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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: Draft Council Conclusion on enhancing the links between internal and external aspects of counter-terrorism

Delegations find in annex a Presidency proposal for draft Council Conclusion on enhancing the links between internal and external aspects of counter-terrorism.

Draft Council Conclusion on enhancing the links between internal and external aspects of counter-terrorism

HAVING REGARD to the Articles 21 (3) and Article 27 of the Treaty on the European Union, and Article 67 (1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

RECALLING THAT the Treaty on the European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union have put an end to the pillar structure, creating the European External Action Service (EEAS) and empowering the High Representative with the task of representing the Union for matters relating to the Common and Foreign and Security Policy,

RECALLING THAT the Treaty on the European Union assigns the Council and the Commission, assisted by the High Representative, to the duty of ensuring consistency and coherence between the EU's external action and its other policies,

REALISING that in order to achieve these objectives effective coordination, between all relevant actors of the EU's counter-terrorism policy including EU Member States, EEAS, the Commission and the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (CTC) is crucial,

HAVING REGARD to the European Union Counter-Terrorism Strategy¹ and the EU Action Plan on combating terrorism², the Internal Security Strategy for the European Union: "Towards a European Security Model"³, the Internal Security Strategy⁴ and the related Council conclusions adopted by the Council in February 2011⁵,

¹ 14469/4/05
² 5771/1/06 REV 1
³ 7120/10
⁴ 16797/10 JAI 990
⁵ 6699/11

REFERRING to the Stockholm Programme - an open and secure Europe serving and protecting citizens¹ which states that threat from terrorism remains significant and is a constantly evolving phenomenon and that respect for the rule of law, fundamental rights and freedoms forms the basis of the Union's overall counter-terrorism work,

RECALLING the work initiated by the European Council on 16 September 2010 on the EU's relations with strategic partners², and noting that counter-terrorism considerations play a crucial role in international relations,

RECOGNISING that due to the global reach of communications and international travel, and the cross border nature of aviation, amongst other issues, the current threat from terrorism and measures to counter the threat cannot clearly be separated into internal and external aspects,

BEARING IN MIND that improving stability in third countries will improve the security of the EU as a whole,

WELCOMING the Strategy prepared by the High Representative and the European Commission on the Sahel³, as well as the recent report on EU aviation and cargo security⁴ as illustrations of an integrated approach creating synergies between internal and external aspects of counter-terrorism,

CONSCIOUS of the importance of increasing coordination at European level involving national bodies having different and complementary competences for the purpose of preventing, detecting and investigating crimes having cross border nature, such as terrorism,

ACKNOWLEDGING that strengthening counter-terrorism capacities of competent authorities in third countries is one of the aspects of EU external assistance instruments aimed at improving good governance and the rule of law,

¹ OJ C 115, 4.5.2010, p. 1

² EUCO 21/1/10 REV 1

³ 7569/11

⁴ 16271/1/11 REV 1

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CONFIRMS its commitment to build on the current success of existing working structures dealing with counter-terrorism, while further developing synergies, avoiding duplication of roles and tasks in order to produce a coordinated and effective EU counter-terrorism (hereinafter referred to as CT) policy;

UNDERTAKES to ensure effective coordination with the EEAS chaired geographic groups as well as with the Commission and the CTC to attain maximum synergies between, and among, relevant stakeholders;

ENCOURAGES EEAS SitCen and Europol to work together, in a complementary manner, to produce a comprehensive overview and analysis of the terrorist threat to the EU, bearing in mind the work already being undertaken by these bodies in this area and that such an overview is the first step to effectively counter terrorism;

UNDERLINES that allocation of EU external assistance resources is crucial for delivering the EU's priorities in the fight against terrorism, therefore actions at the EU level must dovetail with and complement Member States' activities and should target areas from which the threat emanates.

CALLS UPON THE EU COUNTER TERRORISM COORDINATOR

consistent with his mandate, to continue to ensure coordination and coherence between the various policy strands in the implementation of the EU CT Strategy, and to promote, in close cooperation with EEAS and the Commission, coordination and coherence between the EU's internal and external CT policies;

in order to assist in ensuring that threat analysis is better translated into policy making, to present policy recommendations and propose priority areas for action to the Council, based on threat analysis and reports produced by EEAS SitCen and Europol;

to continue reporting to the Council on the implementation of the EU CT Strategy, inter alia to review on a regular basis the progress of the scope and effectiveness of the joint internal/external CT initiatives and processes developed as a result of these Council conclusions.

CALLS UPON THE COMMISSION, THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE AND THE MEMBER STATES

to work together to obtain tangible results on CT capacity building efforts focused on countries and regions that are of particular priority to the EU and to ensure that EU's internal and external CT priorities are consistent;

to evaluate the effectiveness of their CT related assistance to key third countries and regional organisations;

to improve the mechanisms for the integration of relevant reporting on CT related issues and, on the basis of threat analysis, to work together to identify cross-cutting issues where the links between internal and external aspects of CT should be reinforced as a priority;

to cooperate closely with the CTC to make use of CTC's experience and contacts, including the analysis and proposals regarding priority areas for counter-terrorism action and the findings in the CTC's reports.

CALLS UPON THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

in order to address effectively key regional security issues, including terrorism, to ensure the consistence and coherency of the EU's external strategies and actions;

to ensure that the EU Member States' positions are fully taken into account while conducting and further developing political dialogues with third countries and international organisations on issues relating to counter-terrorism and that the EU Member States are informed about the developments and achievements of such dialogues;

to ensure that the external aspects of CT are integrated into the overall external policy of the European Union in cooperation with EU Member States, the Commission and the CTC;

to ensure that the EU delegations in third countries have appropriate security policy expertise in general and CT expertise in particular, especially in countries and regions that are of particular priority to the EU, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and the Sahel;

to arrange that EU delegations coordinate their activities with those of the Member States, identifying areas of overlap and synergy.

CALLS UPON THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

to give proper consideration to the strengthening of the capacity of the authorities involved in the fight against terrorism in third countries in the strategic programming of the Instrument for Stability and to further develop counter-terrorism action;

in order to support EU's CT aims, while respecting specific regional needs, to take a coordinated and coherent approach towards the strategic and multiannual indicative programming of the EU external assistance instruments such as European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI), Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), European Development Fund (EDF); and to take into consideration the assessment of the terrorist threat when planning the allocation of funding from these instruments.

CALLS UPON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

in order to support EU's CT aims, while respecting specific regional needs, to take a coordinated and coherent approach towards the implementation of the EU external assistance instruments.