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## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: JHA Senior Officials meeting EU - OIPC Interpol  
On: 4 December 2019  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Summary of discussions

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### 1. Introduction and adoption of the agenda

The agenda as set out in 13735/19 was adopted.

### 2. Counter Terrorism

- *Daesh members*
  - *Battlefield-collected biometric information*
  - *Daesh prisoners currently detained in Syrian/Kurdish prisons, and potential escapees. Project FIRST*

- *INTERPOL Operation NEPTUNE II*

Interpol provided an update on various work strands on the collection and exchange of battlefield information. More diffusions and notices are being shared with MSs with new 2600 FTF added to Interpol systems only the week before the meeting. Europol informed the meeting that now it receives more battlefield information directly from the US authorities. EU MSs were encouraged to update the biometrics they have entered into the Interpol data bases and to perform systematic checks at the borders. There was also a call for advance exchange of information about radical prisoners that are soon to be released from prisons on the territory of the EU. Eurojust referred to its 2018 questionnaire seeking to map the existing legal framework on the use of battlefield information in criminal proceedings in Member States, Eurojust plans to send a 2nd questionnaire by the end of January 2020 to collect feedback on the use of this information in national court proceedings. Frontex echoed the importance of working further on biometric identification for asylum purposes and the need to consult relevant databases at external borders systematically. The EU CTC underlined the value of Vennlig reports and the need to enter relevant data in SIS and check the system systematically at external borders. CEPOL updated participants on their activities in CT capacity building trainings in 6 countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Turkey and Tunisia) in the MENA region. COM reiterated the good feedback on projects FIRST (collection of biometrics in prisons in Iraq) and SHARAKA in the MENA region. Operation Neptune (in cooperation with Frontex) has further demonstrated the value of systematic checks.

### **3. Serious organized crime**

- *Cooperation against trafficking in drugs*
- *Update on the Information Clearing House on migrant smuggling at Europol*
- *INTERPOL Operation FLYWAY against human trafficking in Africa*

Participants confirmed the need to give more attention to fighting drug trafficking. Drugs are a renewed focus for Interpol too, which is starting to deploy immediate response teams to investigate large quantities of drugs seized, e.g. in Africa. Interpol and Europol will cooperate closer to enhance operational responses with a focus on high value targets, as well as increased data collection and analysis effort.

The added value of the Interpol liaison officer to the Information Clearing House on migrant smuggling at Europol was confirmed by all participants. Extension of the posting will be secured.

COM confirmed that child sexual abuse is an area where stronger alignment of positions could be beneficial in addressing the industry and making progress on encryption.

#### **4. Operational Cooperation in the Western Balkans**

- *State of play of respective activities, including the EU Policy Cycle/EMPACT, e.g. concerning arms and drugs trafficking*
- *INTERPOL Western Balkans Hot Spots initiative*

The Commission recalled the need to continue engagement with the WB region in a structured manner, through EMPACT and other EU led initiatives with the WB partners, e.g. the CT Action plans. The focus should be on aligning approaches and avoiding duplication. Europol confirmed EMPACT as a platform where WB could be further engaged, as well as in investigations into high value targets.

Interpol highlighted that it is moving to programme based activities in the region, flagging two projects - Hotspot (proof of concept; aiming to deploy mobile devices for taking pictures, fingerprints and names of migrants in reception centres or at border crossing-points and cross-check them against Interpol database on FTFs) and an extension of project "Millennium" aiming to develop an Analysis Work File on Western Balkans organised crime. Both have been submitted for funding to COM. Project Millennium will be reassessed in light of Europol activities and EMPACT actions in WB.

## **5. Technological developments (AI, UAS/drones and 5G) and the fight against crime**

*Innovation Lab at Europol; how the INTERPOL Innovation Centre can complement and add value to European cooperation in this area*

The Interpol Innovation Centre in Singapore presented its two-pronged approach of strategic and applied innovation reinforced by its four labs (Futures and Foresight, Adaptive Policing, Lab, Digital Forensics Lab and Cyberspace and New Technologies Lab). The presentation highlighted a number of areas where more synergies and cooperation could be explored, e.g. AI, drones, innovation officers exchange, WG on Darknet and Cryptocurrencies (Europol participates). Effort to harmonise activities with CEPOL, EMPACT, SELEC, GLACY + are taking place. The meeting identified strong cooperation potential on initiatives related to dark net and cryptocurrencies. Interpol is developing an Innovation Radar (the Radar). It aims to support LEA globally by providing information about relevant innovative solutions and the use of new tech for LEA purposes, keeping an overview of worldwide LEA projects in the field, enabling exchange with academia and industry. Synergies with relevant initiatives at EU level could be built, e.g. the EU Innovation Lab at Europol. EU confirmed the need to align approaches and capabilities. The role of Frontex as a test lab in deploying technical solutions on the ground was also highlighted. Integrating closely JRC and UNICRI was underlined. On the policy side COM called for more alignment in support of LEA interests when new technologies are deployed, e.g. the rolling out of 5G.

## **6. EU-INTERPOL Cooperation Agreement**

Follow up to 31 July meeting between the Commission, eu-LISA and Interpol and to the Resolution adopted at the Interpol General Assembly.

Interpol General Assembly adopted in October Resolution N°5, which authorises Interpol's General Secretariat to enter into negotiations with the EU for concluding an EU-Interpol Cooperation Agreement. Interpol received a mandate to negotiate an agreement that may cover, inter alia, the exchange of information, granting EU access to the INTERPOL Information System, and cooperation with EU agencies within the European Union and in non-EU regions.

COM, pending internal decision process, should seek the Council's authorisation to negotiate the Cooperation Agreement, and should proceed as a matter of priority. COM called for a swift discussion on the possible scope of the agreement to allow it to present a draft mandate to the Council. The Commission expressed the hope that the mandate could be presented by the end of the Croatian Presidency. The state of play will be revisited at the next SOMEI.

## **7. Information from INTERPOL**

- *Use of INTERPOL databases: SLTD, TDAWN and NOMINALS*

Interpol reported again on an increase in input of data and consultation on its system by EU MSs, e.g. SLTD recordings, nominal or TDAWN searches with a high increase of the number of records inserted on iArms, + 41 %.

- *Outcome of INTERPOL's 88th General Assembly, 15-18 October 2019, Santiago, Chile<sup>1</sup>*

## **8. Cyber: Europol-INTERPOL global cybercrime conference – the way forward**

Interpol informed the meeting about the outcomes of the 7th Europol-INTERPOL Cybercrime Conference with Europol confirming the positive cooperation in this context and its readiness to continue building on that basis. Interpol expressed some concern about the under representation of African and Latin American countries at the Conference.

## **9. Priorities under the incoming Croatian Presidency of the Council**

The incoming HR Presidency presented its priorities in the field of security: enhance cooperation with South East Europe partners on migrant smuggling, drugs and firearms trafficking, future direction of EU law enforcement cooperation, implantation of interoperability, financial investigations and money laundering, new technologies and Europol's innovation lab, counter-terrorism, implementation of PNR and the Cooperation Agreement between Interpol and the EU.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/Events/2019/88th-INTERPOL-General-Assembly>

## **10. Any other business**

Interpol reiterated its availability to assist COM and MSs in intervening at the preliminary ruling hearing on the Steffen Case C-505/19 on the use of Interpol red notices, including by providing relevant information about Interpol's structure and status, as well as relevant rules and procedures.

It is considered that the outcome of the case could have an impact on the ability of EU Member States, as well as EU institutions and agencies to cooperate effectively with INTERPOL, as well as with non-EU Interpol countries via Interpol systems.

COM confirmed that Interpol Legal Services are already closely associated in the preparations.

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