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**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from :	French delegation
to :	Article 36 Committee
No. prev. doc.:	SCH/I (98) 17 REV 4
Subject :	Interoperability of TETRA/TETRAPOL systems

The Schengen Central Group approved the conclusions of Working Group I on Police and Security on 27 May 1998 , calling upon it to note "that in addition to the TETRA standard, there is at least one other system, namely TETRAPOL, which will be used by certain security forces in the Schengen area" and asking it to "allow Working Group I to clearly explain the requisite operational interoperability needs..." between the two systems (SCH/I (98) 17 REV 4).

Studies in this area have already been carried out by the Interoperability Sub-Group, an offshoot of the Schengen Telecommunications Group.

A General Meeting of ETSI on 22 and 23 April 1999 rejected the standardisation request submitted by MATRA, but asked the competent bodies to examine the conditions for interoperability between TETRA and TETRAPOL. ETSI also proposed that the interoperability techniques should subsequently be submitted to it for standardisation.

Now that the Treaty of Amsterdam has entered into force, the Working Party on Police Cooperation has taken over from the former Schengen Working Group I on Police and Security.

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France accordingly believes that the necessary studies for defining interoperability needs should henceforth be carried out by the formal Sub-Group on Telecommunications set up by Coreper decision on 16 March 1999 in reference document 6166/2/99 CK 4 12 REV 2. That Sub-Group naturally comes under the authority of the Working Party on Police Cooperation and the Article 36 Committee.

France therefore requests the Presidency to enter an item concerning definition of the mandate for the Sub-Group on Telecommunications on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the Article 36 Committee on 22 and 23 July 1999 so that it can determine the operational interoperability needs between the TETRA and TETRAPOL systems without delay.