



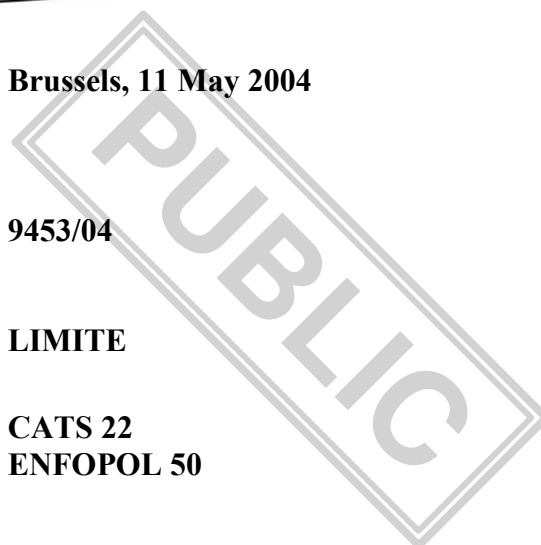
**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 11 May 2004**

**9453/04**

**LIMITE**

**CATS 22  
ENFOPOL 50**



**NOTE**

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from : the Presidency  
to : the Article 36 Committee

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Subject : Presidency conclusions of extraordinary meeting of the European Chiefs of Police Task Force held in Brussels on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2004

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The meeting was chaired by the current President of the Task Force, Mr. Noel Conroy.

**Item 1 – Report on Madrid terrorist attacks**

A confidential report on the Madrid attacks was presented by the Presidency and approval was given by the Task Force for its submission to the Council.

**Item 2 Reinforcing the operational capacity of the ECPTF**

A proposal was presented by the Presidency. There was a detailed discussion of the document, with active participation from many delegations. There was a large measure of support for the general thrust of the proposal. The proposed role of the Task Force received general approval.

There was broad agreement on bringing the Task Force within the Council structures. There was agreement on the proposed increased number of plenary meetings of the Task Force, with general agreement on a further proposal to allow for informal meetings to be hosted in the Member States.

There was some discussion on the composition and role of the Steering Group with strong support for the maintenance of the current structure, i.e. comprising of the previous, current, and next Presidencies, the Commission, Europol and the Secretariat General of the Council.

There was general consensus on the need for an operational support structure (Operational Support Unit) for the Task Force in its operational work. The siting and composition of this structure was discussed. Two options were presented in the paper, involving the establishment and placing of an OSU at either (a) Europol or (b) the General Secretariat of the Council. Contributions from the delegations indicated that Europol would appear to be the preferred location for such a support structure.

Arising from its detailed consideration of all the matters and taking into account observations made, the Presidency has prepared a revised document as set out in the annexed text with a view to the preparation of the necessary Council Conclusions.

### **Item 3 – Situational matrix on contact points**

A matrix of existing structures and Contact Points for the sharing of intelligence between Member States was presented by the Presidency and was agreed for transmission to the Council.

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## TASK FORCE CHIEFS OF POLICE

Brussels - 10 May 2004

### REINFORCING THE OPERATIONAL CAPACITY OF THE EUROPEAN CHIEFS OF POLICE TASK FORCE

#### Introduction

a) In Paragraph 44 of the Tampere Conclusions the European Council called for the establishment of a European Police Chiefs operational Task Force to exchange, in co-operation with Europol, experience, best practices and information on current trends in cross-border crime and contribute to the planning of operative actions.

At its meeting on 24/25 March 2004 the European Council mandated the European Chiefs of Police Task Force, in the context of measures to reinforce operational co-operation and the role of the Task Force in co-ordinating operational measures in response to and prevention of terrorist acts, to undertake two key tasks:

- Review how its operational capacity can be reinforced and to focus on proactive intelligence;
- Drawing up, with the assistance of experts from intelligence services and Europol, a report on the terrorist attacks on Madrid.

The task of reinforcing the operational capacity of the Task Force can probably be interpreted quite broadly and this could embrace anything that would contribute to the more efficient/effective operation of the body.

b) A subgroup was created to prepare the work of the Task Force. The subgroup met on 16 April, 27 April and 5 May 2004.

In its work, the subgroup has taken into account the following:

- The conclusions of the 8th Meeting of the Task Force held in Rome in October, 2003 (13595/03, 15/10/03, Enfopol 90);
- The views of the Council Secretariat, as presented to the 9th Meeting of the Task Force held in Dublin in March, 2004 (7779/04, 24/3/04, Enfopol 30);
- The Benelux Reflections Document, as presented to the 9th Meeting;
- The Netherlands proposal on the future of the Task Force, as presented to the 9th Meeting;  
and
- The views expressed by the members of the Task Force at the 9th Meeting in Dublin;

The subgroup also took cognisance of the following matters:

- Existing EU structures and procedures; and
- the current status of the Draft constitution.

The Task Force is now in its fifth year of existence and in that time has achieved much. However, it is evident that even greater success could be achieved, particularly in the area of countering terrorism, by the provision of greater focus and continuity to its work.

In the subgroup, different delegations made reservations on the proposed draft and indicated that they needed more time for internal coordination/consultation.

c) Arising from its detailed consideration of all these matters and taking into account observations made, the Presidency proposes the following text for possible Council Conclusions:

### **1. Role of the ECPTF**

The role of the ECPTF is - based on analysis provided by Europol and information by Member States on a strategic level to plan, decide, co-ordinate and assess intelligence led police operations against international terrorism and cross border crime. In addition, it will submit to the Council a Comprehensive Operational Strategy Plan (COSPOL).

## **2. Task Force Membership**

The European Chiefs of Police Task Force will be comprised of the Chief Police Officers of each Member State of the European Union. Each Member State will designate a Head of Delegation.

## **3. Single Point of Contact in each Member State**

A single Point of Contact will be designated in respect of each Member State for the purpose of conduction Task Force business, and for liasing with the Task Force, its Secretariat (i.e. the Council Secretariat) and its Operational Support Unit (see below point 6).

## **4. Task Force Meetings**

The Task Force will meet as a Council Committee<sup>1</sup> (i.e. inside the structures of the Council) in plenary session at least twice during the period of each Presidency. Additional meetings can take place at the level of deputies. The plenary meetings will take place in Brussels at the premises of the Council Secretariat. Furthermore, it is open to each Presidency to host informal meetings as they deem appropriate.

Europol, Eurojust, CEPOL and the European Border Agency after its setting up, will participate in the CPTF meetings.

The Agenda for the meetings will be prepared by the Presidency in co-operation with the Council Secretariat and the Operational Support Unit. Agenda will be distributed at least one month in advance of the Meeting. Otherwise, distribution will take place as soon as possible by the Council Secretariat.

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<sup>1</sup> It could be renamed "High Level Committee of Chiefs of Police" or "Police Chiefs Committee"

Based on the matters to be considered by the Task Force at its meetings, or other relevant considerations, the Steering Group may approve the attendance of representatives of other bodies or organisations as appropriate.

The Task Force may hold joint meetings with other bodies or organisations in order to enhance co-operation. These joint meetings may be held separately or in conjunction with Task Force Meetings.

## **5. Steering Group**

In accordance with existing practice and procedures within the European Union, the Steering Group of the Task Force will be composed of the Troika (Presidency, and the former and incoming presidencies), the European Commission, Council Secretariat and Europol. The Operational support Unit will also attend the Steering Group meetings in a support capacity. The Group will meet both in advance and in the aftermath of each plenary meeting of the Task Force. The role of the Group will be to advise and assist the Presidency in the preparation of the meetings of the Task Force.

In addition to the foregoing, the Steering Group will also:

- a. Direct the Operational Support Unit to carry out other work in support of the Task Force;
- b. Consider and approve the attendance of representatives of other bodies or organisations at all or particular parts of a Meeting of the Task Force;
- c. Consider and approve joint meetings with other organisations or bodies with a view to enhancing co-operation.

In the fight against terrorism the Steering Group will seek to develop and enhance cooperation with the Counter terrorist Group (CTG) so that the level of intelligence sharing is improved to provide a basis for more effective operational capacity.

## **6. Establishment of Operational Support Unit**

a) An ECPTF Operational Support Unit (OSU) will be established, comprising of three representatives, one from each member of the Task Force Troika. The positions will rotate with the Troika members and personnel costs will be borne by their home organisations. Members of the Operational Support Unit should be of sufficient rank and standing to productively interact with members of the Task Force and other relevant agencies.

The primary function of the Operational Support Unit will be to support the ECPTF in its operational endeavours, particularly in the fight against terrorism and exchange of intelligence; It will be the central point of contact for the Task Force on operational aspects.

Among its tasks will be:

- Preparing, co-ordinating and assessing the operations decided by the TF;
- Prepare, follow up and evaluate COSPOL;
- Responding to requests from members of the Task Force;
- Provision of continuity to the ongoing work of the Task Force;
- Providing continuous feedback to members of the Task Force;
- Preparing for consideration by the Task Force Steering Group draft action plans for targeting terrorism and specific areas of cross border crime;
- Compiling and distributing briefing material to inform the members of the Task Force on other issues such as intelligence in relation to the fight against terrorism relevant to its role;
- Preparing up-dates on various issues for Task Force meetings, and providing ongoing feedback on operational matters;

- Providing support to the Task Force Presidency and Steering Group;
- Liaising, on behalf of the Task Force, with other agencies and bodies, such as CTG, Interpol, Eurojust, CEPOL.

b) As regards the position of the Unit, it is proposed that, subject to the agreement of the Europol Management Board the Operational Support Unit will be located at Europol. The members of the Operational Support Unit will utilise existing Europol facilities in support of their tasks and will be under the administrative management of the Director of Europol on behalf of the Task Force.

## **7. The Role of the Council Secretariat**

The Council Secretariat will assist the Presidency in its work in preparation for meetings of the Task Force and the Steering Group. It will work in close co-operation with the Operational Support Unit. Its role will be mainly:

- To assist the Presidency, in all the work linked to meetings of the Task Force and the Steering Group, and the follow-up of the work of the Task Force.
- To play its role as a member of the Steering Group and there to suggest, as closely as possible, items that fit into the definition of the role of the Task Force and its place among other bodies dealing with police matters (Article 36 Committee, Police Co-operation Working Group, etc.), and to attempt to place emphasis on the operational aspects of the work of the Task Force.

## **8. Reporting Structure**

The Conclusions of the plenary meetings of the European Chiefs of Police Task Force will be brought to the attention of the Council.

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