



EUROPEAN UNION
THE COUNCIL

Brussels, 17 February 1999

6047/99

LIMITE

ENFOCUSTOM 8

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: Customs Cooperation Group

on: 12 February 1999

1. **Approval of the agenda**

The Group approved the agenda as set out in telex 503 of 3 February 1999.

2. **Joint customs surveillance operations**

- **Guidelines (5523/99 ENFOCUSTOM 5) and Report 1998 (5519/99 ENFOCUSTOM 3)**

The Group

- took note of the above guidelines and report 1998;
- charged the experts to examine these documents and will come back to them at a later stage.

3. **Supervision of cross-border cash transactions**

(5373/99 ENFOCUSTOM 1 CRIMORG 7)

The Group

- had a first exchange of views on the proposed measure to supervise cross-border cash transactions;
- charged the experts to continue the examination and will come back to this item at the next meeting.

4. **Customs administrations' operative powers to combat offences** (5385/99

ENFOCUSTOM 2 ELARG 6 EVAL 6)

The Group agreed on the above document. This document is for the attention of the Collective Evaluation Group.

5. **Risk analysis : Establishment of a central unit** (12430/2/98 ENFOCUSTOM 58

EVAL 3 ELARG 84 REV 2 ; 13976/98 ENFOCUSTOM 75)

The Group agreed on the proposed basic design for the establishment of a central risk analysis unit. This document is for the attention of the Collective Evaluation Group.

6. **Powers of customs administrations in the framework of the Schengen agreements**

(13110/1/98 ENFOCUSTOM 65 SCHENGEN 55 REV 1)

The Group took note of the above conclusions drawn from the Member States' replies to the questionnaire on the powers of the customs administrations in the framework of the Schengen agreements.

7. **Setting up of a computerised records system for customs purposes in the Member States** (5520/99 ENFOCUSTOM 4)

The Group

- had a large exchange of views on the Presidency proposal to set up a computerised records system for customs purposes;
- examined the scope of Articles 2, 5 and 12 of the CIS Convention and of Article 1 of the Naples II Convention (on mutual assistance and cooperation between customs administrations);
- will continue the examination of the above document at its next meeting.

8. **Operation Ospray (EU/G8 paedophile project) : results, consequences for the work in the Customs Cooperation Group**

The United Kingdom delegation presented the final report on the results of the three operations Ospray which took place in May, August/September and October 1998. The Group charged the experts to examine the proposals contained in this final report.

9. **Action plan for sea container control : results of the working party “container”**

The Group was informed by the United Kingdom delegation on the work of the experts concerning the implementation of the above action plan agreed by the K4 Committee on 14 September 1998 (10985/98 ENFOCUSTOM 50). The group will examine the results of this work at its next meeting foreseen for 24 February 1999.

10. **Action plan to tackle Internet fraud** (12634/98 ENFOCUSTOM 59 PI 61

CRIMORG 171)

The Group

- was informed by the French delegation on the organisation of a seminar in France (June 1999) concerning the relationship between the Internet and customs fraud;
- agreed to consider after the above seminar what action could be taken against Internet-generated fraud, taking into account the work done in the framework of the WCO, OECD and UNO.

11. **Other business**

a) **JHA work structure** (9836/5/98 CK4 28 REV 5)

The Group was informed of the work envisaged in the K4 Committee and in COREPER on the above item.

b) **Protocol to the CIS Convention** (13435/98 ENFOCUSTOM 71)

The German delegation informed the Group that it will lift its reservation on the above draft protocol.

c) **Ratification of the CIS Convention**

Finland and Portugal have ratified the CIS Convention.

d) **Court of Auditors' special report concerning the audit of the use of risk analysis techniques in customs control and clearance of goods** (OJ C 375, 3.12.1998, p. 1)

The attention of the Group was drawn to the above report.