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The Hague,

05/08/2022

Laurent Muschel
Director

Directorate D: Internal Security
Directorate-General for Migration and Home
Affairs

European Commission

Dear Mr Muschel,

Dear Laurent

In light of the Parliamentary Question submitted by MEP Cornelia Ernst to the European Commission, please find below the requested elements for the Commission to be able to reply to the Honourable Member of the European Parliament.

Which Member States have provided national experts in the fields of criminal investigation, security, border management, customs and migration to be part of the Future Group, and which countries have also sent representatives of their national police forces?

It is important to stress that Member States have not formally provided any experts to take part in the meetings of the Future Group on Travel Intelligence and Border Management set up by Europol and Frontex, although in some cases national authorities have been consulted to identify a suitable expert. Europol and Frontex had determined that it would be in the best interest of discussions if participants would not be formally representing their competent authority, nor their Member State. The participants have been selected as subject-matter experts, while seeking a balanced representation of the various professional disciplines (multidisciplinary approach) and the geographic representation. The invitations to participate were, therefore, based on the agenda or topics to be discussed making the attendance at the Future Group quite flexible.

The Future Group was attended by invited national subject matter experts from Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Spain, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Sweden. Some attended only one or a few sessions; others attended more frequently.

National subject matter experts were members of the following competent authorities: police forces, customs and excise authorities, border management forces, immigration services and passenger information units.

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Which Member States have also sent members of their intelligence services to meetings of the Future Group, or submitted written contributions?

In some countries, intelligence services are associated to the national passenger information units, but subject matter experts of passenger information units that participated were not representing the intelligence service community in any way.

Will the Future Group be dissolved, and if not, what tasks does Europol think it should carry out?

The Future Group was an informal and independent gathering of experts discussing the future of Travel Intelligence and (intelligent) border management on the external borders of EU countries and Schengen associated countries. After the final report technically, the group can be considered as dissolved. The role of Europol is to share and disseminate the findings of the Group and explain the possibilities and lessons learned to all stakeholders (MS, Schengen Associated Countries, third parties, Academia, and private subjects). From Europol's and Frontex's perspective, the work of the Group constitutes a comprehensive study material for the next decade at least, to propose improvements in relation to the future of Travel Intel and external border management.

I hope that this answer will prove satisfactory. Europol remains available for further clarifications.

Yours sincerely,



Jürgen Ebner
Deputy Executive Director of Governance