in accordance with Article 13 of the revised Eurojust Decision; Eurojust to coordinate responses and provide feedback, including links, where appropriate, between criminal proceedings on the same targets,

¹ Doc. 15850/11 JAI 758 COSI 84 ENFOPOL 371 CRIMORG 191 ENFOCUSTOM 128 CORDROGUE 67 PESC 1321 RELEX 1081 COAFR 296 COWEB 236 TRANS 283 UD 275 FRONT 138 GENVAL 111

² Doc. 16028/2/12 REV 2 JAI 784 COSI 112 ENFOPOL 366 CRIMORG 135 ENFOCUSTOM 121 PESC 1369 RELEX 1026 JAIEX 106 GENVAL 84 (EU RESTRICTED)

- Member States to involve Eurojust in JITs in THB cases and to communicate to Eurojust the setting up of JITs and the results of the work of JITs in THB cases in accordance with Article 13(5) of the revised Eurojust Decision,
- Member States to conduct financial investigations in THB cases with support from Eurojust,
- Member States to increase the involvement of Eurojust in cross-border asset recovery procedures and to communicate to Eurojust the results of confiscation procedures and return of assets, allowing an evaluation of the effectiveness of the cross-border actions.

6. COSI is therefore requested to agree on the following;

- **to invite Eurojust to increase its involvement in the OAP of the EU crime priority THB .**
- **to revise the 2013 OAP on the EU crime priority THB in order to include the necessary additional actions, mentioned in the Eurojust Action Plan and the amended OAP would subsequently be submitted to COSI.**
- **to invite Eurojust to ensure continuity of the relevant actions beyond 2013 and to report back to COSI on the progress and results.**
