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Speaking Points

Opening Address Future Group on Travel Intelligence and Border Management

21 October 2019

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Background

At present, a transformation is taking place for the implementation of several new or amended legal instruments related to Smart Borders, Interoperability and PNR. As a result of these changes Europol will get a prominent in border management and, more generally, in the monitoring of suspicious movements of persons and goods.

Whilst the current focus is mainly on the implementation of the individual legal instruments, Europol and Frontex have identified the importance of bringing the various competences in law enforcement investigations, customs and border protection closer together. Jointly the new developments should be looked at; not the least to identify operational opportunities that connect the various professional disciplines.

With these considerations in mind, Europol and Frontex have teamed up by initiating a series of workshops at which representatives from various national and EU organisations are brought together to explore new ways of working to take full benefit from the possibilities that the referred legislative measures will offer.

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This is the second workshop of this series. The first one was held at Frontex and was opened by its Executive Director, Mr F. Leggeri. At that meeting a general overview of the interoperability and border management landscape was taken into account to identify relevant topics for detailed discussions at next workshops. At the present workshop the focus is put on managing the additional information for border management and how this can be complemented with investigative information, where appropriate.

Speaking Points

- First of all, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all. We are very grateful to your willingness to participate and contribute to this second workshop of the Future Group.
- The first one, hosted at Frontex at the end of September, was a great success. As intended and hoped, it offered the possibility to identify which topics are of mutual interest to the different stakeholders to jointly explore new ways of working.
- An important factor for that success is your active contribution by which you – many of you were also there – brought your experience and knowledge to the table and actively exchanged views.
- From the sides of Frontex and Europol we very much welcome the explicit articulation of Member States' issues and interests, so we can adjust our services and priorities to those.
- Especially in the current stage where we are all looking to adjust our work to the new legislation for interoperability and border management, it helps if we all aim in the same direction.
- We sure hope that the talks you have also materialise in concrete initiatives. We would welcome pilots and experiments that test the feasibility of new approaches and offer experience and evidence for further decision making.
- We also appreciate the participation of the Commission and of eu-LISA to make sure that the outcome of discussions can tie in with the on-going developments in the refinement of the legislative implementation and the technical realisation.

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- But perhaps most important, I find the multi-disciplinary composition of this group. It is by combining the efforts of border guards, customs, immigration and investigative services that a true strengthening of our security framework can be achieved in practice.
- Possibly it may even offer Europol and Frontex to jointly develop some integrated support services to your combined actions.
- Frontex, finally, I would like to thank most cordially for co-organising this series of workshops with such enthusiasm and openness for constructively exploring our joint future in delivering our fully complementary support to the Member States.
- The impressive efforts Frontex invests in this partnership, particularly by you, [REDACTED], are well-noted and, indeed, very much appreciated!
- I wish you a most successful workshop and I look forward to the results. Not only of your discussions, but also of the follow up action that is given to it.

References

[EDOC-#1068957-Future Group - Outcome WS1 - 20190925-26](#)

[EDOC-#1068993-Future Group - draft agenda WS2 - 20191021-22](#)

