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**NOTE**

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From: the Presidency  
To: the Council  
Subject: Future Group Report (Police and migration)

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Please find attached the contribution from the Lithuanian delegation, to be added to the annex III of the Future Group Report (Police and migration) contained in doc. 11960/08 JAI 389.

## LITHUANIA

18 July, 2008

### **CONCERNING THE PREPARATION OF THE NEXT MULTI-ANNUAL PROGRAMME FOR THE AREA OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY**

#### **- PRELIMINARY LITHUANIAN VIEWS**

Lithuania would like to stress the importance of the continuation of the Tampere Programme and the Hague Programme, which provided the solid base for further creation and strengthening of the area of Justice, Freedom and Security within the EU.

The preparation of the new programme must proceed in a usual decision-making way. The process must be transparent and open for the interested parties' inputs as much as possible.

In this regard, Lithuania greatly welcomes all work done by the High Level Group on Future of Home Affairs Policy, High Level Group on Future of Justice and the publication of the Reports and would like to present its own preliminary contribution to further discussions on future guidelines in the field of Justice and Home Affairs, which should proceed with the participation of all Member States.

Lithuania is looking forward for the Commission's comprehensive communication with specific suggestions on how to take forward the works in the Justice, Freedom and Security area as a whole in a view of the new multi-annual Programme.

#### **Better Regulation and Monitoring/ Evaluation**

The EU must review and evaluate all legal acts approved at the Third Pillar striving to identify the gaps and duplicating provisions, as well as to draft consolidated summaries of legal acts on every sphere of home affairs. We shall seek for a flexible internal policy of the European Union, conforming to the new factors and challenges. But in any case flexibility of the policy shall not affect its efficiency.

The EU must maintain and further develop a comprehensive monitoring/ evaluation mechanism in the area of JHA.

With respect to the aim to ensure convergence of the Member States, Lithuania would like to stress the need to ensure equal attention to the sharing of best practices (open coordination method). It is necessary to establish a European model, which would coexist with the persistent national competencies and national traditions in the field of Justice and Home Affairs.

## **Internal Affairs**

### *Improving practical police co-operation and fight against terrorism*

Sharing of experience, closer cooperation, trainings and exchanges are vitally important in the field of police cooperation. The EU must facilitate the procedures related to execution of investigation in the territory of another Member State of the European Union.

In the field of fight against terrorism, Lithuania favors the improvement of current coordination structure and preparations for renovated institutional architecture.

Topics on crime prevention are lacking in the EU. We suppose that EU actions (priorities) in the field of crime prevention should be discussed within the new programme.

### *Ensuring the proper cyber security level*

The issues of information systems and personal data security must be of particular importance within the EU. Lithuania proposes, while drafting the new multi-annual programme, to properly reflect of the problem of cyber security.

### *Migration and border control*

Lithuania would like to stress the need to ensure a delicate balance between measures for more effective control of illegal migration flows and measures intended to facilitate and accelerate legal movement of people across the external EU border. Promoting mobility of persons across the border should be seen as one of the highest priorities, to ensure greater coherence between JHA and external policy objectives of the EU (especially as regards European Neighborhood policy). In the field of fight against illegal migration, more attention is needed to elimination of reasons/incentives for illegal migration instead of focusing on effects/sanctions.

In this context, it is highly important to make a clear distinction between issues Mediterranean region is confronted with, and challenges relevant to the eastern neighborhood (as recognized also in the Commission's communication of December 2007). Moreover, it is equally important to acknowledge different nature of managing maritime borders and managing the EU eastern land border. As for the EU eastern border, a key challenge is promotion of greater mobility of persons.

As regards visa policy, its potential to increase coherence between internal and external agenda of the EU is not always exploited to full extent. The external (strategic) dimension shall be an integral part of migration, border management and visa policy.

#### *Development of scientific researches*

Lithuania supposes that by drafting a new programme, issues on security, development of scientific researches and implementation of their results should be discussed as a separate block, by establishing political priorities in this field at the EU level.

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