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THE COUNCIL

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LIMITE

ENFOPOL 29

NOTE

from : Future Finnish Presidency
to : Police Co-operation Group

No. prev. doc.: 5228/99 ENFOPOL 5; 7225/99 ENFOPOL 23; 10346/95 ENFOPOL 107;
8741/94 ENFOPOL 96

Subject : Co-ordination of research made in the police field in the EU Member States

1. Researches in the police field are made more than before in the universities, research institutes and police institutes of many Member States. However, information on these research projects becomes available only haphazardly. With a view to develop police activities and training, it would be of utmost importance to receive information of the on-going research projects and results of the studies already made in various parts of the EU. In this way, overlapping in research could be avoided and co-operation between the Member States in the field could be improved.

The initiative is based on the proposal made by Germany during the German Presidency, in which preparation of a Resolution on Police co-operation following the Amsterdam Treaty was proposed (7225/99 ENFOPOL 23).

2. Finland, having the future Presidency, proposes that the Police co-operation Working Group would investigate how information on research projects made in the police field could be obtained and exchanged in a better way.

According to Finland's understanding, the matter could be forwarded to the Association of European Police Colleges (AEPC) to investigate. The AEPC could find out the possibilities to collect information from all Member States in a way that they would be available to every Member State.

In principle, Finland would be willing to offer its services for all Member States in collecting information Union-wide in a centralized manner in one data bank. This could be made at our national level either by the Department of Administrative Sciences of the Tampere University as the Department provides higher university-level education and makes high-level academic research in the police field or by the Research Unit operating in the context of the Finnish Police College.

3. On the initial stage, information could be exchanged by traditional means, e.g. by telephone or telefax. On the second stage, it could be investigated what is the best way to the exchange the above information. The purpose would not be, however, to establish any data-base or create a new system for exchanging information, but to investigate whether it was possible to collect and forward the said information via some already existing information network (e.g. EPI-Center, Internet, etc.). A condition would be that all parties involved in the system would forward the information they have to some national contact point in a centralized manner. The information could be given e.g. by using some particular approved format.

4. In order to provide for the above, the Presidency proposes that the Police co-operation Working Group would take measures with the aim to create a network of contact points in the field of research of police matters for the purposes of the Member States. Thus, it would be a question of an EU-wide network of nationally centralised contact points established by the Member States. The national contacts points would collect information on research projects in the police field made in the Member States and forwarded the information further to the data bank shared by the Member States. All police organisations of the Member States in the need of such information could have that information from the data bank. The national contact point could be a university, scientific research institute related to police research or police college or institute making scientific or applied research in the police field in the Member State. Finland offers to advance the matter.
