

14938/04

LIMITE

CATS 55

NOTE

from :	Presidency
to :	Council
No. prev. doc. :	14708/04 CATS 51
Subject :	Role and positioning of the Police Chiefs Task Force (PCTF) with a view to strengthening the EU operational police co-operation

1. The European Council of 17-18 June 2004 requested the Council "to take forward work on proposals for reinforcing the Police Chiefs Task Force's operational capacity with a view to adoption of new arrangements no later than December 2004."
2. Currently, the PCTF has on the one hand a policy-making role and on the other hand an operational role, co-ordinating concrete operations.

- Operational tasks :

To the extent that the PCTF contribute to the planning and co-ordination of operational actions, it is desirable to bring the Police Chiefs Task Force, as a task force, closer to Europol.

Therefore, Europol will in principle host the relevant meetings and provide its functional support (e.g. threat analysis, specialist crime investigation support, expert support on operational debriefing etc.)^{1 2}.

The above-mentioned meetings can be attended by (representatives of) the Police Chiefs and/or experts, depending on the level and subject of the meeting as well as by the Commission.

- Strategic tasks :

Because of their strategic role with regard to European police co-operation, it is desirable that the highest representatives of the police of the Member States meet within the Council structures. This will allow to discuss strategies and issues related to structural problems as well as provide a clear operational point of view in the Council's proceedings. Moreover, it will ensure the accountability of the European operational co-operation.

3. It is proposed that, pending the definite setting of the internal security committee, provided for in Article III-261 of the Constitutional Treaty and point 2.5 of the Hague Programme, each incoming Presidencies convene one or two times the Police Chiefs in association with the Article 36 Committee meetings or in any other setting they find appropriate.

¹ This arrangement is without prejudice to both

- the provisions on Europol's Management Board and HENU's, with which the necessary co-ordination should, nevertheless, be guaranteed; and
- the fact that the mandate of the Police Chiefs Task Force is wider than the competence areas of Europol (e.g. maintaining law and order and security).

² One or two members of Europol's staff should be permanently available to ensure, under the direction of the Presidency, the administrative support of these Task Force's meetings. In addition, to ensure the co-ordination with the work of the Council, the Council Secretariat will be closely associated to these activities.