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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	The EU Innovation Hub for internal security - governance

On 26 February COSI discussed the governance and operational tasks of the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security ("the Hub")¹ and concluded to return to the topic once developments in relation to the operational tasks and modalities set out for the Hub have started, so that the governance structure can take into account these developments.

Composition of the Steering Group

In order to ensure a strong representation of the Member States, but also to guarantee that as many Member States as possible become involved in the governance of the Hub, the Steering Group will be jointly chaired by a Member State representative, nominated by COSI for a period of one and a half (1,5) years, and a representative of the European Commission (DG HOME). In addition to the co-chair, COSI will also nominate five (5) members of the Steering Group for the same period (one and a half (1,5) years) to represent the national innovation labs participating in the Hub. The Steering Group will also consist of the head of the Hub Team and one representative of each of the innovation labs of EU agencies and other EU entities that have seconded, or will second, or otherwise make available, at least one staff member to Europol to work in the Hub Team.

¹ 5906/21

In order to establish a workable and continuous sequencing for the composition of the Steering Group, as well as recognising the importance of the principles of ownership, commitment and rotation, and based on the earlier deliberations, the Presidency suggests that the members of the Steering Group to be appointed by the COSI will consist of one representative of each Presidency in the Trio of Presidencies (three (3) Trio representatives in all), plus one (1) representative from the previous Trio and one (1) from the incoming Trio.

The co-chair, appointed by COSI, will be nominated by the members of the Trio of Presidencies. For reasons of follow-up and continuity of the work, the General Secretariat of the Council will appoint one (1) representative.

The Presidency invites the Commission and the relevant EU agencies, institutions and bodies that have seconded, or will second, at least one staff member to Europol to work in the Hub Team to appoint one (1) representative.

On 15 May 2020² COSI concluded that the Steering Group will provide direction and exercise responsibility for the work of the Hub, while providing the necessary flexibility to foster innovation in a needs-driven way. It was outlined that the Steering group will meet at least twice a year. All members of the Steering Group should have proven expertise and professional experience on innovation in the area of internal security.

The Presidency urges swift start of the procedure for the nomination of the co-chair and the Steering Group members.

² 7829/20

Guiding principles of the governance model of the Hub

Alongside defining the so-called quick win projects for the Hub³, during spring 2021 the Hub Team has continued to work on establishing the financial and operational models of the Hub⁴, as instructed by COSI. Together with previous COSI findings⁵, the following overall guiding principles of the governance model of the Hub are based on the draft models. In line with this process, the Presidency suggests the following:

The functioning of the Steering Group will be set out in **rules of procedures** that will be presented to COSI. The Steering Group, within a maximum of three (3) months, will prepare a proposal for the rules of procedures.

The Steering Group will approve the **priorities** of the Hub. They should be adopted every four (4) years and reviewed every two (2) years. The priorities should support the implementation of innovation projects, knowledge and dissemination activities for innovation and the building of capabilities of shared interests. On the basis of these priorities, the Steering Group will approve the multiannual implementation plan that outlines the concrete activities/projects of the Hub, as proposed by the Hub Team. The Steering Group will approve the projects and activity proposals presented by the Hub Team, based on commonly agreed criteria.

On the basis of an analysis of innovation gaps and needs performed by the Hub, **COSI will provide guidance**, including for the prioritisation of support to innovation and research activities on internal security.⁶

The Hub Team will provide the Steering Group with an overview of the available **funding** instruments that can be used to finance projects and activities implemented by the Hub. Furthermore, the Steering Group will verify that the projects and activities are sufficiently resourced to ensure their implementation.

³ 5096/21 and 5095/21

⁴ Further details on the operational and financial models of the EU Innovation Hub established by the Hub Team will be issued once the work of the Hub Team has been finalised.

⁵ 7829/20

⁶ 7829/20

The Steering Group should also consider ways to associate the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) to its work to ensure that **fundamental rights** compliance of future outcomes of projects is factored in throughout the innovation process, as underlined by COSI⁷.

High-level reports on the **status of the projects and activities** should be regularly submitted to the Steering Group by the leaders of activities/projects, i.e. Project and Activity Leaders, through the Hub Team, including the resource status. Mid-term and ex-post assessment reports for projects and activities should be submitted, when relevant, to the Steering Group by the Project and Activity Leaders through the Hub Team. Possible issues not solved by the Hub Team should be referred to the Steering Group.

Any project or activity related **requests** addressed to the Hub outside of the set priorities should be approved by the Steering Group, following an initial discussion within and proposal by the Hub Team.

Delegations are requested to confirm the composition of the Steering Group as well as the guiding principles of the governance model of the Hub as proposed by the Presidency.

⁷ 7829/20