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LIMITE

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NOTE

From: Presidency

To: Standing Committee on operational cooperation on internal security (COSI)

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Subject: Security-related research and industrial policy
- issues to be discussed on user involvement

Introduction

The Commission submitted in summer of this year a Communication on "Security Industrial Policy - Action Plan for an innovative and competitive Security Industry" (doc. 13050/12). It sets out the main problems faced by the EU Security Industry and identifies a number of key policy actions to tackle the problems.

Without prejudice to the competences and actions taken by the authorities and other partners in the area of industry and competitiveness policies, it is clear that authorities dealing with internal security should play a role in this matter. The right involvement of these authorities will benefit the EU's Security Industrial Policy but also be of direct interest to the authorities and their users in their tasks.

User needs

The use of modern technologies by “internal security authorities”, their involvement in research, the need for a pro-active involvement with suppliers of modern security technologies have been discussed and recognised at different occasions: at the informal meeting of Interior Ministers under the CZ Presidency, by the Policy Chiefs Task Force notably following the report of ESRIF, and most recently at the European Police Chiefs Convention where the DE Police Chief presented a technology monitoring tool.

Under the FR Presidency, a European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Services¹ was set up, with the aim of gathering user requirements, scanning and raising awareness of new technology and best practices, benchmarking and giving advice.

A detailed work plan for ENLETS was drafted during the BE Presidency, explaining the role and functioning of the network and the role of the National Contact Point with regards to new technologies.

This network had its latest meeting on 18-19 September in Larnaca, Cyprus², where the need for more and better involvement by the Member States’ relevant services was repeated.

The current functioning and results so far of this network are not yet satisfactory to be able to provide the user needs definition that the Commission is requiring as input for research projects and security industrial policy actions. The fact that only 7 replies were received to the questionnaire of the DK Presidency on the needs of Member States in terms of new technologies is quite telling.

This is notably explained by the fact that not all Member States have a service that is dedicated to and/or can devote the necessary resources to this task and that at EU level, the relevant agencies and bodies are not yet fully involved and coordinated.

Issues to be discussed

The Presidency therefore finds it timely to initiate a policy debate on this matter and invites all delegations to discuss the following issues.

¹ Doc. 5629/08

² Doc. 16004/12

- a) At national level, the necessary resources should be devoted to the support and enhancement of ENLETS to ensure that all Member States, to a greater or lesser extent, are involved in contributing to and benefitting from ENLETS work and thereby also raise the awareness among the different services concerned about the use and need for security technology.
- b) At EU level, capacities should be pooled in order to organise a visible, dedicated EU “(internal) security technology foresight function”. Such unit would be the central contact point for the Member States’ and Commission’s relevant services and for the technology suppliers’ side. By preparing, supporting and coordinating Member States’ user requirements, it could fulfil different tasks:
- advise relevant Council Working Groups and other bodies on security technology policy issues, such as the proposals set out by the Commission in its Communication
 - organise and ensure the user representation in security research funding as well as other projects
 - disseminate results to possible end users
 - enhance and facilitate the work of ENLETS
 - organise the link to security companies.
- c) Such a unit could be organised within Europol, drawing upon support from Member States that have existing and experienced services in this matter, closely cooperating with the Commission Services and benefitting from the experience that Frontex has played in this regard in the EUROSUR project.
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