



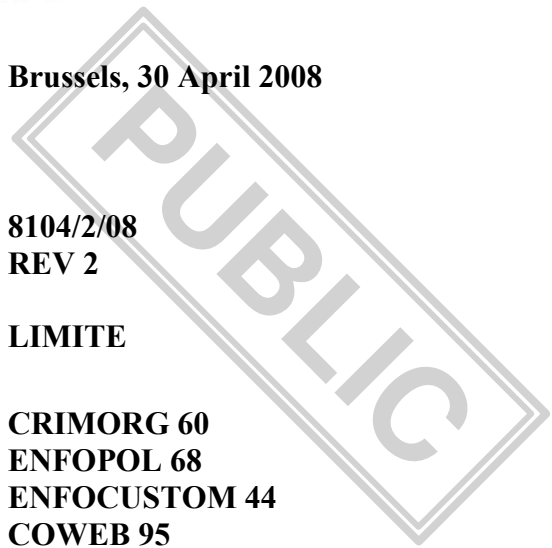
**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 30 April 2008

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LIMITE

**CRIMORG 60
ENFOPOL 68
ENFOCUSTOM 44
COWEB 95**



NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Multidisciplinary Group on Organised Crime

Subject: Draft Council Conclusions on the assistance to produce a common threat
assessment on organised crime for South East European region

In accordance with the outcome of the conference "Strengthening the cooperation in the fight against serious crime - Contribution of regional OCTAs to security in Europe", which was held Vienna on 26-27 March 2008, the Presidency has presented the attached Council Conclusions on the assistance to produce a common threat assessment on organised crime for South East European region.

Following the discussion at the MDG meeting of 14 April and the JHA Counsellors meeting of 30 April 2008, these draft Council conclusions have been further redrafted.

Council conclusions of
.....2008

**on the assistance to produce a common threat assessment on organised crime
for South East European region**

The Council of the European Union,

Considering that, as is demonstrated by the Organised Crime Threat Assessment Report (OCTA), organised crime groups linked to certain regions constitute a serious threat to the security of the European Union and its Member States.

Taking into account that the ministers of Western Balkans States and other delegations present unanimously supported the development of a common threat assessment for the South East Europe region at the 7th Ministerial Conference at Brdo on 4 October 2007 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Brdo Process').

Taking into account the conclusions of the initiative conference "Strengthening the cooperation in the fight against serious crime - Contribution of regional OCTAs to security in Europe" organized by the Slovenian Presidency in co-operation with Austria on 26 and 27 March 2008 in Vienna (hereinafter referred to as the 'initiative conference'), where senior representatives of Member States, Western Balkan states, Turkey, international organizations and EU agencies and institutions supported the idea of developing a common threat assessment for the South East European region (hereinafter referred to as the "SEE threat assessment").

Recalling that, in December 2005, the Council endorsed a strategy for the external dimension of Justice and Home Affairs, calling for action -oriented papers in order to improve "co-operation on organised crime, corruption, illegal immigration and counter-terrorism between the EU, Western Balkans and relevant ENP countries".

Recalling that, with regard to organised crime in the Western Balkans, the Action -Oriented Paper on Improving Cooperation, on Organised Crime, Corruption, Illegal Immigration and Counter-terrorism, between the EU, Western Balkans and relevant ENP countries called for improved information and intelligence -sharing, which should enhance the quality -of- threat assessments, thereby making it easier to identify priorities and target assistance in fighting organised crime, corruption, illegal immigration and terrorism.

Welcoming the Western Balkans States approach to identify and implement priorities based on an overall assessment, using common European methodology.

Noting the need for Europol and the Member States' law enforcement authorities to collate all relevant information on organised crime in the Western Balkans which impacts on Member States in order to obtain a more comprehensive and detailed assessment of the specific threats to be used for intelligence-based law enforcement operations. (...)

Invites all interested Member States to cooperate in the process of developing the SECI Center's analytical capacities.

Calls upon Commission to support the SECI Center and Western Balkan states within the framework of available resources to enhance analytical capabilities.

Calls upon Europol to support SECI Center within the framework of available resources in drafting the first SEE threat assessment, foreseen for the first quarter of 2009 on the basis of national reports of the Western Balkan states.

Calls upon Europol to inform the Council at least once during each Presidency on the state -of- play regarding the development of the SEE threat assessment. Depending on the results achieved, the SEE threat assessment may be used as a source for OCTA or other specific Europol's products and its contribution may be reflected in the EU priorities based on OCTA.
