



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 22 April 2002**

**5715/6/02  
REV 6**

**LIMITE**

**ENFOPOL 19**

**NOTE**

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from : COREPER

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to : Council

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Subject : Council recommendation for the establishment of multinational ad-hoc teams for gathering and exchanging information on terrorists

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1. At its meeting of 18 April 2002 COREPER agreed on the text of aforementioned recommendation that was drawn up on the basis of the work of the Article 36 Committee of 12 April 2002.
2. The Council is invited to adopt as an A-point the text of the recommendation

The Council of the European Union

WHEREAS

- Recent events have clearly shown the dangers posed by terrorism to all societies and also the Member States of the European Union.
- Terrorists and/or terrorist organisations are engaged in many activities with the aim of seriously intimidating a population, or unduly compelling a government or international organisation to perform or abstain from performing any act, or seriously destabilising or destroying the fundamental political, constitutional or social structures of a country or an international organisation.
- As set out in Articles 29 and 30 of the Treaty on European Union, this makes it necessary to strengthen democratic systems in the fight against terrorism as defined in European Union instruments, in order to provide Europe's citizens with an area of freedom, justice and peace.
- Enhanced cooperation between competent authorities notably at European level is a major instrument in achieving these goals. It promotes the subsequent tracing, arrest and extradition of terrorists and the dismantling of terrorist organisations.
- The authorities responsible for fighting terrorism have the task to be aware of the modus operandi and the links that exist among terrorists belonging to a variety of terrorist organisations within the Union and their support networks.  
They gather information on working methods common to those groups, such as the use of joint training camps or of the same international routes for arms trafficking, the use of false travel documents and other terrorist activities undertaken to establish sources of finance.

- For this purpose the creation - in full respect of national law including constitutional provisions of the Member states - of multinational ad hoc teams consisting of specialists from the competent authorities in Member States is of a major importance.
- These teams should have a flexible character with cooperation subject in all cases to the authority and legislation of the Member States in which the activities are carried out.
- Europol could be involved in the teams within the limits of the Europol Convention.

RECOMMENDS the Member States to establish multinational ad hoc teams for gathering and exchanging information on terrorists.

- The aim is the establishment of such teams for gathering and exchanging information in accordance with national law including constitutional provisions in order to combat terrorism as defined in European Union instruments. They would be able to work more expeditiously and more effectively, within a framework adequate for the purposes of Member States interested in participating, with cooperation subject in all cases to national law and the authority and legislation of the Member State in which the activities are carried out.
- Such teams would be made up of officials of national competent authorities from participating Member States that are responsible for combating terrorism in the European Union, and could be assisted by Europol officers, provided that their participation is requested by the team, in accordance with the Europol Convention.

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