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NOTE

from :	Presidency
to :	Delegations
Subject :	Conclusions on the 10 th meeting of the Police Chiefs Task Force - 11 and 12 October 2004

OPENING ADDRESS

In the opening address of this 10th meeting the chairman gave an overview of the achievements of EPCTF. High Impact Operations, the reporting on operations, drawing up action plans such as the action plan Bulgaria, getting Europol into position together with the Organised Crime Report, compiling the Madrid report are all examples indicating that organised crime and terrorism are increasingly being fought jointly. The joint approach is also used increasingly and successfully at sports events and demonstrations of anti-globalists. Increasing attention by the European Police Chiefs is also given to professional development, institution building and striving for cohesion within the EU. All this can be seen in the joint work on CIVPOL, CEPOL, the EU accession process and expansion, community policing and the relationships with third parties like Interpol.

The chairman concluded that EPCTF nevertheless has to change its scope from national interest to balancing between the national and the common European dimension of policing.

1. COSPOL

Following a presentation of the first Comprehensive Operational Strategic Planning for the Police (COSPOL 1), the meeting gave its approval for the setting up and implementation of this planning, subject to some minor drafting amendments.

It was stressed that COSPOL is not to be seen as a new tool or a new structure. It is a methodology for strengthening police cooperation by:

- 1) setting targets as needed in the European dimension;
- 2) making forerunner groups in each of these targets;
- 3) coordinating and managing operational performance on each of these targets;
- 4) empowering information sharing and the forerunning role of Europol through the commitment of the European heads of police.

Scheme of COSPOL 1

	TARGETS	Coordinating MS	Participants	
1.	Terrorism	To be shared between participants	- United Kingdom - Germany - France - Italy - Belgium	- Spain - Poland - Europol - Interpol
2.	Counterfeiting of the Euro and other currency	Germany	- Austria - Hungary - France - Lithuania	- Finland - Poland - Europol - Interpol
3.	East European Organised Crime	Poland	- Germany - Latvia - Slovakia - Finland	- United Kingdom - Netherlands - Norway (non EUMS) - Europol
4.	Western Balkan Organised Crime	Italy	- France - Austria - Belgium - Denmark	-Slovakia -Luxembourg - Norway (Non EUMS) -Europol
5.	Cyber crime / Child pornography	Sweden	- United Kingdom - Italy - Poland - (Denmark, Latvia and Ireland?)	- France - Norway (non EUMS) -Europol - Interpol
6.	Drugs: Synthetical drugs and ecstasy	France	- UK - Netherlands - Spain	- Germany - Belgium - Europol

It was agreed that Interpol could participate in the forerunner groups on terrorism, the counterfeiting of the euro and other currency and cyber crime / child pornography. Member States could still volunteer to join the groups. Europol takes part in all forerunning groups. Norway and the accession states will also participate.

It was urged to draft the action plans and start the field work so that results could be obtained and COSPOL could be further improved by learning lessons from experience with it. In that framework, the conditions for setting up joint investigation teams should be defined to ensure an operational follow-up of the work.

Generally, in view of the risks of duplication and bureaucratisation, it was stressed that existing tools, instruments, structures and bodies (AWF's, JIT's, liaison officers) should be used to their fullest extent, and especially Europol, which should be a key player in the whole process. It was reminded that a quick ratification of the Protocol to the Europol Convention would also allow Europol to participate in JIT's.

Attention was drawn to the fact that, where necessary and appropriate, the judicial input (e.g. through Eurojust) should be taken care of early on in the process.

Opinions diverged on whether the Council should be asked to validate the choice of targets or that it would be more appropriate to just inform the Council in these operational matters. A majority of delegations was of the opinion that this methodology should be embedded in the decision process of the Union, while certain delegations thought that decisions on operational matters should be left to the Police Chiefs. It was concluded that the Presidency would submit a communication to the Council, leaving it to the Council's discretion how to respond to it.

Timetable of COSPOL 1

- Till 22 October 2004 notification to the Dutch Presidency:
 - drivers to be nominated by coordinating MS
 - nomination of contact persons in the forerunner countries
- 22 October – 22 November 2004:
 - Nominated drivers fully briefed by Europol experts
 - Meeting with forerunner countries organised by drivers and supported by Dutch Presidency. (Purpose: briefing of participating forerunners, gathering input for action plans and nominating possible co-drivers.)
- 22-24 November 2004 seminar organised by Dutch Presidency (participants: drivers, co-drivers and Europol experts):
 - Developing and drafting of action plans
- 2nd week of December 2004:
 - Drivers will discuss the action plans with the forerunner countries
 - Action plans to be further developed and prepared
- 3rd week of January 2005:
 - Second seminar for drivers organised by the Dutch Presidency
 - Action plans will be put together and composed to a coherent plan to be presented to the EPCTF under Luxembourg Presidency in March 2005
- First weeks of February 2005 :
 - Action plans presented to the Deputies, Heads of OC departments for advise
- March 2005:
 - COSPOL 1 Action Plans to be presented to the EPCTF for agreement.

2. Joint Investigation Teams

Gert Vermeulen, professor at University Ghent and member of the Scientific Advisory Board JIT-Research, gave a presentation of the preliminary scientific report on the JIT concerning trafficking of human beings in relation to Bulgaria. It would appear that several problems have to be overcome to make the JIT work smoothly.

While recognising that constraints exist, the meeting urged that the potential of this very valuable and useful instrument should be used more and more so that experience could show whether and which improvements (operational and/or legal) might be necessary. The European Commission and Eurojust called on the European heads of police to do whatever there is within their power to urge their governments to adjust the national legislation to Article 13 of the EU Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance and to the Framework Decision of the EU Council on joint investigation teams.

It was urged that a JIT based on Article 13 of the Convention is only one, although an important and promising one, of the many possibilities of joint action, and that it is most important to streamline all existing manifestations of joint action and to bring them on a higher level of organisation and transparency. Countries having used JIT's already or other examples of joint action were, therefore, invited to share their experience, preferably through Europol, so that others could also learn from it.

It was agreed that the EPCTF should continue to monitor the use of JIT's and to that end a working group, in close cooperation with Europol, might ensure that all existing knowledge be gathered and made available in the JIT-manual as the JIT-concept is expected to become an important instrument in Cospol.

3. European Football Championships 2004

The Portuguese delegation reported on the security measures at the European Football Championships held in Portugal in June – July 2004. It was stressed that a firm and pro-active but low-profile and friendly police presence had greatly contributed to the success of the event, together with preventive measures, including international travel bans, spotting etc.

An academic team that did a field research of the event, corroborated these findings and recommended that this combination of intelligence-led and community policing approach be used in future. Professor Otto Adang, liaised to the University of Liverpool and to the Police Academy of the Netherlands and supervisor of the field research, gave a presentation on the work of the academic team.

The lessons learned from the Euro 2004 should be included in the relevant handbooks.

4. CEPOL

On the request of Cepol Governing Board EPCTf considered priorities and asgreed on the following.

- to train the trainers
- to improve knowledge and competences of the top management in the approach of TOPSPOC and the European Study Tour
- to develop special courses for the leadership of investigations of organised crime in mixed groups
- more specific: to tackle responsibility for education and coaching of COSPOL drivers
- to develop training for all levels on Joint Investigation Teams
- to develop training activities and harmonised curricula of important topics/fields which are on the agenda for EPCTF.

Moreover, it was agreed that CEPOL would develop competency profiles for senior police officers as regards cross-border police cooperation, in close cooperation with EPCTF. Presidencies of EPCTF and CEPOL will initiate the follow-up.

Furthermore, the meeting took note of the information and presentation on the European Police Learning Net (EPLN), being a most efficient tool to establish (protected) internet communities for expert groups and COSPOL forerunner groups.

5. CIVPOL

The meeting took note of the explanations given by the Presidency on the European Gendarmerie Force and the role of police in peacekeeping and peace building missions (CIVPOL) and more specifically on the seminar on civil crisis management of 25 October 2004.

It was agreed that this subject would be discussed at least once a year by the EPCTF.

Furthermore, attention was drawn to the training seminars already organised by CEPOL on this issue (over 200 officers were trained during nine seminars) and the need to continue this work so as to develop a common approach on CIVPOL.

6. Role and Position EPCTF

After a thorough discussion EPCTF concluded that its role and function preferably should be made clear by a decision from the Council, stating that:

1. There is a European Police Chiefs Task Force (EPCTF) composed of the national Heads of Police, being the most high positioned officials, responsible for operational policing.
2. In Member States not having a unified police system one of the most high positioned officials responsible for operational policing, will be appointed by Member States government to act as such within the EPCTF, and will be provided with due competencies within the Member States police system.

3. The tasks of the EPCTF are:

- a. to give effect to the political priorities of JHA-council, to consider strategic-operational priorities in the European dimension of policing and to advise the Council on it;
- b. to take responsibility for the operational planning within the European dimension of policing as well as for the contributions by the law enforcement agencies in the Member States in the execution of their planning;
- c. to strengthen the role of Europol, to make Europol the real European Intelligence Center for crime control, security and other common operational matters;
- d. to stimulate cooperation and cohesion in the field of law enforcement, policing and security;
- e. to promote high professional common standards in policing;
- f. to report to the Council half yearly;
- g. to address the Council with advice on matters within this mandate ever when needed;
- h. to make the regulations and provisions for the effective and efficient functioning of the EPCTF as the EPCTF finds to needed and to inform the Council about those.

The presidency concluded that the EPCTF does need a support function with due continuity in order to work more efficient and effective. There is no doubt whatsoever that the Council's Secretariat is the entrance to the Council and the Council's structures, as well as there is no doubt that Europol has the skills and tools to do the operational support work. The Presidency, together with the incoming Luxembourg Presidency, will consider to set up a small unit to guarantee continuity of support for EPCTF.

The Presidency submits a communication to the Council on the conclusions on role and position EPCTF.

7. Any Other Business

The meeting gave its support to the initiatives concerning:

- A. The illicit trafficking of firearms: To make efforts to have the national firearm expert joining the network of expert contact points and to contribute to a High Impact Operation in due time.
- B. Eurocrime: To disseminate the information regarding the Eurocrime project to the attention of the national authorities dealing with wanted notices by the public media.
- C. Crimestoppers: To disseminate the information regarding the conference next year on Crimestoppers to those who might be interested or concerned in your country and to make it possible for them to assist with this conference in due time.
- D. EU Police Code of Ethics: To take responsibility regarding an implementation strategy in case the Council decides to draw up a EU Police Code of Ethics.
- E. Diversity: To endorse the aim to combat any kind of exclusion within the police forces (whether based on gender, sexual orientation, race or any other grounds) and a vast majority will provide support to the networks and associations dealing with these matters.
- F. Community Policing: To make it possible for the national expert to join the Consultative Group to develop a Manual of Good Practice in Community Policing and to come together for the first time on October 27th and 28th 2004.

8. Contingency Plan in case of Emergency Events

The meeting generally endorsed the proposal to set up a working group to consider the management of a crisis in one of the Member States as a follow-up of the conclusions of the Madrid report. In view of the numerous initiatives and players already present in this field, notably Europol and Interpol, it was agreed that the working group would report to the next meeting of the EPCTF on the following terms of reference:

- a. An inventory of the actions needed on the European level after a possible terrorist attack.
- b. An inventory of the gaps still to remain after having analysed the current situation.
- c. An advice if and to what extent provisions have to be taken by the EPCTF.

The presidency will send out the invitations for the working group to all member states on short term.

9. Olympic Games

The Greek delegation gave an overview of the extensive security measures taken before and during the Olympic Games, such as the set-up of an Olympic Intelligence Centre and a comprehensive management, control and coordination model, the thorough preparations for all kind of scenarios, the scrupulous adherence to the Security Handbook and Guidelines drawn up beforehand for the cooperation with other Member States. The Greek authorities would be happy to share the experience and know-how they have acquired with their partners.

The meeting congratulated the Greek authorities with the successful event, whereby the security demands were met without spoiling the festive atmosphere of the Games.

It was agreed that the lessons learned from the Olympic Games should be included in the relevant handbooks and they will be taken into account by Member States organising forthcoming big sports events, like the Olympic Winter Games 2006 (Italy), the World Football Championships 2006 (Germany), and the European Football Championships 2008 (Austria and Switzerland).

10. Partnership CTG / Seminar recruitment

The Chair reported on the meeting of the Troika with the CTG. The EPCTF agreed to continue to have such meetings.

Furthermore, the results of the conference on recruitment and radicalisation, held on 27 – 29 September 2004 were discussed. The UK brought forward that simplifications should be avoided, that these issues cannot be described in a linear and static way, as it is the UK's experience that radicalisation does not necessarily lead to terrorism. The report of the conference would be adapted accordingly.

There was very broad support for the appeal of the Irish delegation to focus on the potential of the police officer in the field in the fight against terrorism. To maximise this underused resource, it is necessary to clarify to these officers what is required from them, i.e. soft intelligence coming from the lowest level, closest to the concerned communities. There is no need for the EPCTF to get involved in the specialised areas dealing with the fight against terrorism as they are well covered by the many other bodies dealing with anti-terrorism.

11. Atlas

A short presentation was given on the aims and work of Atlas, the network of special intervention units of the Member States' police forces.

The meeting re-affirmed the need for cooperation between these units, to exchange best practices, techniques, procedures, organise joint training etc. as was requested by the EPCTF in 2001.

However, it was suggested that the proposed "Convention" be turned into a less formal and internal document, in which the Atlas network could draw up its own rules of procedures and organisational arrangements. The Presidency will see to the follow-up.

The meeting stressed the need for a secure communication network and, in that framework, welcomed the efforts of Europol in this matter.

The 10th Meeting of the EPCTF was completed with a theoretical as well as a practical demonstration of one of these special intervention units in the harbour of Rotterdam.

The 11th EPCTF Meeting will be held in Luxembourg on 17 and 18 March 2005.
