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NOTE

from:	French delegation
to:	Standing Committee on operational cooperation on internal security
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Subject:	COSI's role as regards the follow-up to the Council conclusions on 29 measures for reinforcing the protection of the external borders and combating illegal immigration

At its meeting on 25 and 26 February 2010, the JHA Council adopted conclusions on 29 measures for reinforcing the protection of the external borders and combating illegal immigration (6975/10).

The follow-up to those conclusions was discussed at the meeting of COSI's support group on 23 March 2010. At that meeting, the French delegation stressed that it considered COSI to be the most appropriate forum for specifically monitoring the implementation, as far as it was concerned, of Council conclusions having implications for internal security.

The aim of this note from the French delegation is to stimulate discussions on this subject and to encourage exchanges with a view to COSI's forthcoming meeting, as well as to define the measures which could most usefully be followed up on by COSI.

The French delegation has identified four areas of action which it considers worthy of attention in that connection. The Committee should act to facilitate and ensure effective operational cooperation and coordination in the various following areas:

1 - Inter-agency cooperation:

- **measure 6:** to improve the collection, processing and systematic exchange of relevant information between FRONTEX, other EU Agencies and Member States;
- **measure 15:** to ensure that the dismantling of illegal immigration networks remains a high priority for action by Europol, Eurojust and FRONTEX as well as the systematic exchange of relevant information between these agencies.

2 - Operational cooperation between Member States:

- **measure 4:** to improve operational cooperation with third countries of origin and transit in order to improve joint patrolling on land and at sea, return, and collection and exchange of relevant information in the field of border management and illegal immigration;
- **measure 12:** within the context of EUROSUR, to create a common pre-frontier intelligence picture in order to provide the Coordination Centres with useful information provided by Member States, FRONTEX and third countries;
- **measure 16:** to encourage Member States to improve the sharing of information concerning the new modus operandi of networks involved in illegal immigration, trafficking in human beings and falsification of documents, and to improve the use of existing databases;

- **measure 17:** to request FRONTEX and the Member States concerned to further develop the European Patrols Network (EPN) in order to generalise bilateral joint maritime patrols, in particular between neighbouring Member States at the southern and eastern maritime borders, and to ensure the full integration of the EPN in the EUROSUR network;
- **measure 21:** to further develop the networks of immigration liaison officers in third countries and to enhance their coordination, cooperating with FRONTEX as necessary.

3 - **Operational efforts by Member States:**

- **measure 3:** within the framework of FRONTEX activities, to ensure that resources made available by Member States in the framework of the Central Register of Available Equipment can be used in concrete joint operations when needed;
- **measure 10:** to implement the development of EUROSUR as soon as possible;
- **measure 11:** to urge Member States involved in EUROSUR to establish or further develop a single national border surveillance system, a single national Coordination Centre and a network of national Coordination Centres, compatible with the FRONTEX Information System and fully operational on a pilot basis as of 2011.

4 - **Training of practitioners:**

- **measure 8:** to invite FRONTEX to develop an "Erasmus" type pilot programme for border guards of the Member States.

COSI will be unable to cover all these issues immediately, and will probably have to prioritise in agreement with the Member States.

From the point of view of the French delegation, the measures for reinforcing the FRONTEX agency and its operational capabilities, including as regards third countries, should be followed up as a matter of priority in order to ensure that the guidelines set by the Council in this area can be realised as soon as possible; the same applies to the measures designed to facilitate cooperation between European agencies.

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