

12066/98

LIMITE

CRIMORG 160

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: Multidisciplinary Group - Meeting of the Contact and Support Network
on: 14 October 1998

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Contact and Support network adopted the agenda set out in telex no 4341 of 7 October 1998.

2. Discussion on the contributions of the Organised Crime Situation Report 1997 (Amendments of the discussion of the last Contact Support Network)

Report to the European Parliament

The Presidency opened the meeting and asked Member States to confirm the current state of play regarding the submission of the summary report for the European Parliament. There were still several outstanding contributions from Member States and in order to complete the summary within the deadline, several Member States agreed that Europol should complete the summary on their behalf drawing on their national contributions. It was also decided that sections containing sensitive information would be sanitised accordingly. There was a general agreement that the summary would only contain general recommendations and not operational recommendations.

The Spanish delegation stated that they intended to provide their own summary direct to Europol to be included in the overall submission to the European Parliament.

It was agreed that the compilation of the final version of this report would be completed by Europol and then circulated to Member States via the Liaison officers before being presented to the Multidisciplinary Group on 20 October 1998.

Full national contributions of the Organised Crime Situation Report

Europol informed delegations that 14 of the 15 full contributions had been translated into English. When the outstanding contribution had been received some Member States expressed a desire to check the translations and make linguistic alterations where appropriate prior to distribution, it was agreed that this would be completed bilaterally directly with Europol. The final translations of the contributions would then be distributed to all Member States.

In some cases delegations considered it would be more beneficial to receive the original texts of other Member States contributions, it was agreed that this would be arranged through Europol.

Organised Crime Situation Report Rev 2

Europol presented the revised version of the situation report, it was generally agreed that the revision had taken account of comments from Member States. However concern was expressed in relation to the cross checking mechanism which although was regarded as a useful and positive exercise, needed to be enhanced for future reports.

The Presidency also stressed the need to set out the function of the cross checking mechanism and how it works. As this was a new initiative there was limited experience in this field and various difficulties had arisen particularly in relation to the verification of data.

Subsequently it was agreed that the summaries from this section of the report would not be forwarded to the European Parliament.

Following the MDG of 8 October 1998 Member States had submitted further recommendations and amendments, these were presented to the group by Europol.

This section had been divided into two parts general recommendations and operational recommendations.

During the discussion of the revised conclusions and recommendations several issues and concerns were raised including further proposals for new texts. The Presidency concluded that Europol would re-write the recommendations, incorporating the comments of the Member States in order that a revised text would be available for the MDG on 20 October 1998. They also highlighted the need to submit all alterations and proposals to Europol by Friday 16 October 1998 in order that the Organised Crime Situation Report 1997 would be completed during 1998.