**Council of the European Union**

Brussels, 23 November 2015
(OR. en)

**14244/15**

**LIMITE**

**COSI 148**
**ENFOPOL 355**

## NOTE

| | |
|---|---|
| From: | Europol |
| To: | Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security |
| Subject: | Enhancing counter terrorism capabilities at EU level: European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC) at Europol and counter terrorism related information sharing |

Delegations will find enclosed a Europol report on "enhancing counter terrorism capabilities at EU level: European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC) at Europol and counter terrorism related information sharing".

The Hague, 17 November 2015

802268v7

**Enhancing counter terrorism capabilities at EU level:**

**European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC) at Europol and**

**counter terrorism related information sharing**

**Update**

## 1.    Aim

This report aims at providing a response to the conclusions from the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council of 8/9 October 2015, requesting Europol to report to Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) in November 2015 and the JHA Council in December 2015, about the progress concerning counter terrorism related information exchange, and in particular Focal Point (FP) Travellers, as well as the development of the European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC) at Europol.

A specific section has been included in the report to reflect the developments regarding the support activities in relation to the investigations following the terror attacks in Paris.

## 2. Political and security policy related background

- The JHA Council of <u>12 March 2015</u>[1] identified four immediate counter terrorism related priority areas, namely the:

  1. Increase of information sharing and operational coordination;

  2. A reinforced application of the Schengen framework including border controls;

  3. An enhanced fight against illicit trafficking of firearms.

  4. A European response to establish internet referral capabilities with a view to preventing radicalization and related propaganda activities;

- The JHA Council of <u>15/16 June 2015</u> reviewed, on the basis of a report from the Presidency and the EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator (EU CTC)[2], the progress achieved and exchanged ideas on taking the agreed priorities forward.

- The JHA Council of <u>15/16 June 2015</u> also adopted conclusions on the renewed European Union Internal Security Strategy (EU ISS) 2015-2020[3].

- The European Commission's European Agenda on Security (EAS)[4] highlighted that "tackling and preventing terrorism, radicalisation to terrorism and recruitment as well as financing related to terrorism" constitutes a key priority for the EU's internal security interests in the coming years[5].

---

[1]    6891/15
[2]    9422/1/15 REV 1, 9418/1/15 REV 1
[3]    9798/15
[4]    8293/15
[5]    8293/15

The JHA Council requested COSI to develop an implementation plan for the EU ISS 2015-2020 by <u>December 2015</u>.

- The outline of the implementation plan[6], prepared by the Presidency for the COSI-CATS[7] meeting at the end of <u>July 2015</u>, ascribes COSI the task to "monitor the establishment of the European Counter Terrorism Centre and the Internet Referral Unit within the ECTC at Europol".

- The JHA Council meeting of <u>8/9 October 2015</u> agreed to the actions set out in the note from the Presidency/EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator (EU CTC)[8]:

  "Member States are encouraged to increase contributions to Focal Point Travellers to the maximum possible extent. Europol is asked to report to COSI in November and at the December Council about progress related to information exchange, in particular Focal Point Travellers. Europol is invited to report to COSI in November and the Council in December about the establishment of the European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC)."

- On <u>13 November 2015</u>, Paris was hit by an unprecedented wave of terror attacks. The Presidency called for an extraordinary COSI meeting on 16 November 2015 to discuss the strategic repose to the terror attacks. A note[9] from the Presidency/EU CTC was circulated for that purpose.

---

[6]   10854/15
[7]   The Council's Coordinating Committee in the area of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters (CATS)
[8]   12551/15  + COR 1
[9]   14122/15

## 3. Further development of the ECTC and information sharing

### 3.1. Overall aspects: Rationale of the ECTC

The significant number of EU citizens engaged as suspected 'foreign terrorist fighters' in Syria and Iraq, the terrorist attacks in the EU and worldwide, and most recently on 13 November 2015 in Paris, underline the scale and complexity of the current terrorist threat in Europe. There is also a massive increase in the use of social media for radicalisation purposes, through terrorist and violent extremist propaganda, as well as a new dimension of cyber terrorist attack scenarios.

Against this background, an effective response requires enhanced cross-border cooperation between relevant counter-terrorist authorities, supported by a pro-active EU central information hub at Europol. This implies a more complex burden of responsibility for the organisation, alongside the need for optimum resource efficiency. Accordingly, Europol identified the need to refine Europol's internal organisational design, in the form of a European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC) at Europol, to take up activities by 1 January 2016.

The ECTC operates within Europol's existing (regulatory) framework and organisational structure, as well as already available resources (i.e. Europol's business area for counter terrorism), to provide benefits and operational added value to the activities of MS' competent authorities, in line with the political counter terrorism priority setting, reaffirmed by the EU ISS 2015-2020 which was concluded by the JHA Council of 15/16 June 2015. The profile of the ECTC, as consulted with the Europol Management Board (MB), is enclosed (Annex).

The foundation of the work of the ECTC is to engender trust and raise awareness among national counter terrorism authorities about existing cooperation instruments at EU level, in order to increase the visibility of Europol's related services and tools, thus maximising operational, technical and overall information exchange capabilities in the area of counter terrorism.

| 3.2. | Information sharing: Key developments |
|---|---|

Based on the political and operational priority setting of EU MS as summarised above, the following is noted by Europol:

- <u>Use of SIENA as a channel of communication for counter terrorism authorities</u>

  By November 2015, 14 EU MS had connected counter terrorism authorities to the Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) hosted by Europol. Terrorism crime related information and intelligence exchange accounted for 7% of the messages exchanged via SIENA in Q3 2015 (for Q2 2015 this figure was 7%; for Q1 2015 is was 5%).

  Mid October 2015, with the new release of SIENA 2.8, a dedicated area for counter terrorism authorities was created in SIENA. This counter terrorism area allows direct bilateral and multilateral communication between counter terrorism authorities of MS and third parties with an operational cooperation agreement (e.g. US, Australia, Canada). Europol's counter terrorism business area can also be addressed in this dedicated environment of SIENA.

  The solution allows counter terrorism authorities to communicate with each other. In cases where counter terrorism authorities communicate directly with Europol, the respective ENU(s) is notified, with a view to complying with the concerned provisions of the Europol Council Decision (ECD). The key advantage is that through SIENA the relevant counter terrorism Focal Points (FPs) can be directly reached for analysis purposes.

  A survey was circulated to MS to obtain the configuration requirements for the counter terrorism units that intend to make use of SIENA – First mailboxes in the dedicated counter terrorism area in SIENA have been created. Third parties will be addressed in due course.

The upgrade of SIENA to 'EU Confidential' is envisaged for the release of SIENA 3.0. The proposed implementation design was received well by the Security Committee of Europol. Deployment is envisaged in Q3 2016 or earlier as far as possible. This also involves MS to prepare their national networks in order to use SIENA at 'EU Confidential' level. Efforts are undertaken to secure funding from the Internal Security Fund (ISF) – P (Police) for these upgrades.

The use of this new specific counter terrorism SIENA area was also offered to all member countries of Police Working Group on Terrorism (PWGT)[10], as its present communication system has reached the end of its life-cycle. All PWGT member countries are connected to SIENA at Europol, thus SIENA provides a business continuity tool for the related information exchange of the PWGT.

During the last PWGT meeting on 11 November 2015, the German counter terrorism authorities suggested to procure, in future, a communication system for possible information exchange instances beyond 'EU Confidential' through SIENA, i.e. at the level of 'EU Secret'. Europol is committed to accommodate this additional business need for the PWGT, i.e. to host a communication system at the level of 'EU Secret', with a view to providing a central solution at EU level. In the meantime, SIENA can provide business continuity to the PWGT in 2016 and beyond.

- Use of the Europol Information System (EIS)

At the end of December 2014, 18 foreign terrorist fighters had been inserted into the EIS by 2 Member States (MS). By the end of April 2015, 1131 foreign fighters were inserted by 11 MS, 3 third parties and Interpol. By the end of Q3 2015, there were a total of 1.527 foreign terrorist fighters whose details had been inserted into the EIS by 14 MS, 5 third parties and Interpol. By 13 November 2015, the figure has increased further, to 1595 foreign terrorist fighters (provided by the same contributors as per the status in September 2015).

---

[10]    All EU MS, Switzerland, Norway and Iceland

An overall increase of terrorism-related content in the EIS can also be noted. By the end of Q3 2015, the EIS contained 3.732 objects linked to terrorism, which is an increase by 21%, compared to the same type of objects at the end of Q2 2015. By 13 November 2015, there were 4.307 objects related to terrorism, representing a further increase of over 15% since Q3 2015.

- Terrorist Financing Tracking Programme (TFTP) – Fighting terrorist financing activities

The value of the TFTP in the area of counter terrorist financing activities remains high. Overall, to date, more than 14.500 intelligence leads have been generated by the TFTP since it came into force in 2010.

In 2014 (from the overall figures), a significantly growing number of requests relating to the phenomenon of travelling fighters (Syria/Iraq/IS) was noted. By the end of 2014, 35 requests were sent by Europol and MS, generating 937 intelligence leads of relevance to 11 MS.

Since January 2015, 50 contributions were submitted by the US authorities and 112 requests were sent by MS and Europol, with a total, to date, of 7.514 intelligence leads in 2015, of relevance to 28 MS. This now includes 72 exchanges within TFTP concerning travelling fighters (Syria/Iraq/IS), leading to 2.765 leads specific to this phenomenon (of relevance to 27 MS in 2015). In addition, many leads have also been processed in support of the investigation into the Paris attacks.

In the context of making use of SIENA for counter terrorism related information exchange (see above), it noteworthy that in the application of the TFTP, only key information on the mechanism of the programme is classified as 'EU Secret' (related to Article 4 of the EU-US TFTP Agreement). Since 2010 when the agreement came into force, all individual information requests have been processed with the US authorities by making use of SIENA (at the level of 'EU Restricted').

From a strategic perspective, it should be noted that the scope of the EU-US TFTP Agreement does not include any Single European Payments Area (SEPA) related financial transactions. The integration of the network of Financial Intelligence Units (FIU.NET) into Europol is expected to support a comprehensive response against terrorist financing acti-vities.

- <u>Increased use of Focal Point (FP) Firearms</u>

FP Firearms has so far received 3.089 contributions, relating to around 625 investigative cases, involving about 34.618 firearms, 28.741 individuals and around 3.216 (suspicious) companies. Contact data include 46.000 telephone numbers, 298 websites and around 7.000 e-mail addresses.

Since January 2015, FP Firearms has received 1.719 contributions, accounting for 56% of the overall amount of contributions received (3.089) to date.

Regarding terrorism, Europol supported several investigations (Charlie Hebdo, Thalys case etc.) as well as a recent case concerning a suspected jihadist aiming to introduce explosive material next to Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) into the EU.

FP Firearms, supported by the European Cyber Crime Centre (EC3) of Europol, was also active against trafficking of firearms in the darknet and the (open) internet. An EMPACT[11] workshop was organised in June 2015, investigations are now under preparation. Also within the context of the Operational Action Plan (OAP) 2016 under the EU Policy Cycle, activities are underway to include joint investigations targeting the illegal trade of firearms on the internet ('cyber firearms patrolling').

In general terms, regarding the Western Balkans region, in particular the detection of smuggled firearms and decreasing the amount of weapons in the region deserves particular attention. The second call under the EMPACT Delegation Agreement allocates at least EUR 200.000 to the OAP Firearms 2016.

A new Europol threat assessment on firearms was drafted and the main elements were presented to COSI on 21 September 2015[12], reaffirming the high threat levels involved concerning terrorism.

---

[11]  European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats: EMPACT
[12]  Threat Assessment: Illegal Firearms and Firearms Trafficking in the EU, September 2015, Europol file no. EDOC# 788987v15

- <u>Maximising the value of Focal Point (FP) Travellers[13]</u>

The flow of information into FP Travellers is continuously increasing. The total number of contributions is now 1.205 (compared with about 700 contributions noted at the beginning of Q2 2015), with 10.870 person entities stored in FP Travellers (compared with 4.272 person entities at the beginning of Q2 2015). Out of these, recent analysis and contacts with contributing partners lead to the conclusion that there are 2.081 confirmed fighters/ travellers in FP Travellers. Interpol has become a significant contributor to FP Travellers, with more than 3.263 person entities submitted by the end of October 2015.

In 2015, to date, 30 cross-match reports and 3 specific operational analysis reports have been generated from FP Travellers (7 cross-match reports and 2 operational analysis reports at the beginning of Q2 2015).

Europol has recently noted a positive trend, counter terrorism capabilities of Europol are being drawn upon in respective investigate activities. Examples include information exchanges with Sweden, Slovenia (including links to FP Travellers), Belgium and other MS regarding the identification of suspects.

However, from an overall perspective, Europol holds the view that FP Travellers, both from a quantitative and qualitative perspective, is not yet in the position to provide thorough in depth analysis in relation to all contributed operational cases across the EU, given that to date, 50.45 % of all contributions originate from 5 MS and 1 associated third country.

In this context it is noteworthy that respective US government reporting suggests that since 2011 more than 20.000 foreign fighters have travelled to the Syria-Iraq region, including at least 3.400 Western fighters, the vast majority of which are believed to be from Europe.[14]

---

[13] All 28 EU Member States have committed themselves to contribute to FP Travellers

[14] European Fighters in Syria and Iraq: Assessments, Responses, and Issues for the United States, US Congressional Research Service, 7-5700 (R44003), 27 April 2015, published on www.crs.gov and www.fas.org

- EU Internet Referral Unit – EU IRU

The EU IRU started its activities on 1 July 2015, as requested by the JHA Council of 12 March 2015[15]. The EU IRU is still in its pilot phase (until the end of the year) and currently undergoes an internal assessment, to progress towards the Initial Operational Capability (IOC) as of January 2016, followed by the Full Operational Capability (FOC) by July 2016, in line with the 'Blueprint and Implementation Roadmap for the EU IRU' presented to the Europol MB.

The current staffing situation is: 9 staff members in total, including 2 staff members from MS[16]. By December 2015, it is planned to allocate 3 Seconded National Experts (SNEs) posts to the EU IRU (funded from the budget of Europol), as the contribution of the 2 'cost-free' staff members from the concerned MS to the EU IRU are envisaged to be of a temporary nature.

By 11 November 2015, 1079 instances identified (with potential suspicious content), 920 'candidate' instances for referral, and, from these 920, 511 removed. The vast majority concerns Twitter accounts spreading IS-related propaganda. 511 of these have been removed. Almost all requests for referrals stem from Europol's EU IRU monitoring capability, with an implementation rate of over 74% of the referred internet content.

The EU IRU focuses on the social media accounts which have the highest impact in terms of spreading propaganda in the EU (i.e. providing translated content in EU languages, 'information hub' accounts, as well as those spreading new and high profile material).

---

[15]    See footnote 3 for the documentation reference

[16]    1 from the UK and 1 from The Netherlands; Excluding additional 3 resources concerning facilitated illegal immigration (detecting internet content used by traffickers to attract migrants and refugees), from additional posts granted to Europol by the Amending Budget No 7 for 2015, granted by the budgetary authority on 14 October 2015 to respond to the migration crisis.

Cooperation with the private sector has been successfully established. The EU IRU refers internet content across the following social media platforms, in ascending order of volume: Facebook, SendVid, Vimeo, Google Drive, Youtube, Archive.org and Twitter. With the support of the European Commission, social media companies are continuously approached to ensure, in particular, awareness concerning the political objectives of the prevention of radicalisation and the importance of a swift implementation of referred internet content. It has also been noticed that social media companies are starting to intensify own monitoring activities to remove propaganda material and extremist material.

The EU IRU provided technical and operational support to the 'Thalys' incident in France (intelligence package), as well as a collection of terrorist propaganda material in French language (on Archive.org), including 130 video, audio and text files originally issued by media outlets by the 'Islamic State (IS)'.

The IRU is actively supporting the current investigation in France.

The scale of the development of the Full Operational Capability (FOC) by July 2016 will depend on the decision-making by the budgetary authority regarding future resources for counter terrorism related EU IRU activities. The note[17] from the Presidency/EU CTC highlights the importance to provide adequate resources for the EU IRU, through the EU budget and secondments by MS. Furthermore, the note stresses the need that the Europol Regulation provides for the possibility of information exchange between Europol and the private sector, as precondition for the EU IRU to work effectively.

- <u>Development of risk indicators for border control checks</u>

The risk indicator list for border control checks was validated during the Working Group (WG) Dumas meeting in May 2015. It was distributed to relevant authorities in MS in June 2015. A questionnaire with regard to developing new (updated) Common Risk Indicators (CRI) was sent to the MS on 24 September 2015. 11 MS replied meanwhile, indicating that there were no new CRI to be reported. The process to validate the set of CRI is on-going. Frontex is associated to that process.

---

[17]    See footnote 9 for the documentation reference

- Awareness of the FRN (First Response Network) in case of a terrorist incident

  Following the training at Europol on 7-8 October 2015, there are now a total of 56 experts (from MS and associated third parties) trained.

  Cooperation with the Crisis Management Centre of the Commission has been established to ensure united efforts in case of a terrorist incident.

- Systematic cross-checking between SIS II and Europol databases

  The note of the Presidency and the EU CTC[18] issued after the Paris attacks stresses that Europol should be given automated and systematic access to the SIS II to enable systematic cross-checking with Europol databases. Europol would welcome this feature that might significantly enhance the information picture, including by identifying possible links between terrorism and other criminal activities, such as money laundering and people smuggling. Depending on the scope and extent of the access to the SIS to enable systematic cross-checking, there is a need to check to what extent relevant legislation has to be amended, followed by an implementation plan for relevant actors.

| 3.3. | Support to the investigations related to the Paris attacks on 13 November 2015 |
|---|---|

Preliminary assessment of events from Europol

The Paris attacks demonstrate a serious escalation of the terrorist threat, given that the attacks indicate:

- First realisation in Europe of a 'Mumbai-style' attack back in 2008, including first example of indiscriminate close quarter shootings, combined with suicide bombing;

- Clear international dimension in the planning and coordinating of attacks, involving a network (not group of lone actors)

---

**18**    See footnote 9 for the documentation reference

- Serious statement of intent by ISIS to embark on a new strategy to carry out spectacular international terrorist attacks;

- Known ISIS capability to plan and sustain such an international strategy in the long term;

- More attacks likely – most serious terrorist threat Europe has faced for over 10 years.

Operational response

Following the attacks, Europol's Emergency Response Team (EMRT) was immediately activated to support the investigations on a 24/7 basis. 2 staff members with a 'mobile office' and one EU IRU specialist (with Arabic language expertise) were deployed to Paris, next to another officer to Interpol in Lyon. On 17 November 2015, a Europol counter terrorism staff member has been deployed to Belgium.

Information exchange, in particular with the French authorities, is on-going, including relevant cross-checks in all available databases at Europol (especially FP Travellers and FP Firearms). 7 specific requests under the EU-TFTP Agreement have yielded 319 leads so far. From an overall perspective, financial investigations appear to be of significant importance. In addition, through the application of the existing EU-US Passenger Name Record (PNR) Agreement, 7 requests were launched, leading to a hit with relevant PNR data.

The French investigative authorities have provided a huge contribution to Europol for cross-checking and analysis purposes (personal details concerning multiple individuals and a substantial amount of communication data etc.). Europol is working as quickly as possible to identify any key relevant hits to support the French authorities etc.

## 4. Key strategic issues

Based on the information presented in this report, Europol has identified the following key strategic issues which are brought to the attention of COSI:

- Good progress concerning, in particular, the sharing of information and intelligence through the EIS, FP Firearms, FP Travellers, TFTP and the EU IRU can be noted. From Europol's perspective, this positive development is due to the continued support by all relevant actors. The cooperation between the French authorities and Europol in the current investigations is excellent.

- The further development of the ECTC and the work of the IRU require the active engagement from MS. Europol's experience is that the expectations generated by EU counter terrorism policy have not been generally met to date, with the potentials for the full and proper use of Europol's information management capabilities not realised in the area of counter terrorism across all EU MS (contrary to significant achievements in the area of serious organised crime, supported by the EU Policy Cycle and the related tools). Europol therefore holds the view that the quantity and quality ratio between information available to counter terrorist authorities and that which is shared with or through Europol, needs to be further aligned to make full use of Europol's ECTC services, especially in relation to operational analysis and an enhanced information picture for all involved counter terrorism actors. Europol continues to involve counter-terrorism experts to ensure pro-active communication, awareness and trust-building. To enforce the exchange of information and expertise, Europol is engaging counter-terrorism experts from all relevant MS and third parties to join forces at Europol's headquarters, as a response to counteract the increasing terrorist threat.

- The dedicated SIENA counter terrorism area can serve as a key enabling factor for the underlying information exchange, including the PWGT network, and should therefore be promoted by all MS (as of next year at the level of 'EU Confidential'). This has also been stressed in the note of the Presidency/EU CTC for the extraordinary COSI meeting of 16 November 2015.[19] Any remaining instances of communication at the level of 'EU Secret' can be processed through the future communication platform intended by the PWGT (see page 3 above) that can be hosted by Europol. A systematic and automated cross-checking between SIS II and Europol's databases would enhance the information picture, with a view to ensuring a consistent 3-tier information sharing approach (i.e. SIS II, EIS and relevant Focal Points (FPs) at Europol). This could be complemented by making full use of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data related information exchange, with Europol involvement.

- In order to enhance action to respond to terrorist financing activities, beyond the scope of the EU-US TFTP Agreement, there is a strategic business need to exploit cooperation mechanisms which can support the related cross-European response required.

- In terms of resources, the secondment of experts from MS to Europol to the ECTC should be reinforced. In addition, the EU IRU as part of the ECTC needs to be provided with adequate resources from the EU budget.

- Europol's future legal framework (the Europol Regulation) should be analysed to ensure that the needs arising from the counter terrorism policy response (post the 13 November 2015 Paris attacks) is adequately reflected. This concerns, in particular, the exchange of personal data with the private sector and a firm legal basis in relation to the EU IRU tasks.

## 5. Way forward

COSI is invited to discuss this report, with a view to providing additional guidance on the strategic issues and promoting the positive developments further.

---

[19] See footnote 9 for the documentation reference

**Envisaged ECTC at Europol: Overview of combined platforms and services**

| |
|---|
| **1. Information/intelligence and support capabilities in respect of terrorism** |

- **Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA)** – As a **central tool to enable connectivity**, SIENA is used to manage the exchange of operational and strategic crime-related information amongst Member States (MS), Europol and third party cooperation partners.

- **Analysis Work File (AWF) Terrorism** is a distinct and self-contained component of the Europol Analysis System (EAS), with individual Focal Points (FPs) to reflect current priorities in the fight against terrorism[20] thus improving operational analysis, cross-matching, case and phenomena analysis and coordinated responses incorporating input from:

  - **FP Travellers** (foreign terrorist fighters travelling to and from conflict zones);

  - **Terrorism Financing Tracking Program – TFTP** (targeted searches on data provided by MS's);

  - **Check the Web** (analysis of terrorist propaganda material available on the internet including threat analysis);

  - **EU Internet Referral Unit – EU IRU** (identification and removal of extremist internet material – on-going establishment).

---

[20] Europol's AWF Terrorism also contains the following 3 additional FPs: Hydra (Islamic terrorism beyond the phenomenon of so called travelling foreign fighters), Piracy (East of Africa and Gulf of Aden maritime piracy), Dolphin (all other terrorist activities, i.e. right-wing terrorism)

- The **Europol Information System (EIS)** is Europol's central criminal information and intelligence database covering all of Europol's mandated crime areas. It contains serious international crime-related information on suspects, convicts and 'potential future criminals'[21], criminal structures, and offences and means used to commit them. It is a reference system which provides **Europol and MS** with a rapid means to verify whether information on a **certain person or another object of interest is available beyond national or organisational jurisdictions**.

  All new data inserted in the EIS is automatically compared with all information already stored in the EIS and in the AWFs (e.g. names, telephone numbers, emails, DNA, firearms, open source intelligence etc.) The purpose is to look for matches with a view to enhancing intelligence and providing new leads for further investigations. A distinctive feature of EIS is that it is directly accessible in all MS on the level of the ENU. This access can be further widened to include national counter terrorism units.

- Implementation of a **three-tier information and intelligence sharing approach** which aims at maximising synergies concerning relevant data processed in the Schengen Information System (SIS), the EIS and in FP Travellers.

- Integration of the **network of Financial Intelligence Units (FIU.NET)** into **Europol**, in order to complement the fight against the financing of terrorism beyond TFTP (on-going)

- Sharing of relevant **Passenger Name Record (PNR) data** with Europol to complement the analysis of travel routes and common risk indicators for border controls, as well as to enrich all counter terrorism FPs.

---

[21]    Article 12 of Europol Council Decision (ECD)

## 2. Provision of counter terrorism expertise within a secure environment supported by strong logistical arrangements

- **Senior counter terrorism investigators and analytical staff** with **language expertise** relevant for counter terrorism (security cleared, with background in all relevant competent authorities across the EU, including the intelligence service community)

- **Utilising established CT networks and services at EU level: Europol National Contact Points for counter terrorism** (informal information exchange, meeting facilities at Europol etc.) and **Working Group Dumas:** Based on the initiative of the former Presidency in October 2014: EU wide approach to address foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon

- **EU Bomb Data System (EBDS):** Application for the timely sharing of relevant information and intelligence on incidents involving explosives, incendiary and explosive devices, as well as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (**CBRN**) materials

- **European Explosive Ordinance Disposal Network (EEODN):** Information sharing and capacity building including training

- **Option of Europol and MS coordinating high impact operations** aimed at terrorist logistics, e.g. travel or financing.

## 3. Robust security and confidentiality framework

- **Guarantee of data ownership for counter terrorism authorities** (legal provisions and operating arrangements, e.g. handling codes)

- **Information and intelligence sharing in a controlled environment**, based on the requirements of the data originator.

| **4.** **Direct and immediate on-the-spot support** |
| --- |

- **Mobile office:** Deployment of staff with full access to Europol's databases

- **First Response Network (FRN)** at Europol: In case of a major terrorist incident (or threat), the FRN can be established at Europol to provide the best possible support to the competent authorities in charge of the investigation

| **5.** **24/7 capabilities to connect terrorism with organised crime activities** – Horizontal information and intelligence sharing and data matching |
| --- |

| **6.** **Liaison Bureaux Network at Europol** (close to 200 liaison officers seconded to Europol by EU MS and Europol's non-EU partners) |
| --- |

––––––––––––––––