Report on meeting

ARGOS 2017 preparatory meeting

1. Introduction

This document reports on the preparatory meeting for the ARGOS conference 2017 to be organised in Q4 in Ljubljana. EDOC-#864074 explains the concept of the Assembly on Regional Groups on Surveillance (ARGOS). The creation of an additional network for covert surveillance as part of the ARGOS concept was discussed during the meeting.
2. Content

2.2. Future of the EU covert surveillance landscape

OS4 presented the history and concept of ARGOS which includes the involvement of the chairs of CSW, SENSEE and the third network. OS4 insisted on the need of having a board to steer and coordinate the work of the three networks. OS4 confirmed that this was included in the idea from the outset and committed to formalise the existing involvement of the networks in an ARGOS board. The board will consist of EUROPOL and the chairs of the three networks.

2.3. ARGOS 2017

OS4 invited the PCCSEE Secretariat to support the organisation of the ARGOS conference in 2017. Their project will stop by the end of 2016 so they cannot give any financial support. The Secretariat however agreed to give logistical support to organise the meeting in Ljubljana. EUROPOL agreed to pay for travel and accommodation for the delegates from SENSEE and the third network. CSW will pay for their delegates and for the conference rooms.

3. Way forward

The 3 networks on covert surveillance are steered by the MS and work on regional issues. EUROPOL is a permanent member of all three networks. The ARGOS concept was created to link the networks ensuring that every EU MS has a voice in the EU covert surveillance network. OS4 will finalise this concept in 2017.

4. Consequences for Europol

OS4 will support the creation of the third network by preparing the terms of reference with the new chair. OS4 will formalise the membership and cooperation mechanisms in a ToR for ARGOS. EUROPOL agreed to fund (Cost estimate €3430) the initiating meeting and to include this network in the ARGOS concept. Conference and travel will be involved for logistical support.

OS4 will organise an ARGOS board meeting in Q2 2017. The ARGOS conference will take place in Ljubljana in Q4 2017.

Conclusion

This meeting agreed on the concept of ARGOS, CSW, SENSEE and the PCCSEE Secretariat, as representative for the third network agreed to support the ARGOS conference 2017.