

SEMDOC

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RESTREINT

ENFOPOL 5

NOTE

from: French Presidency

to : Working Party on Police Cooperation

No. prev. doc.: 11768/94 JAI 78

Subject: Combating racist and xenophobic violence

- Training
- Exchanges of information
- Cross-border cooperation

(Item 5 on the agenda for the meeting on 20 January 1995)

The work that has been done in this area originated with initiatives of the Franco-German summit in Mulhouse on 30 and 31 May 1994, which were confirmed in the conclusions of the Corfu Council.

The approach is as follows:

- establishment of a Consultative Commission to frame guidelines and recommendations on closer cooperation between governments and social protagonists and for police cooperation in the development of an overall European strategy, the approximation of legislation and the introduction of joint training;
- a programme involving three Working Parties: the Working Party on Police Cooperation (SG II), the Working Party on Terrorism (SG II) and the Working Party on International Organized Crime (SG III);
- a work schedule providing in particular for an examination by the JHA Council in March 1995 of the results of the work done pursuant to Title VI of the TEU and the adoption of an overall strategy by the European Council in June 1995.

With regard to the Working Party dealing with technical and operational police cooperation, all the discussions begun under the Greek Presidency (6596/94 ENFOPOL 56) and continued under the German Presidency (8738/94 ENFOPOL 93 and 9601/94 ENFOPOL 124) have helped towards the drawing up of specific recommendations to be implemented in police departments in the area of training and continuing training for police officers, the exchange of information at operational level and cross-border cooperation.

These recommendations are contained in the interim overall report on combating racism and xenophobia (11768/94 JAI 78) adopted by the JHA Council on 30 November and 1 December 1994.

The European Council on 9 and 10 December 1994 confirmed the recommendations contained in this report and encouraged the various Working Parties to carry on with these discussions with a view to the framing of an overall strategy.

1. TRAINING

First of all, it is important to emphasize the place accorded this subject, in the action against racism and xenophobia. It was discussed by the Consultative Commission's Subgroup on Police/Justice and was also highlighted both in the Justice/Home Affairs Council and in the European Council at Essen.

The French Presidency would point out that implementation of the recommendations on the training of police officers is designed to integrate into their basic training measures or action to improve awareness and understanding of racist and xenophobic violence and to permit discussion of specific cases.

For the purposes of assessment of all the measures introduced by the Member States, the French Presidency asks delegations to send it by the end of February 1995 any information on the specific proposals adopted by them.

2. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AT OPERATIONAL LEVEL

- 2.1. In order to strengthen European police cooperation through better knowledge of racist and xenophobic acts committed, the French Presidency proposes that information gathered be passed on through the existing Liaison Bureau network, as in the case of documents relating to law and order.
- 2.2. In order also to ensure better follow-up, the French Presidency considers that the introduction of a network of contact points would be likely to make for better coordinated and more effective exchanges. Notification will be sent to the Working Party on Terrorism in charge of the statistical study of this problem.

The French Presidency therefore calls on each delegation to appoint by the end of February 1995 a national correspondent to take charge of gathering and passing on information. It will draw up a final list of national correspondents, which will be regularly updated, for distribution to each Member State's representatives.

3. CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

For the purposes of more effective measures to prevent and to combat these acts of racist and xenophobic violence, the French Presidency considers that existing bilateral agreements on existing cross-border cooperation constitute an appropriate action framework. In future this subject could be included in such agreements.

The French Presidency proposes to make an inventory of existing or planned agreements on cross-border cooperation for all the countries of the Union and therefore asks each delegation to draw up a national list of this type of agreement by 1 April 1995 so that the results can be submitted to Steering Group II in June 1995.

A summary of this information will be submitted to Steering Group II at its meeting in June 1995.

4. RESEARCH

In accordance with the recommendations of the JHA Council meeting on 30 November and 1 December 1994, police research projects are to be designed which deal with specific causes and expressions of racism relating directly to the work of the police.

The French Presidency proposes to begin discussion of this subject at a seminar to be held in Paris in April 1995.
