



## Working document No 1

# Informal meeting of Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs

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(meeting no 421)

## Preparing the Stockholm Programme *Developing a Europe that Protects*

1. One of the first duties of the State is to **protect** its citizens. Without security there can be no freedom for European citizens. But neither can there be security for citizens if protection is provided while disregarding certain individual rights, such as the rights of suspected and accused persons in criminal proceedings. Striking the right **balance** between law enforcement measures and measures to safeguard individual rights, the rule of law, international protection rules, etc. is of paramount importance. Moreover, **solidarity** between Member States must be demonstrated in crisis situations.

2. Finding the proper balance is the responsibility of both Ministers of Interior and Justice. It is in this spirit that the Swedish Presidency intends to approach the preparation of the Stockholm Programme.

3. In its Communication (<sup>1</sup>) the European Commission noted the following:

- In 2008, 1 500 internet sites containing child pornography were identified, both commercial and non-commercial.
- A great many children are at risk of sexual abuse.
- Human trafficking is a serious crime. All means of action need to be mobilised in the fight against this phenomenon.
- In 2007, there were almost 600 terrorist attacks – failed, foiled or executed – in 11 Member States of the Union.

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<sup>1</sup> Ref. 11060/09



- Europe must reduce the opportunities presented to organised crime by a globalised economy, in particular during a crisis that exacerbates the vulnerability of the financial system.
- Counterfeiting is a serious danger for consumers and economies.
- According to the Commission, the Union's Drugs Strategy should be guided by four principles (improving cooperation and coordination, a balanced approach, mobilising civil society, improving research and information).

4. The Commission proposes a number of measures for the next five years; some of them are of particular relevance to Ministers of Justice, others to Ministers of Immigration, depending on national competencies. In the context of this paper, the Presidency suggests that Ministers of Interior limit their analysis to their proper field of competence, mindful that the Stockholm Programme will ultimately have to form a **coherent and consistent whole**.

5. Thus, the analysis could usefully focus i.a. on the following issues:

- internal security strategy
- effective law enforcement cooperation
- border management
- training for law enforcement officials
- development of information systems
- use of new technologies
- fight against international organised crime
- terrorism (radicalisation and recruitment, financing, CBRN, explosives, critical infrastructure etc)
- strengthening civil protection.

6. In particular, the Presidency invites delegations to address the following three questions:

- *What are the most important issues to address with regard to internal security, both in the short term and the long term?*
- *What should be the components of a strategy for information management?*



- *How could the EU develop external relations in this area and which geographical and thematic priorities should be established?*

7. In light of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Europol, the Presidency wishes to inform delegations that Ministers (+1) will be invited to discuss the future of European Law Enforcement Cooperation at an informal meeting of Ministers of Interior at Europol in The Hague on 1 October 2009. Further information will be provided to delegations at a later stage.

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