



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 9 January 2002 (15.01)
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ENFOPOL 3

NOTE

from : Presidency
to : Working Party on Police Cooperation

No. prev. doc. : 6263/98 ENFOPOL 32; 11485/98 ENFOPOL 104; 8168/01 ENFOPOL 39

Subject : European network for the protection of public figures

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The process of regionalisation and globalisation taking place in our societies leads, in all fields, to an increasing number of transnational activities being carried out, giving rise to a considerable increase in travel within the European Union by certain persons from the Member States and third States who, because they are regarded as public figures, are subject to official protection.
2. Travel by public figures gives rise to the organisation of static and dynamic protective measures, based on a reasonable, serious assessment of the risks or dangers which may affect them, including activities by terrorist and organised criminal groups.

3. The organisation of protective measures and movements by public figures in the Member States of the European Union is subject to different criteria and procedures relating to the following factors:

- concept of public figure;
- official or private visit;
- assessment of risks and dangerous situations;
- scope and quantification of protection and security measures;
- technical equipment and communication networks;
- authorisation of possession and use of firearms;
- maximum number of armed officials accompanying the public figure;
- exchanges of information;
- collaboration with other police departments and other services;
- crossing of external borders;
- movement of official delegations;
- relations with protocol, press and health-care services;
- evacuation methods and measures.

4. It is a fact that, despite differences, there is close cooperation between the departments responsible for guaranteeing the freedom of persons internationally granted official protection to pursue public and private activities; it is also a fact that an increase in such cooperation within the Union is a political and legal imperative.

5. In connection with the protection of public figures on an official or private visit to a Member State, the exchange of officials, information and experience, the establishment of better methods and practices and joint training, together with the simplification of procedures and applications for authorisation, are activities covered by police cooperation for the purpose of achieving the Union's objective of realising an area of freedom, security and justice, and have been discussed within the Council in the Working Parties on Police Cooperation ¹ and Terrorism ².
6. To translate police cooperation into concrete measures it is proposed to set up a *European Network for the Protection of Public Figures* which, in view of the future enlargement of the Union and without adding to the existing police cooperation structures, would allow for exchanges of officials, information and experience and, therefore, the setting of common minimum criteria for action in this field.

II. OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

7. The European Network for the Protection of Public Figures will have the following objectives:
 - (a) promoting close cooperation and collaboration between the appropriate departments of the Member States with responsibility for the protection of public figures;
 - (b) exchanging information, officials and experience concerned with the protection of public figures;
 - (c) standardising criteria for selecting and training appropriate staff with responsibility in each Member State for the protection of public figures;
 - (d) setting up a database on assaults and attacks on public figures, case studies, methods used, etc;

¹ 6263/98 ENFOPOL 32; 11485/98 ENFOPOL 104

² 8168/01 ENFOPOL 39

- (e) establishing conditions for the issue, by the European Police College, of a *common authorisation* for officials with responsibility for the protection of public figures;
 - (f) approximating the existing rules and regulations in each Member State.
8. The functions to be carried out by the European Network for the Protection of Public Figures will include the following:
- (a) defining the national permanent contact points and the exchanges of information, officials and experience;
 - (b) simplifying procedures by drawing up a standard form in all Member States;
 - (c) determining the maximum number of armed officials according to the public figure involved and the resources to be deployed;
 - (d) outlining the conditions for provision of service by officials with responsibility for the protection of a public figure of one Member State when they are in or enter another Member State;
 - (e) studying common methods of action to prevent assaults and attacks;
 - (f) adopting joint protocols on the priority granted to the protected public figure during movements of delegations;
 - (g) collaborating with other police forces and other departments;
 - (h) establishing common rules to be observed in connection with accreditation and media access to public figures.

III. STRUCTURE

9. As regards the design, objectives and functions of the European Network for the Protection of Public Figures, and so as not to add to the existing police cooperation structures, the organisation and execution of its activities will be carried out by a Management Centre, to be located in the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the Union and headed by a senior official from the appropriate national department of the Member State holding the Council Presidency.
10. The European Network for the Protection of Public Figures will be assisted by the Secretariat and the Legal Service of the Council and will have a computer system facilitating the setting-up of the database, exchanges of information and requests for assistance between the Member States. The SIRENE bureaux may be considered for this purpose.
11. In addition to the Commission and Europol, the national points in the candidate States may belong to the Network.

IV. FINANCING

12. The Network will be financed from the European Union's budget.

COUNCIL DECISION .../.../JHA
of 2002

setting up a
European Network for the Protection of Public Figures

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 29 thereof,

Having regard to the initiative of the Kingdom of Spain,

[Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament,]

Whereas:

- (1) No European Union legislation, standards or manuals of a general nature exist to govern the protection of public figures, whether they be national public figures or those of Community or foreign origin.
- (2) Dignitaries and public figures have been assassinated or attacked on a number of occasions and, although it is improbable, there is nothing to prevent such incidents recurring in future.

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HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

A European Network for the Protection of Public Figures, hereinafter known as "the Network", is hereby created.

The Network shall have a Management Centre, which will be chaired by the national authority with responsibility for the protection of public figures of the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the Union.

The Network shall be assisted by the Secretariat of the Council of the Union.

Article 2

The Network shall consist of contact points of the national police departments with responsibility for the protection of public figures, designated by each Member State.

Candidate countries for accession to the European Communities, the Commission and Europol may also designate a contact point to be included in the Network.

Article 3

In addition to furthering cooperation and collaboration between the police departments with responsibility for the protection of public figures, the Network shall have the following objectives:

- (a) exchanging information, officials and experience concerned with the protection of public figures;
- (b) standardising criteria for selecting and training appropriate staff with responsibility in each Member State for the protection of public figures;
- (c) setting up a database on assaults and attacks on public figures, case studies, methods used, etc;

- (d) determining conditions for the issue, by the European Police College, of a *common authorisation* for officials with responsibility for the protection of public figures;
- (e) approximating the existing rules and regulations in each Member State.

Article 4

In order to achieve the proposed objectives, the Network shall be competent to:

- (a) simplify the procedures by drawing up a standard form in all Member States;
- (b) determine the maximum number of armed officials according to the public figure involved and the resources to be deployed;
- (c) outline the conditions for provision of service by officials with responsibility for the protection of a public figure of one Member State when they are in or enter another Member State;
- (d) study common methods of action to prevent assaults and attacks;
- (e) adopt joint protocols on the priority granted to the protected public figure during movements of delegations;
- (f) collaborate with other police forces and other departments;
- (g) establish common rules to be observed in connection with accreditation and media access to public figures.

Article 5

The Network shall, each year, draw up its operating budget, which will be approved by the Council of the Union.

Article 6

The Council shall carry out an evaluation of the Network's activities two years after the entry into force of this Decision.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President
