

5601/98

LIMITE

CRIMORG 11

CORDROGUE 10

NOTE

from : Presidency

to : Multidisciplinary Working Group on Organized Crime (MDG)

Subject: **Work of the Drugs and Organized Crime Working Party**

Introduction

Recommendation No 22 of the Action Plan on Organized crime invites Coreper to examine whether the Working Group on Drugs and Organized Crime should either limit its remit to drugs issues relevant to tasks performed in accordance with Article K of the Treaty or be abolished.

At its meeting on 21 January 1998, Coreper took note of the intentions of the UK Presidency not to convene any meetings of the Drugs and Organized Crime Group during its Presidency and decided to examine the future role of the Working Party after 1 July 1998.

The attached note lists certain issues which might have been considered by the Drugs and Organized Crime Group. The UK Presidency intends to pursue work on these items in the manner set out in this paper.

In general the Presidency intends to submit questions relating to external relations, in so far as they concern drugs, to the Horizontal Drugs Group (HDG).

1. Report to the European Council on the Joint Action approximation of the laws and practices of the Member States to combat illegal drug trafficking

This Report will have to be drafted during the Austrian Presidency.

The Horizontal Drugs Group will in general monitor the implementation of this Joint Action. Certain questions of a more multidisciplinary character, such as those referring to judicial cooperation, might be referred to the MDG.

2. The Swedish proposal for a feasibility study on chemical impurity profiling of amphetamine

The Drugs and Organized Crime Group has discussed an extension of the Nordic Amphetamine Profiling Project to include all Member States.

The HDG will be responsible for carrying forward the work on this matter.

3. Implementation of the recommendations in the EDU report on Latin American criminal organisations

The above mentioned report, which covers aspects other than drugs, has been adopted by the Drugs and Organized Crime Group. In so far as it covers drugs or drugs related aspects, the work on this item will be continued by the HDG, and, as necessary, referred to the MDG on broader issues.

4. Evaluation of cooperation between custom and police services

Member States were invited to inform the Presidency/General Secretariat of the measures they have taken following the Resolution concerning the drawing up of police/customs agreements in the fight against drugs. On the basis of these comments a revised version of the above mentioned summary will be sent to the K.4 Committee.

The work on this matter will be pursued by the Police/Customs Cooperation Working Parties reporting to the MDG, where necessary.

5. Controlled Delivery Manual

EDU/Europol will update the controlled delivery manual regularly.

The HDG will oversee continuing work on this matter in close contact with the MDG in questions of a multidisciplinary character.

6. Report on Organized Crime in the European Union in 1996

The Council took note of the annual report on organized crime in 1996 which was elaborated by the Contact and Support Network on Organized Crime in cooperation with the EDU. The Contact and Support Network will continue to examine this question and report to the MDG which will examine policy aspects of the report.

7. Money laundering

EDU/Europol proposed to conduct a scientific research on the effectiveness of anti-money laundering measures. On the basis of a proposal by the Luxembourg Presidency the item was referred to the MDG which has this item on its agenda, pending opinions from the Commission and the FATF.

8. Credit card frauds

A draft Joint Action concerning arrangements for the better exchange of information regarding of payment card crime between Member States' law enforcement agencies and the payment card industry was presented by the UK delegation during the Luxembourg Presidency. Further work on this matter will be carried out by the Police Cooperation Working Group and, as necessary, the MDG.

9. Traffic in stolen vehicles

A seminar on stolen vehicles was held on 28/29 October 1997 in Luxembourg. The outcome of proceedings of the seminar has been forwarded to the MDG.

The work on this matter will be continued by the Police Cooperation Working Party which will report to the MDG, if necessary.

10. Centres of Excellence

It was agreed that an updated overview of the database on Centres of Excellence will be sent to the Member States every six months.

Practical co-ordination will continue to be carried out by the EDU, with any collective discussion that is necessary in the MDG.

11. Conclusions of the "Intellex" 97 Workshops

The work on this matter will be carried forward by the MDG.

12. Implementation of the recommendations in the EDU report on heroin trafficking

Oversight by the HDG of the implementation of recommendations by EDU, referred to the MDG when necessary.

13. EDU-document 2564-14R1: A proposed co-ordinated long-term EU Law Enforcement Strategy

Taken forward initially by HENU's and EDU with oversight, as appropriate, by Europol Working Group and MDG. Consideration of the "EU Law Enforcement Strategy" document to take in proposals in ENFOPOL 234 (Proposals for new initiatives at EU-level relating to the "European Union situation report on drug production and drug trafficking"), referring relevant proposals for consideration by the HDG.