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NOTE

from : incoming Presidency

to : Steering Group III (Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters)

Subject: Mutual assistance in criminal matters perpetrated over the INTERNET

The Working Party on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters has the task of drawing up a supplementary convention on mutual assistance in criminal matters. One of the aims of the convention is to make it possible to obtain judicial assistance from other Member States in the prosecution of new types of crime.

In the last six months, the Council has repeatedly called for attention to be directed towards certain types of information disseminated over the Internet, such as the spread of information inciting discrimination or the purpose of which is to promote drug addiction or illegal drugs production, and, not least, the spread of child pornography.

In this connection the Presidency considers it desirable for the Working Party on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters to examine whether the existing conventions on judicial cooperation offer sufficient scope for judicial cooperation in investigations into Internet crime.

With an eye to further discussion by the Working Party on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, the Presidency proposes that delegations on the Working Party examine whether the existing conventions offer an adequate basis for cooperation, and that delegations notify the General Secretariat in writing of any experiences with which they had difficulties.

It is therefore suggested that Steering Group III agree to:

- (a) the Working Party on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters discussing judicial assistance for investigations into Internet crime;**
 - (b) delegations to the Working Party on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters reporting holdups in judicial cooperation by 1 March 1997 at the latest to the General Secretariat of the Council, for the attention of Mr B. Mejbourn (tel. + 32 2 285 67 22, FAX + 32 2 285 81 54).**
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