

SEMDOC

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12331/3/95

REV 3
LIMITE

ENFOPOL 158

NOTE

from: K.4 Committee

No. prev. doc.: 12331/2/95 ENFOPOL 158 REV 2

Subject: **Illegal trafficking of works of art**

1. A seminar on illegal trafficking of works of art was held in Las Navas del Marqués (Avila) from 18 to 20 October 1995, attended by experts in the field from the Member States of the European Union, Egypt and the United States, as part of the activities planned for the second half of the year by the Spanish Presidency of the Working Party on Drugs and Organized Crime, under Steering Group II of the third pillar of the TEU.

The conclusions of the seminar were presented to the Working Party by the Presidency at the meeting held on 10 November 1995. They were agreed to and submitted to higher authority.

2. At its meeting on 13 December 1995, the K.4 Committee reached agreement on the following conclusions:

- (1) To set up a specialized national unit to centralize all information on the illegal trafficking of works of art in each Member State of the European Union, in accordance with national law, with the aim of facilitating the exchange of information, and the analysis of that information, between the various Member States of the European Union.

The aim of this proposal is to centralize the information available in the various law enforcement agencies at national level, facilitating, furthermore, the exchange of information and the analysis thereof between States through having a single contact point in each Member State of the European Union. ⁽¹⁾

- (2) To expedite the proceedings of the Working Party on Drugs and Organized Crime, taking into account existing work or work in hand, in order to set up as soon as possible an information system which is compatible technically and in terms of description and facilitates the identification of stolen works of art.
- (3) The Committee agreed to discuss this text at its meeting on 19 January 1996.



⁽¹⁾ Waiting reservation by the German delegation.