

9239/97

LIMITE

CK4 24

**NOTE**

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from: Presidency

to : K.4

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No. prev. doc.: 7421/97 JAI 14

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Subject: Proposal for implementation of Recommendation No 22 concerning the establishment of a multidisciplinary Working Party on Organized Crime – of the Action Plan to combat organized crime

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**Introduction**

The Action Plan to combat organized crime 7421/97 JAI 14 was adopted at the European Council meeting on 16 and 17 June 1997.

Political guideline No 9, as developed in Recommendation No 22, calls for the establishment within the Council, within the Third Pillar structures, of a multidisciplinary Working Party on Organized Crime. That Working Party should consist of competent high-level authorities and develop policy orientations to coordinate the fight against organized crime. The High Level Group's aim in setting up the multidisciplinary Working Party is to either fill a gap in, or give added value to, the current working-party structure under the Third Pillar. To that end, the High Level Group has in mind a working party of high-level experts drawn from day-to-day police, customs and justice work which would adopt an integrated approach to (cross-border) organized crime. This document sets out a proposal for creating such a working party.

## **Composition and structure**

The new Working Party on Organized Crime would consist of competent representatives of national coordination teams – or comparable high-level teams – together with officials involved in strategic policy-making and representatives of Europol. As desired by the High Level Group, the Working Party should first and foremost comprise high-level experts drawn from day-to-day police, customs and justice work in order that an integrated approach to cross-border crime can be adopted.

The Working Party would meet whenever necessary in order to carry out its task adequately, but no less than 3 times during each Presidency.

## **Tasks**

- (a) Assessment of practical cooperation involving, in particular, the pinpointing of difficulties resolvable only by political decision-making;
- (b) designing the strategies and policies of the Union in the fight against organized crime;
- (c) preparation of high-level decisions, such as decisions concerning new instruments (e.g. relating to practical police cooperation), priorities in tackling organized crime, and other forms of agreement needed for the efficient fight against organized crime;
- (d) implementation, or monitoring of the implementation by other competent working parties, of Action Plan recommendations principally addressed to the Council, i.e. Nos 2, 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16 17, 21 24 25, 26, 27, 29 and 30;
- (e) monitoring, at the request of the K.4 Committee, of the implementation of recommendations which are not principally addressed to the Council;

- (f) keeping the K.4 Committee informed for the purposes of the interim progress reports on implementation of the Action Plan, and advising that Committee on the preparation of the report to be submitted to the European Council no later than June 1998 on the progress made in carrying out the measures proposed in the Action Plan.

### **Consequences for the existing Third Pillar working-party structure**

Once the new Working Party on Organized Crime has been established, the Working Party on International Organized Crime – set up under Steering Group III – should to be abolished. On the basis of experience with the new Working Party's activities, the K.4 Committee should consider no later than the end of 1997 whether the Working Party on Drugs and Organized Crime should limit its remit to drugs issues relevant to tasks performed in accordance with Article K of the Treaty.

The fact that the Working Party on Organized Crime has been established must not prevent items relating, for instance, purely to police cooperation against organized crime from being dealt with by other Council working parties. It is a matter for the K.4 Committee to decide on appropriate coordination between the working parties under its responsibility.

### **Proposal**

The K.4 Committee is asked to approve the above proposal and pass it on to COREPER with the request that to the Working Party on Organized Crime be established.

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