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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

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Subject: Definition of Joint Action Days (JADs)

Delegations will find in the Annex the definition of Joint Action Days (JADs) as agreed by COSI on 18 April 2016. This definition will be applied for the planning and execution of Joint Action Days based on the drafting and implementation of the Operational Action Plans 2017.

1. Aim

The aim of this document is to provide a definition of Joint Action Days (JADs).

2. Background

- (1) Following the lessons learnt from Operation Archimedes in 2014 (16442/14), Europol prepared a preliminary evaluation of the Joint Action Days 2015 and input for a strategic discussion on the planning of the Joint Action Days 2016, as set out in 13131/15. This paper contains a definition of JADs: “Joint Action Days (JADs) are cross-border law enforcement action days focusing on horizontal key crime hot spots and criminal infrastructures across the EU. They are a Member States-led initiative, supported by Europol and take place within the EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats) framework.”
- (2) A similar definition was also provided in the footnote 2 of the press release on operation "Blue Amber" (15285/15): "Joint Action Days (JADs) are cross-border law enforcement operations focusing on horizontal key crime hot spots and criminal infrastructures across the EU. JADs are a Member States-led initiative, supported by Europol, and take place within the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime".
- (3) The French delegation commented on the Blue Amber Joint Action Days (15566/15) and asked for a clear definition of Joint Action Days in contrast to other kinds of operations such as high-impact operations (HIOs), joint police operations (JPOs), operations launched as part of a joint investigation team (JIT), etc. France stated that the lack of definition caused confusion and would limit the value of the operations.

- (4) The French contribution was considered at the Joint Action Days evaluation and planning meeting with EMPACT stakeholders at Europol on 27 and 28 January 2016, at the COSI Support Group meetings on 29 January 2016 and 22 February 2016 and at the COSI meeting of 4 March 2016. COSI also discussed the concept of the Joint Action Days (JADs) 2016 as presented by Europol (6016/16 EU RESTRICTED) which was eventually agreed by COSI at its meeting on 18 April 2016 (8069/16 EU RESTRICTED). Delegations largely supported the French request for a clear definition of JADs.
- (5) Subsequently the Presidency invited Europol to present a proposal for a definition of Joint Action Days for consideration by the COSI Support Group on 14 April 2016 and by COSI on 18 April 2016. The Presidency assured that the debate about the definition of Joint Action Days would not hamper or delay the on-going planning of JADs in 2016.

3. Definition

The following elements identify JADs:

- (1) Joint Action Days (JADs) target criminal networks affecting the EU by addressing one or two strategic, horizontal or geographic aspects of crime related to multiple priority crime areas as defined in the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime.
- (2) JADs focus on horizontal infrastructures, key crime hot spots and specific criminal modus operandi that are abused by criminals to facilitate serious and organised crime. The implementation of the JADs needs to be sufficiently flexible regarding their length, dates, and leadership.
- (3) JADs aim at improving exchange of information, getting a better understanding of crime phenomena or new criminal trends, developing more precise risk assessments, collecting intelligence which cannot be obtained by normal daily work, identifying transnational criminal networks and triggering further joint law enforcement investigations or operations.
- (4) JADs are operations established, structured and carried out on the basis of intelligence, including control actions or actions linked to major events with the objective to contribute to an improved intelligence picture on organised and serious crime.

- (5) JADs are a Member States-led initiative supported by Europol and whenever appropriate by other JHA agencies, and take place within the EU Policy Cycle framework, in particular in implementation of the Operational Action Plans (OAPs). Therefore, JADs are linked to operational actions of the OAPs.
- (6) JADs follow a multi-disciplinary approach, including cooperation with different agencies, third countries, and the private sector contributing to an improved overall coordination of the fight against organised and serious crime in the EU.
- (7) When required, Europol provides financial and human resources, logistical support (e.g. operational coordination centre, mobile office deployment), analytical support, assists in drafting operational plans for the JADs, and prepares intelligence packages for Member States. The standard operating procedure for the coordination of cross border operations in Europol (Europol document 717733v2) serves as guideline for the operational implementation of JADs.
- (8) Europol will also support other operational actions, in particular those contained in the OAPs, that do not comply with the above mentioned requirements and are therefore not considered as JADs.
- (9) COSI provides strategic guidance to the planning of JADs based on a preliminary evaluation prepared by Europol together with the National EMPACT Coordinators, the Drivers of the EMPACT projects and relevant action leaders in September every year taking into account the lessons learnt of the on-going JADs, and a draft concept paper prepared by Europol at the beginning of every year after validation of the OAPs. COSI is regularly updated by Europol on the state of play of the planning and the implementation of JADs. In addition, Europol together with the media contact points from Member States prepares annually a draft media strategy for discussion and validation by COSI.