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**NOTE**

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From: Presidency  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council  
Subject: Follow-up on the implementation of the EU priorities in combatting serious and organised international crime

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The EU area of security is by and large the sum of Member States' internal security situation. Member States' approaches, resources and interactions in the fight against serious and organised crime therefore directly influence the EU internal security.

The "EU policy cycle against serious and organised international crime" was set up in 2010 as an intelligence-led methodology for better articulating Member States actions as well as the EU support measures in this field. It is fair to say that the results of the first 2-year cycle (2011-2013) and of the recently started 4-year cycle (2014-2017) are, while partial, nonetheless promising.

The Joint Action Days, organised from 15 to 23 September 2014 in the framework of the current policy cycle, involved law enforcement officers from all 28 EU Member States as well as Australia, Colombia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and the USA (ICE and CBP).

An in-depth operational debriefing will be carried out in the coming days and weeks with a view to drawing lessons and further improving this kind of cooperation. In addition and taking into account the presentation that will be provided to the Council about the results of the operation, the Presidency wishes to take this opportunity to reflect at ministerial level on Member States' role and input in the EU's fight against serious and organised crime, and in particular the setting of crime priorities and possibilities to effectively bring together resources at EU level.

## **1. Priority-setting**

The EU priorities for the fight against serious and organised crime are defined, in accordance with the policy cycle methodology, by the Council. The current priorities were set in June 2013<sup>1</sup> to be implemented from 2014 till 2017.

How far have these priorities been linked up with national crime priorities, both in defining the EU priorities and in implementing these EU priorities through national actions ? Do Ministers have suggestions to improve these links, at national or at EU level ?

## **2. Resources**

The EU has put in place resources in the fight against serious and organised crime, in particular the agencies and the Internal Security Fund, but these resources remain limited and only have a support function. The bulk of the workload rests on Member States' shoulders because the resources in the field to bring about the EU area of security are Member States' resources.

The EU policy cycle has set up mechanisms that allow Member States to contribute to EU level operational activities while retaining national control over resources.

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. 12095/13

The recent example of the Joint Action Days but also Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce (J-CAT) in the field of cybercrime and the Mare Nostrum operation in respect of illegal immigration demonstrate that cooperative working of Member States' resources supported by EU means on a larger scale than hitherto seen is both possible and effective, while they would have been unimaginable even 5 years ago.

Are Ministers willing to drive this onward and forward? If so, how can policy cycle participants be empowered to deliver this ? What measures can be taken at EU level, including by the agencies, to support this further so that Member States in turn develop the EU internal security?

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