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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Law Enforcement Working Party
No. prev. doc.: CM 1508/11

Subject: Results of the questionnaire on police cooperation with non-EU countries in the area of sports events security

The international character of sports events in Europe is constantly increasing, and the number of travelling supporters is growing. Such events require ensuring a high level of security and safety, and police cooperation between the countries not only within, but also outside the EU is necessary. Since many sports events are organised by Member States together with non-EU countries, it is important to establish certain common standards for cooperation in this field.

In this light and taking into account the necessity to improve international police cooperation and the exchange of information on sports events, especially football matches, between the Member States and non-EU countries, Poland had prepared a questionnaire on police cooperation with non-EU countries in the area of sports events security (doc. CM 1508/11).

The questionnaire consisted of 21 questions and was distributed to 35 addressees, including 27 Member States, 7 non-EU countries - Switzerland (CH), Croatia (HR), Turkey (TR), Serbia (RS), Russia (RU), Ukraine (UA), Israel (IL), and Europol.

Replies were received from 30 countries (AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, ES, NL, LT, LU, LV, MT, DE, PT, RO, SK, SI, SE, UK, HU, IT, PL, CH, HR, TR, RS, UA) and from Europol.

The overview of these replies is set out in annex. On this basis, the Presidency would like to propose to include certain amendments to the Council Resolution of 3 June 2010 concerning an updated handbook with recommendations for international police cooperation and measures to prevent and control violence and disturbances in connection with football matches with an international dimension, in which at least one Member State is involved¹ – hereinafter: "the Football Handbook" - concerning the police cooperation with non EU-countries ensuring security at sports events, especially football matches.

The results of the questionnaire could be also useful for further research in this field and could encourage continuous interest on this subject.

¹ OJ C 165, 24.6.2010, p. 1.

**OVERVIEW OF THE REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE
ON POLICE COOPERATION WITH NON-EU COUNTRIES IN THE AREA
OF SPORTS EVENTS SECURITY**

Almost all National Football Information Points (NFIPs) cooperate and exchange information both with Member States' NFIPs and contact points in non-EU countries. Only two countries cooperate and exchange information merely with the Member States' NFIPs.

Apart from NFIPs, **9 countries** (FI, NL, LU, LV, SK, SI, IT, TR, RS) **also have other contact points** responsible for police cooperation and exchange of information concerning safety and security at sports events with an international dimension.

In 26 countries (AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, ES, NL, LT, LV, DE, PL, PT, RO, SK, SI, SE, HU, IT, CH, HR, RS, UA) **the tasks of NFIPs are not limited to the exchange of information in relation to football matches.** They also exchange information concerning security issues in relation to the following sports events: basketball, volleyball, handball, ice and field hockey, water sports, skiing, tennis, athletics, etc. However, the range of information exchanged concerning these sport disciplines depends on the request and on the level of risk connected with such sports events. 4 NFIPs (UK, LU, MT, TR) carry out their tasks in relation to football matters only.

Most NFIPs are also responsible for exchanging information in relation to the Olympic Games (AT, BE, BG, CZ, DK, EE, FR, LV, DE, PL, PT, RO, SI, HU, IT, CH, HR, TR, RS, UA and Europol). Only 8 countries do not exchange information about this kind of events (FI, ES, NL, LT, LU, MT, SK, UK).

Almost all NFIPs have been involved in international police cooperation with non-EU countries (AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, ES, NL, LT, LU, DE, PL, PT, RO, SK, SI, ES, SE, UK, IT, CH, HR, TR, RS, UA and Europol). Only 2 countries (LV, MT) have never carried out this kind of cooperation.

In most cases, the NFIP channel is used for exchanging information with non-EU countries.

However, when there is no NFIP or other contact point there, information is exchanged through Interpol or Europol channels. In a few cases, respective embassies and liaison officers are involved for this purpose.

When cooperating with non-EU countries, information is usually exchanged on the basis of the "Football Handbook"¹ (AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, ES, NL, IT, LT, PL, PT, RO, SK, SI, SE, CH, TR, RS). In the case of Ukraine, where the NFIP has been just created, information is exchanged through Interpol channel.

On the basis of the "Football Handbook" NFIPs exchange information regarding:

- supporters (general information regarding their categories, means of transport, accommodation, meeting places, use of pyrotechnics, behaviour, attitude towards police and stewards; clubs/football associations (AT); media cooperation and foreign police deployment (NL); alcohol and drugs, clothes and emblems (PL); relationships with other fan clubs (SK); football teams' contact data (SE); personal data (HU, HR));
- strategic and tactical information.

17 countries (CY, CZ, DK, FI, FR, NL, LT, LV, LU, MT, PL, PT, RO, HU, IT, HR, TR) **have not exchanged personal data with non-EU countries.**

13 countries (AT, BE, BG, EE, ES, DE, SK, SI, SE, UK, CH, RS, UA) **and Europol have exchanged such data with the following non-EU countries:** CH, HR, TR, RS, RU, Belarus (BY), FYROM (MK), Japan (JP).

The following data about supporters has been exchanged: name and surname, ID, home address, information about stadium ban. Information about nickname (BG, ES, SI, SE, RS and Europol) or photos (BE, BG, SE, RS and Europol) has been exchanged occasionally. Moreover, NFIPs have exchanged information about behaviour, crimes records, date and place of birth (DE, UK) and other necessary information for police services.

¹ OJ C 165, 24.6.2010, p. 1.

Methods of data exchange vary, however, mostly e-mails and liaison officers are used for this purpose as well as the Interpol I-24/7 channel while respecting the relevant data protection legislation. Some countries use a dedicated website or secure e-mails.

The biggest obstacle identified by all countries as regards cooperation with non-EU countries is the lack of NFIPs or other contact points responsible for security issues in connection with sports events in some of them. If there is no NFIP, information is exchanged through Interpol channel, and then a reply is received with a delay.

According to most countries, the best solution to this problem is to establish NFIPs in those countries or designate other contact points responsible for security of sports events. Furthermore, police cooperation aiming to ensure the security at sports events, e.g. study visits or use of spotters should be promoted.

As regards best practices regarding facilitating cooperation with non-EU countries, most responders suggest:

- to promote establishing NFIPs or other contact points dedicated to sports events in non-EU countries,
- to cooperate and exchange information by using spotters and liaison officers,
- to use the NFIP website,
- to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding in an early stage in connection with major sport (football) tournaments.

As regards joint supportive actions in cooperation with non-EU countries, 22 countries (AT, BE, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, ES, NL, DE, PT, RO, SK, SI, SE, UK, IT, HU, CH, HR, TR, UA) **and Europol have carried out such actions** (joint police operations, deployment of spotters, etc).

Joint supportive actions with non-EU countries are usually based on bilateral agreements and other legal acts, depending on the needs (AT, BE, CZ, DK, EE, FR, ES, NL, DE, PT, SK, SE, UK, IT, HU, SI, CH, HR, TR, UA and Europol). Sometimes, this kind of cooperation is carried out on the basis of a direct request from a country concerned, which is consistent with the "Football Handbook".

In most cases, bilateral agreements signed by individual countries for specific actions in connection with particular events have been used: e.g. Memorandum of Understanding in the case of EURO 2008. **In some cases, especially regarding the regular football tournaments such as Champions League, Europa League, other football tournaments with international football clubs, the direct requests from countries concerned were taken into account.** Joint supportive actions were also based on Police Act (RS) or ad-hoc agreements between Ministers of Interior (RO).

A few countries indicated that a bilateral agreement or a Memorandum of Understanding could provide a proper legal base to govern cooperation between Member States and non-EU countries in the field of security at sports events.

According to some countries (BE, BG, CY, PO, PL, RO, ES, SE, HU, UA), certain general aspects regarding cooperation with non-EU countries (such as basic standards, recommendations) could be included in the "Football Handbook", but it would not provide a legal basis for this kind of cooperation.

In the opinion of almost all the countries, a document providing guidelines on the cooperation with non-EU countries in the area of security at sports events should contain the following elements:

- scope of cooperation,
- type of exchanged information,
- means of data exchange,
- terms of cooperation,
- division of tasks between various entities,
- elements of common standards of data protection.

Other information could also be included in such a document: information about the sending and hosting countries of the police delegation (operational support), handling of the media.

Some countries also pointed out that these items are already included in the "Football Handbook".

CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of the replies to the questionnaire the following conclusions could be drawn:

- Almost all Member States' NFIPs have already been involved in international police cooperation with non-EU countries while sometimes facing certain obstacles.
- It is advisable to establish NFIPs in non-EU countries which do not yet have one or designate other contact points which would be responsible for security at sports events with international dimension in order to facilitate the flow of information with those countries.
- It is advisable that Member States support the creation of such NFIPs or other contact points ensuring cooperation and information exchange with them by using the spotters and liaison officers as well as the NFIP website.
- It is noted that in particular cases information is exchanged through Interpol and Europol channels.
- It is advisable to update the "Football Handbook" in order to include the general aspects regarding cooperation with non-EU countries in the area of security at sports events with an international dimension.