



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from : Council secretariat

Subject : Outcome of the EU-US Ministerial Troika on Justice and Home Affairs held in Vienna on 3 May 2006

Delegations in the meeting were led by :

on EU side :

Austria : Liese Prokop (Minister of Interior) and Karin Gastinger (Minister of Justice)
Finland : Kari Rajamäki (Minister of Interior) and Leena Luhtanen (Minister of Justice)
European Commission : Franco Frattini (Vice-President, Commissioner)
Council Secretariat : Ivan Bizjak (General Director)

on US side :

Alberto Gonzales (Attorney General) and Michael Jackson (Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security)

1 Visa reciprocity

The EU Presidency emphasised that the issue of Visa reciprocity has become a crucial element in the relations between the EU and the US. The Commission recalled that the EU is to be considered as an entity which means that the interests of the new Member states should be safeguarded as well without delay.

The Vice-President of the Commission recalled that he is expected to report to the Council in June on the progress achieved so far, in particular in implementing the commitment made by US President George W. Bush according to which a road map will be set to describe the process towards a visa-free situation for the new Member States. **DELETED**

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2. Document security

- e-passports

The EU side has sketched the technical and financial efforts made by the EU Member States to reach a high level of document security, **DELETED**

- Lost and stolen passports

DELETED

3. Counter terrorism

- Radicalisation and Recruitment

The EU has sketched the key elements of the EU CT strategy adopted by the European Council in December 2005 and the subsequent Action Plan. **DELETED**

- Critical infrastructure

The Presidency has sketched the efforts of the EU, starting from the EPCIP programme adopted in December 2005, both in the field of the protection of critical infrastructure and with respect to consequence management

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- Counter-terrorism and Human Rights

The EU side stated that our response to terrorism should always be based on and legitimated by our commitment to essential values like democracy and respect of fundamental rights. **DELETED**

4. EU-US MLA and Extradition Agreements

Delegations reviewed the state of signature of the bilateral instruments and ratification of the MLA and Extradition agreements as sketched in the Council secretariat's overview. It was envisaged that after the signature of the last bilateral instruments, a public event could launch the period of ratification that will follow.

5. EU-US operational cooperation

- OCTA and operational cooperation with Europol

The EU presented the new Organised Crime Threat Assessment which for the first times gives a forward-looking analysis of organised crime. The OCTA reports distinguishes four categories of OC groups and distinguishes several criminal "markets". **DELETED**

- Negotiation of a cooperation agreement with Eurojust

Both sides reiterated their will to reach an agreement between Eurojust and its US counterparts.

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- Eventually cooperation in the field of law enforcement training

The EU and the US side welcomed efforts made on both sides to promote cooperation in the field of law enforcement training. It was referred to a new training module in the US and to contacts between CEPOL and the FBI training department.

6. Proposal for a Framework Decision on the Protection of Personal Data in Police and Judicial cooperation matters

On-going work on a Framework Decision on Data protection in the third pillar was sketched.

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7. International Cooperation concerning Pandemic Influenza

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8. EU-Strategy for the External Dimension of JHA : Global Freedom, Security and Justice

The EU introduced the JHA External relations strategy it adopted last year and sketched the implementation efforts made, for instance by preparing Action Oriented Papers with respect to the Western Balkans and to Afghanistan (and drugs).

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