

**COUNCIL OF  
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**SEMDOC**

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**LIMITE**

**ENFOPOL 55**

**NOTE**

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from :	Presidency
to :	Police Cooperation Working Party
No. prev. doc.:	9110/99 CATS 7 ENFOPOL 43
Subject :	European Union participation in the International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok, Thailand

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The United States of America has sent a letter to the European Union suggesting that the Union should in one way or another participate in the activities of the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok, Thailand. The aim is "regional harmonisation" because Thailand and the neighbouring areas have not yet seen any organised forms of regional cooperation of law enforcement agencies. The USA regards the ILEA as a flexible and useful framework for the purpose of practical cooperation.

The USA has also invited Australia and Japan to participate in the project. Japan has already expressed its interest but is still examining forms of participation.

The question of the financing of the project is not at stake, the USA having stated that it would be totally open to any form of European Union participation.

The issue has been discussed before at two Article 36 Committee meetings. In principle, most Member States were in favour of participation and considered it very important for the EU to have a common approach. However, it must be clarified how the European Union wishes to participate or whether the Member States want to agree bilaterally on cooperation with this USA-Thai-led institute.

At its meeting on 22 and 23 July 1999 the Article 36 Committee decided to refer the matter to the Police Cooperation Working Party with the request to work out the forms of possible European Union participation in ILEA (Bangkok) activities.