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NOTE

from : Presidency

to : Steering Group II

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Subject: Racism and xenophobia
- Proposed re-draft of B.1, 5, 6 and 7 of 11768/94 JAI 78

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B. POLICE AND CUSTOMS COOPERATION

In the light of the proceedings of the Terrorism and Police Cooperation Working Parties, the following conclusions were reached. These conclusions amount essentially to recommendations for the attention of the police departments in the Member States with the aim of transposing the specific measures proposed to national level.

1. Training and continuing training

Training and continuing training within the police force could contribute significantly to the police becoming more aware of the problems of foreigners and minorities in their country and recognizing that the phenomenon of xenophobia/racism must be vigorously combated.

Thus, by way of specific measures under way within the European Union, a schedule of Franco-German training courses and regional training schemes for police officers in border areas has been drawn up. These courses and schemes will lay stress on combating racism and xenophobia.

Other examples will be proposed: through the process of sharing professional experience, these should enable training to be geared to the immediacy of the problem and to take into account the historical and cultural dimensions of the phenomenon.

Personal encounters and events should supplement the programme of training and continuing training.

5. Exchange of information at operational level

The Police Cooperation Working Party proposes organizing, via the existing liaison office network, the collection of operational data on racist and xenophobic acts in each country, to include all criminal offences (e.g. homicide, GBH, theft, arson, bomb attacks, desecration of graves, public racist utterances, support for crimes against humanity) as well as demonstrations, marches and propaganda campaigns engaged in by members of extremist parties, associations and groups.

Member States are ready to make existing information available to other Member States on request.

6. Contact points

The Member States have agreed to designate national correspondents within a network of contact points, who will gather and communicate the information needed for the work of the Terrorism and Police Cooperation Working Parties.

7. Research

There is probably a broad consensus among Member States as to the general causes of the rise in xenophobic and racist attitudes and behaviour. Fear, scapegoating and aggression are spreading against a background of radical change and economic difficulties, as a number of studies in recent years have shown.

As part of the comprehensive strategy to combat acts of violence which are racially motivated or directed against foreigners, each Member State will draw up a list of existing or proposed cross-border cooperation agreements. Member States will see to it that in future such agreements contain aspects that contribute to the combat against racially motivated and xenophobic acts of violence, using a standard wording, which will be proposed by the Police Cooperation Working Party.

The German delegation has announced a report on a research project on the causes and expressions of racism directly related to work; this is a multi-stage project involving discussion, analysis and conclusions, to be followed by an evaluation and proposal stage at a symposium to be held in Münster in June 1995.

Lastly, an international seminar on racism and xenophobia is to be held in Paris in April 1995. The programme will include the sociological study of the phenomenon, comparative study of the relevant legislations and police responses.

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