

CZECH REPUBLIC

Following the informal videoconference of the members of the Law Enforcement Working Party (LEWP) which was held on 22 February 2021, please see the written comments of the Czech Republic:

7) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2016/794, as regards Europol's cooperation with private parties, the processing of personal data by Europol in support of criminal investigations, and Europol's role on research and innovation (doc. 5388/1/21 REV 1, 5397/21)

Regarding question number 1, CZ agrees there is an operational need and sees it as very important to make verified third-country sourced information on terrorists and other criminals available to frontline officers.

Concerning question number 2, we do see the SIS based solution to be effective in covering the existing gap in the area of fight against terrorism. This has been proven in the past, when the CZ voluntarily supported the EU by entering alerts in SIS based on information from Western Balkans, which has been since bringing lot of important operational information. The present proposal is a logical next step, which will reduce the workload of MS and will bring necessary systemic and on-time approach filling the already mentioned gap.

Finally, during the videoconference, multiple options and next steps regarding further discussion of this topic were suggested. The CZ is of the opinion that before we discuss this matter further at LEWP, all the questions raised by member states should first be clarified either by written procedure or at the IXIM working group.