Europol Unclassified - Basic Protection Level

EUR POL	The Hague,	10/07/2017		
PUBLIC Document made partially accessible to the public on:	EDOC #	905497	v	3
	Business Area / Team			
	Author			
0 6 001 237	Phone			-

Report on meeting

Assembly of Regional Groups On Surveillance (ARGOS)

1st Board meeting

Routing Table				
	Business Area or function	Approved by	Approval date	
From				
Via				
То				
Cc				

Event	ARGOS Board Meeting	
Subject	Establishment and Way forward	
Role in event	Organiser	
Place / Date	27 - 28 June 2017 Europol HQ	
Organised by	Europol	
Advisable to attend + why?		
Participants	BEST DATES AND ASSESSMENT OF THE SECOND STREET	
Date of next meeting	28 September 2017	
Special contacts		
Related documentation	EDOC-#864074-20161116 ARGOS 2017 Context and proposal EDOC-#900544-20170627 ARGOS Prep Meeting Agenda	

1. Introduction

This document reports on the ARGOS board meeting of 27-28 June 2017 at Europol HQ. The management is invited to take an informed decision on the ARGOS meeting proposal (ref. 3 and 3.1)

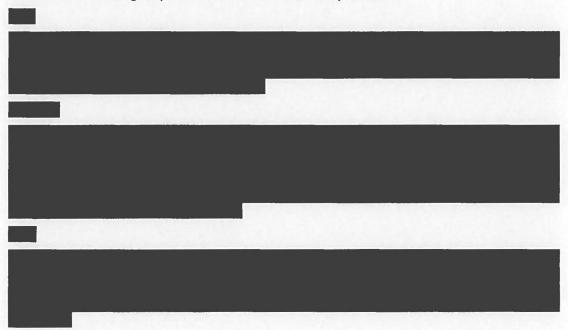
Europol Unclassified - Basic Protection Level

The creation of the Board builds further on Europol's ARGOS initiative¹ taken since 2014 to bundle the informal regional expert groups on covert surveillance. The board is introduced in order to ensure equal input from the regions following the recent establishment of the Surveillance Cooperation Group.

The ARGOS board consist of the chairs of the European Surveillance Group (ESG), the Surveillance Cooperation Group (SCG), the Surveillance Expert Network for South East Europe (SENSEE) and Europol. Its main purpose is to identify and ensure a common way forward, avoid duplication and improve the know-how exchange.

2. Content

The first ARGOS board meeting compared the state of play, needs, expectations and vision of the three groups and found a common way forward.



Common vision

All three chairs agreed that close contacts between the groups is key to develop a common way forward. Nevertheless the regional needs and focusses should remain. The ARGOS concept was unanimously approved. Future funding applications will be done in close cooperation.

3. Consequences for Europol

The chairs agreed with Europol's proposed ARGOS approach. A first draft of the ToR is produced by 2. Apart from the annual meetings of the groups, Europol will organise an annual ARGOS board meeting and a common conference at least every three years involving the three groups. O54 will be responsible for the connection with other special tactics networks and non-EU partners.

The board agreed on having an ARGOS conference beginning 2018 instead of Q4 2017 (Europol budget, 30K, earmarked for the 2017 edition can be released and used for other projects/actions).

¹ EDOC-#864074-20161116 ARGOS 2017 Context and proposal

² Draft ARGOS ToR EDOC-#883500

Europol Unclassified - Basic Protection Level

Combining the efforts of the three groups will result in

- A three day conference with Approx. 80 participants
- By extending the agenda of the conference, it would optimise the working time and meet the needs voiced by the ARGOS board members
- Cost would be divided amongst 3 stakeholders (ESG, SCG, SENSEE). Although not hosting the conference at the HQ³, O54 will ensure
 - o The streamlining of the agendas
 - Noticed ownership through the use of a unique logo (G14 support to be requested)
 - o Estimated cost for Europol: 30.000⁴ including 1 official dinner for all participants (same budget as 2017, better operational results)

3.1. Defensive points

ARGOS is a Europol initiative and needs to be branded as such. Although combining the conference back to back with the ESG meeting, the Europol ownership can be properly guaranteed through visible active contribution (meeting participation, logo design and display, official dinner).

4. Conclusion

The first ARGOS board meeting successfully agreed on the common way forward for the EU covert surveillance community. It welcomes and supports Europol's ARGOS concept and prepared the second ARGOS conference.

PUBLIC

Document made partially accessible to the public on:

0 6 OCT 2017

⁴ EDOC 905081