

12937/98

LIMITE

CRIMORG 176

NOTE

from : Presidency

to : COREPER/Council

No. prev. doc. : 12748/98 CRIMORG 174 ; 12749/98 CRIMORG 175

Subject : **1997 EU Situation report on organized crime**

1. The 1997 EU situation report on organized crime has been produced by Europol under the responsibility of the Austrian Presidency. Member States have contributed detailed national contributions, containing confidential and sensitive information. The report is based upon these contributions and additional Europol information.
The contact and support network has steered the elaboration of this report.
2. A report has been prepared for the attention of the Council (12748/98 CRIMORG 174) and a succinct version of it for the European Parliament (12749/98 CRIMORG 175). Both versions contain information from Member States contributions, operational conclusions and recommendations.
3. Attention of the Council is drawn upon
 - following conclusions and recommendations of a methodological nature (see p. 94-96 of document 12748/98 CRIMORG 174 which provide inter alia for
 - * proposals for an improved methodology (recommendation 2)
 - * involvement of scientists (recommendation 3)
 - * greater involvement of Europol (recommendation 5)

- following operational conclusions and recommendations (p. 96-98) which provide inter alia for
 - * development of common framework for prioritizing law enforcement activities directed against organized crime group (recommendation 9)
 - * combination of law enforcement initiatives aimed at combating organized crime groups should combine thematical and group approaches (recommendation 10)
 - * consideration of response to low risks crimes and to other developments in organized crime, such as environmental crime and high tech crime (recommendation 11)
 - * initiative of in-depth studies on organized criminality emanating from Asia and Central and Eastern European countries (recommendation 3)
 - * launching of in-depth study exploring available information on organized crime, money-laundering and financial crime activities, the scope, methods and techniques used and the impact these phenomena have on the financial systems of the EU and its Member States (recommendation 16).

4. The reports were distributed at the meeting of the K.4 Committee of 9/10 November 1998. The Committee agreed to forward them to the COREPER/Council.

5. The Council is invited to

- approve both reports and decide to forward doc. 12745/98 CRIMORG 175 to the European Parliament;
- ask the Multidisciplinary group and, as far as operational aspects are involved, Europol, to monitor the implementation of the recommendations that are in doc. 12748/98 CRIMORG 174.
