



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 5 November 2013  
(OR. en)**

**15111/13**

**LIMITE**

**POLGEN 199  
JAI 921  
TELECOM 269  
PROCIV 122  
CSC 130  
CIS 17  
RELEX 941  
JAIEX 87  
RECH 468  
COMPET 738  
IND 286  
COTER 138  
COTRA 37  
ENFOPOL 327  
DROIPEN 124  
COASI 156  
COPS 448  
POLMIL 56  
COSDP 986  
CSDP/PSDC 686  
CYBER 24**

**"I" ITEM NOTE**

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From: Presidency

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To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)

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Subject: Extension of the Friends of the Presidency Group mandate

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1. In order to enhance the internal coordination and to help develop an integrated EU approach on cyber policy issues, the Friends of the Presidency Group (the Group) on Cyber Issues was established last year within the Council. As seen from its report<sup>1</sup> the Group provided a cross-cutting forum for discussion and exchange of information, coordination and cooperation on cyber issues.
2. Following the discussions at the last meeting of the Group on 30 October 2013, delegations expressed their wish for an extension of the mandate with 3 years to fully anchor the Group in the Council's working landscape and to provide continuity and longer work span by maintaining at the same time its horizontal, strategic and cross-cutting nature.
3. There was also a general agreement on increasing the minimum number of meetings up to two during every Presidency, and the possibility for the Group to have ad-hoc meetings in a cyber attachés format.
4. FR, supported by a number of MS, also stated the need to establish a permanent level of senior officials attendance at the Group meetings but it was not supported by a majority of the Group. Therefore the Presidency decided to include the safeguard "if necessary" to this proposal and open a silence procedure until 4 November 2013 at 12:00am during which further comments were submitted by 5 MS (SE, NL, LV, DE, FR) asking to delete "if necessary". AT and DK also submitted comments calling to delete the "if necessary at the level of senior officials".
5. The Presidency, in view of the request from the above mentioned 5 MS, has decided to modify the text to be submitted to Coreper, as set out in annex, deleting "if necessary".

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<sup>1</sup> 15317/13 POLGEN 198 JAI 935 COPS 458 COSI 120 TELECOM 272 PROCIV 126  
CSC 132 CIS 18 RELEX 958 JAIEX 89 COMPET 748 IND 292 COTER 139  
CYBER 25 ENFOPOL 333

6. Against this background, COREPER is invited to:

- take note of the report on the activities of the Group (December 2012 to October 2013) as set out in doc. 15317/13;
  - renew the Group's mandate with 3 years;
  - endorse the Group's amended terms of reference as set out in Annex I.
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**Terms of Reference for a Friends of Presidency Group on Cyber Issues**

1. A formation of the Friends of the Presidency Working Group (hereinafter: the Group) is activated to ensure horizontal coordination of cyber policy issues in the Council.

The objectives of the Group will be to:

- ensure a cross-cutting working platform to support an integrated approach on cyber policy issues, by providing a horizontal overview of the cross cutting, transversal issues, and thus avoiding compartmentalised policy developments and decision-making;
  - identify and further exploit synergies;
  - enhance the exchange of information sharing between the various strands of work, both among Member States, as well as between the EU and the national level;
  - assist in setting EU cyber priorities and strategic objectives as part of a comprehensive policy framework;
  - support effective external representation of the EU in conformity with strategic EU cyber policy objectives.
2. The Group is activated in order to speed up the process in this particular domain, where there is an evident need to act expeditiously to keep pace with rising threats and to allow citizens to reap the opportunities offered by the digital environment.
  3. The Group should address relevant cyber issues in a comprehensive manner. In view of the implementation of the European Strategy for Cyber Security, the various aspects of cyber policy, which are related, among others, to the security and resilience of networks and information systems, the fight against cybercrime, cyber defence, as well as the EU international cyberspace policy could be addressed.

4. In this context, the Group will examine any relevant horizontal issues, without prejudice to the existing mandate of other Working Parties, and could focus, *inter alia*, on policies to improve EU-wide cyber resilience, on industrial, R&D and trade developments, security dimension of internet governance issues, Human Rights online, intellectual property protection in cyberspace etc. It could be also used as a forum to coordinate the EU cyber policy initiatives relating to third countries or international organisations, and to develop EU positions for international cyber fora (e.g. the London process on cyberspace).
5. The Group will not be involved in legislative activities, but will bring issues to the attention of COREPER and Council in order for the latter to ensure coherence. The activities of the Group will be without prejudice to the work carried out in other relevant Working Parties, which shall remain responsible for the specific legislative and other non-legislative files.
6. The Group, which will be chaired by the rotating Presidency of the Council, is expected to meet ~~at the outset of~~ at least twice during each Council rotating Presidency at the level of senior officials, to take stock of the state of play in the field and identify the key issues of relevance to its work. This will be on the basis of an overall report on the various strands of on-going work and on future activities and priorities. The rotating Presidency of the Council may call for additional meetings, if deemed necessary, including in a Brussels-based cyber attachés format.
7. The Group's ~~is initially set up for a period of one year~~ initial mandate is extended for a period of three years. Its efficiency and effectiveness as well as its mandate, will be reviewed at the end of this period.

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