COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

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NOTE

from:	Presidency
to:	JHA Counsellors / COSI Support Group
	Standing Committee on operational cooperation on internal security (COSI)
Subject:	Draft Council Conclusions on strengthening the internal security authorities' involvement in security-related research and industrial policy

Delegations will find in Annex draft Council Conclusions on strengthening the internal security authorities' involvement in security-related research and industrial policy, amended based on Member States' comments and the outcome of the COSI SG of 4 February.

The current version elaborates on the Member States-driven option 1 and aims to clarify that the watch function proposed in these conclusions is an informal and voluntary arrangement within the ENLETS framework. At the same time, the necessary commitment must be guaranteed, using synergies between the expert's tasks at national level and his/her "EU task" but also allowing the necessary extra time needed for the "EU tasks".

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Draft Council Conclusions

on strengthening the internal security authorities' involvement in security-related research and industrial policy

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING the Internal Security Strategy[1] which contained a commitment to innovation as one of the strategic guidelines for action and underlined the need *to work together to promote and develop new technologies through a common approach as well as cutting costs and increasing efficiency. In the field of technology, it is also important for the public and private sectors to work together. Building upon the outcome of research and development projects conducted under the Joint Research and Development Programme, the EU should develop technological standards and platforms tailored to its security needs,*

NOTING that the threats to the EU's security are constantly evolving and that crime is increasingly diversified which requires the law enforcement community to be proficient,

RECOGNISING the importance of using modern and adequate technologies in the field of internal security which necessitates an increased involvement of internal security authorities in research and a proactive involvement with suppliers of modern security technologies,

RECALLING the Commission's Communication "Security Industrial policy - Action Plan for an innovative and competitive Security Industry"[2] which aims at overcoming market fragmentation, reducing the gap from research to market, in particular by using tools such as pre-commercial procurement, and better integrating the societal dimension,

RECOGNISING the importance of the European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Services[3] (ENLETS) which was set up in 2008 under the French Presidency of the Council with the aim of gathering user requirements, scanning and raising awareness of new technology and best practices, benchmarking and giving advice,

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[1] Doc. 7120/10
[2] Doc. 13050/12
[3] Doc. 5629/08

UNDERLINING that the ENLETS if properly supported could further enhance proper coordination between Member states for public procurement and become a leading European platform for strengthening the internal security authorities' involvement in security-related research and industrial policy and thus bridging the gap between the end users and providers of law enforcement technologies,

ACKNOWLEDGING that Member States should increase their support to the ENLETS as also mentioned by the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator in his annual report on the implementation of the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy (doc. 16471/12):
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CONSCIOUS that not all Member States have set up a service within their internal security authorities that is dedicated to the research and development of security related issues, and that the JHA Agencies within the terms of their mandate have developed different approaches to research and development,

WELCOMING the realisations by Frontex in the field of research and development, notably in the framework of the European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR) project, and the creation by Europol of the Europol Platform of Experts (EPE),

CONSIDERING that pooling EU resources into an "security technology watch function" could increase the EU's capacity to better anticipate future technologies and lead to important cost savings,

BEARING IN MIND that the FP7[4] Security theme was allocated a budget of EUR 1.4 billion for the period 2007-2013 and that the Member States' internal security authorities could contribute to enhancing an effective use of the available funds,

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[4]   the 7th EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP 7)

CONCLUDES that it is necessary to create an security technology watch function within the ENLETS framework[5] **in order to ensure a better and effective involvement of the end users of the internal security authorities in the EU's security-related research and industrial policy, a closer cooperation among these authorities as well as to scan the horizon for emerging technologies**

ENTRUSTS that the Core Group will be the EU technology watch function for internal security research and industrial policy with the following tasks,

- monitor closely the development of new technologies and ensure an proactive involvement with research institutes and industry,
- develop an EU overview of the internal security authorities' user needs for the research institutes and industry,
- spread innovative ideas and projects in the Member States and Agencies,
- compile a compendium of the accumulated knowledge, experiences and best practices of Member States and JHA Agencies in this field,
- explore funding opportunities and use ENLETS to ensure that internal security authorities follow-them up on cooperation with research and industry,

CONCLUDES that in order to carry out these tasks the Core Group should
- serve as the central contact point for the Member States' law enforcement technology services,
- serve as the central contact point for the Commission's relevant services, in particular the Joint Research Centre
- serve as the EU's central end users contact point for technology suppliers,
- closely cooperate with Frontex and Europol,
- distribute relevant information and requests for information from the above bodies to ENLETS
- prepare proposals and joint initiatives for the ENLETS meeting,
- regularly report on its activities to the ENLETS,
- report on ENLETS meetings and work to the relevant EU Council bodies,

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[5] The Security Technology Watch Function will be integrated into the Core Group.

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES:

- to join the ENLETS network as far as they have not yet done so, and to nominate a National Contact Point (NCP) to the ENLETS network with the necessary competences, resources and knowledge,
- to ensure adequate representation at the Core Group to execute its function,
- to ensure that experts in the Core Group are given sufficient time and resources dedicated for their function,
- to request access for their NCPs to the Europol Platform for Experts which would serve as a platform for the dissemination of information concerning new technologies,
- to ensure a close coordination between the Heads of Delegation of the Law Enforcement Working Party, COSI and ENLETS,
- to promote further the use of ENLETS both nationally and internationally,
- to intensify the co-operation between public authorities and the private sector.

INVITES THE COMMISSION:

- to consider the organisation of regular meetings between the law enforcement community, the Commission Services and the technology suppliers,
- to devote the necessary resources to the relevant services dealing with security-related research and industrial policy and attract attention of services to engage with several national authorities on these issues,
- to enhance the use of the "pre commercial procurement" instrument and to devote the necessary security research budget to this instrument,
- to participate, where relevant, in the activities of the Core Group.

INVITES THE AGENCIES

- to support the activities of the ENLETS and in particular the security technology watch function,
- to participate, where relevant, in the activities of the Core Group.

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