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NOTE

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| From: | Presidency |
| To: | Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security |
| No. prev. doc.: | DS 1397/15 |
| Subject: | Discussion paper EU Policy Cycle |

Taking into account the Presidency's report of the NEC meeting of 28 and 29 May 2015 and the Europol Director's report on the implementation of the EU Policy Cycle in the first half of 2015, the Presidency would like to draw COSI's attention to a number of topics in order to further improve work within the EU Policy Cycle. Although steady progress is being made, some topics need to be addressed properly in order for the work to evolve to the next level.

The Presidency encourages delegations to take their national experience into account when providing their guidance on the issues identified.

- How do delegations evaluate the overall awareness of and participation in the EU Policy Cycle and EMPACT in the Member States and at the EU level? What shortcomings can be identified and what would be the way forward to address them in order to ensure a better awareness and participation in the EU Policy Cycle? What role do delegations see for COSI in this regard?
- Delegations are invited to reflect on how the progress and achievements of the EMPACT projects are measured so far. Delegations are also invited to exchange views on how to ensure that reports and assessments on progress, carried out through a regular monitoring process, are more analysis and results orientated.

- Although progress towards a more multi-disciplinary approach can be observed, there is still a clear need for improvement.

Delegations are invited to reflect on how to achieve a better progress. What issues delegations regard as the most urgent ones and how should they be addressed? Delegations are also invited to consider the possibility to instruct Drivers and participants of OAPs to include in the OAPs 2016 more of those actions which clearly reflect the multidisciplinary approach.

- Another important emerging issue is the lack of making use of financial investigations and asset recovery techniques.

Delegations are invited to consider the possibility to instruct the Drivers and participants of OAPs to ensure an increased and a better use of financial investigations and asset recovery techniques in the OAPs 2016.

- At the NEC meetings there have been repeated calls to strengthen the NEC's role in practice.

In view of COSI – what are the main impediments and what should be done in order to improve the situation?

- Today there are still considerable differences regarding Driver's performance and the commitment of non-Driver participants. It is clear that drivership is rapidly becoming a full time commitment.

In view of COSI – what should be done to improve the situation and to better support the Drivers?

- During the NEC meeting the idea was raised to start measuring the impact of the EU Policy Cycle on national level as well as reporting on national results.

Do delegations agree on the need for such an assessment and if so, how could it be possibly done without creating a burdensome approach?

The Presidency believes that these reflections would be of an added value also in light of the upcoming independent evaluation to be elaborated by the European Commission and the Member States, as stated in the Council conclusions on the creation and implementation of a EU Policy Cycle for organized and serious international crime.¹

¹ 15359/10