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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	Council Conclusions on strengthening the internal security authorities' involvement in security-related research and industrial policy

Delegations will find enclosed the Council conclusions on setting the EU's priorities for the fight against serious and organised crime between 2014 and 2017 as agreed by the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 6 and 7 June 2013.

Council Conclusions

on strengthening the internal security authorities' involvement in security-related research and industrial policy

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING the Internal Security Strategy¹ which contained a commitment to innovation as one of the strategic guidelines for action and underlined the need *to work together to promote and develop new technologies through a common approach as well as cutting costs and increasing efficiency. In the field of technology, it is also important for the public and private sectors to work together. Building upon the outcome of research and development projects conducted under the Joint Research and Development Programme, the EU should develop technological standards and platforms tailored to its security needs,*

NOTING that the threats to the EU's security are constantly evolving and that crime is increasingly diversified which requires the law enforcement community to be proficient,

RECOGNISING the importance of using modern and adequate technologies in the field of internal security which necessitates an increased involvement of internal security authorities in research and a proactive involvement with suppliers of modern security technologies,

RECALLING the Commission's Communication "Security Industrial policy - Action Plan for an innovative and competitive Security Industry"² which aims at overcoming market fragmentation, reducing the gap from research to market, in particular by using tools such as pre-commercial procurement, and better integrating the societal dimension,

¹ Doc. 7120/10
² Doc. 13050/12

BEARING IN MIND that the seventh Framework Programme Security theme was allocated a budget of EUR 1.4 billion for the period 2007-2013, that its work programmes are adopted by the Commission assisted by a Programme Committee and that the Member States' internal security authorities could contribute to enhancing an effective use of the available funds,

NOTING that the Commission has proposed the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020), which brings together all existing Union research and innovation funding. The work programmes shall be adopted by the Commission assisted by a Programme Committee, and an adequate programme committee structure needs to be ensured.

RECOGNISING the importance of the European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Services³ (ENLETS) which was set up in 2008 under the French Presidency of the Council with the aim of gathering user requirements, scanning and raising awareness of new technology and best practices, benchmarking and giving advice,

UNDERLINING that the ENLETS if properly supported could further enhance proper coordination between Member States for public procurement and become a leading European platform for strengthening the internal security authorities' involvement in security-related research and industrial policy and thus bridging the gap between the end users and providers of law enforcement technologies,

CONSCIOUS that not all Member States have set up a service within their internal security authorities that is dedicated to the research and development of security related issues, and that the JHA Agencies within the terms of their mandate have developed different approaches to research and development,

WELCOMING the activities of Frontex and Europol in the field of research and development,

CONSIDERING that pooling EU resources into a "security technology watch function" could increase the EU's capacity to better anticipate future technologies and lead to important cost savings,

³ Doc. 5629/08

BEARING IN MIND that the security technology watch function for the internal security research and industrial policy could later extend its activities to fields of internal security other than law enforcement, such as civil protection, border control or CRBN-E,

CONCLUDES that it is necessary to create an security technology watch function within the ENLETS framework in order to ensure a better and effective involvement of the end users of the internal security authorities in the EU's security-related research and industrial policy, a closer cooperation among these authorities as well as to scan the horizon for emerging technologies,

ENTRUSTS that the ENLETS Core Group will be the EU technology watch function for internal security research and industrial policy with the following tasks,

- monitor closely and coordinate the development of new technologies and support a proactive involvement with research institutes and industry,
- develop an EU overview of the internal security authorities' user needs for relevant European Institutions, in particular the Commission as well as research institutes and industry,
- share knowledge of best practices, innovative ideas and research projects in the Member States and Agencies,
- assist in defining technical standards (guidelines and best practices) as references for Member States,
- assist in providing technical advice to Member States when preparing tenders to buy technology for law enforcement purposes,
- assist in providing technical advice to the Commission in relation to relevant procurement procedures,

- explore funding opportunities, including the Internal Security Fund and the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme and use ENLETS to ensure that internal security authorities follow-up on cooperation with research and industry,

CONCLUDES that in order to carry out these tasks the ENLETS Core Group should

- serve as the central contact point for the Member States' law enforcement technology services,
- serve as the central contact point for close cooperation with the Commission's relevant services, in particular the Joint Research Centre and invite them to participate in meetings of the Core Group, as appropriate,
- serve as the EU's central end users contact point for technology suppliers,
- closely cooperate with Frontex, Europol, CEPOL and the IT-Agency and invite them to participate in meetings of the Core Group, as appropriate,
- update on a yearly basis the overview of the internal security authorities security needs,
- distribute relevant information and requests for information from the above bodies to ENLETS,
- prepare proposals and joint initiatives for the ENLETS meeting, and
- regularly report on its activities to the ENLETS, the Law Enforcement Working Party and COSI as required.

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES:

- to consider participation in ENLETS and to nominate a National Contact Point (NCP) to the ENLETS network with the necessary competences, resources and knowledge,
- to ensure that an appropriate number of Member States are represented at the Core Group to execute its function⁴,
- who are members of that Core Group, to ensure that their experts are given sufficient time and resources dedicated for their function,
- to request access for their NCPs to the Europol Platform for Experts which would serve as a platform for the dissemination of information concerning new technologies,
- to ensure a close coordination between the ENLETS and COSI, the Law Enforcement Working Party, and other relevant Council bodies,
- to promote further the use of ENLETS both nationally and internationally,
- to consider opportunities to enhance the co-operation between public authorities and the private sector.

INVITES THE COMMISSION:

- to take into account the need for a swift and flexible manner of financing the activities of the ENLETS Core Group , in particular under the future Horizon 2020 programme and the Internal Security Fund.
- to consider the organisation of regular meetings between the law enforcement community, the Commission Services and the technology suppliers,

⁴ It is recommended that at least 5 Member States participate in the Core Group which will be open to all Member States who wish to participate in it.

- to devote the necessary resources to the relevant services dealing with security-related research and industrial policy and attract attention of services to engage with several national authorities on these issues,
- to enhance the use of the "pre commercial procurement" instrument and to devote the necessary security research budget to this instrument,
- to participate, where appropriate, in the activities of the Core Group.

INVITES THE AGENCIES

- to participate, where appropriate, in the activities of the ENLETS and in particular the security technology watch function,
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