

4264/94

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ENFORC 1

CONCLUSIONS

of: Steering Group II (Police and customs co-operation)

on: 12 January 1994

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Group agreed on the agenda set out in telex No 44 of 7 January 1994.

2. Programme for 1994 of joint surveillance operations on air and sea traffic

[11519/93 ENFOCUSTOM 7]

The Group confirmed delegations' agreement on the programme for 1994. It is on the K.4 Committee's agenda.

3. Letter from the Chairman of the Customs Co-operation Group to Steering Group II

[4092/94 ENFOCUSTOM 2]

The Group

– took note of points 1 to 5 of the letter;

– with reference to point 6:

= asked the Presidency to consider the question of the number of meetings of the Customs Co-operation Group to be held during the first half of 1994;

- = agreed to the suggestion that customs documents should be circulated via the Customs Attachés at the Permanent Representations;
- = asked the Presidency to give further consideration to the rules for circulating documents from the "third pillar" of the Union, bearing in mind that certain documents were confidential or secret.

4. Future work in the field of police and customs co-operation

– Implementation of the action plan and priority programme for 1994

[Presidency note : 4091/94 ENFOPOL 1 ENFOCUSTOM 1]

The Group held a detailed discussion on future work in the field of police and customs co-operation on the basis of the Presidency note referred to above.

The Chairman told the Group that the aim of the note was to set out, for delegations' information, the subjects which the Presidency intended to place on the agenda for the first meetings of the Working Groups set up following the implementation of the Treaty on European Union. It was neither an exhaustive list nor a list of priorities.

Following the discussion, the Chairman noted in conclusion that the Greek Presidency:

- had taken note of delegations' comments;
- would, of course, follow the action plan and priority work programme drawn up by the Council, which were the framework for all the work to be carried out in 1994;

- would make further proposals at the Steering Group's next meeting, setting out the objectives and timetable for the work to be carried out by the various Working Groups;
- would ask the Working Groups to say how they each intended to carry out the parts of the priority programme for which they were responsible;
- would ask the Working Groups to advise the Steering Group of any difficulties they encountered in carrying out their terms of reference;
- would examine, within the limits set by the new structures, the balance between the allocation of the tasks assigned to the different groups.

5. EDU : Criteria for recruiting the co-ordinator and assistant co-ordinators

[11020/93 ENFOPOL 59]

The Group examined this document.

Decisions on recruitment of the senior management for the provisional phase of EDU must be taken urgently since this phase is to begin on 2 April 1994, according to the recommendations adopted by the Council on 22 December 1993 [see 10363/1/93 ENFOPOL 12 REV 1].

The project team submitted ENFOPOL 59 to the meeting of the EUROPOL Group on 14 December 1993, but that Group did not have time to consider the matter then. It was therefore agreed that delegations would forward their comments on the descriptions of the management posts and the qualifications required for them before 10 January 1994. The Belgian delegation told the Group that only a limited number of delegations had replied.

In view of the urgency of the matter, the Group focused on the qualifications required for the three management posts [see pages 4 and 19 of 11020/93].

- (a) The discussion dealt in particular with the language qualifications required.

The text under consideration prescribes:

"Excellent communication skills in the EUROPOL working language(s).
Possessing such ability in other EC languages will be an advantage."

The German delegation proposed that the co-ordinator and assistant co-ordinators should have knowledge of English and a second language.

The French delegation reminded the meeting of the conclusion in 4.1 on page 7 of 11020/93 that "a minority in the Working Group insists as a matter of principle and for political reasons on two or more working languages".

The Danish delegation suggested specifying that the co-ordinator and assistant co-ordinators must have "appropriate knowledge of languages".

- (b) The Group took a favourable view of the following other qualifications which the co-ordinator and assistant co-ordinators must possess :

- experience in the field of law enforcement co-operation;
- experience in the management of complex police organizational units with comprehensive staff;

- experience in the combating of international crime (organized crime), especially in the drugs field; experience in the combating of other forms of crime would be appreciated;
- knowledge of international treaties and conventions on international co-operation in mutual legal and police assistance and in the fight against drugs criminality;
- experience in modern information technology.

As regards the criteria relating to experience, the level and duration of the duties performed would be taken into account.

University or equivalent higher study attested by a diploma recognized by all Member States would be an advantage.

- (c) The Group felt that candidates could already apply to the General Secretariat of the Council on the basis of the guidelines set out in (b).

The representative of the Council General Secretariat said that the only application already received by the General Secretariat remained valid and the candidate need not re-apply.

The Group wanted the deadline for the call for candidates to be set at 11 February 1994, so that it could give its opinion at its meeting on 21 February 1994, with a view to the Council taking a decision at its meeting on 24 March 1994.

6. Other business

– Work programme on the draft Convention on the establishment of EUROPOL [11530/93]

To speed up work on the draft Convention on the establishment of EUROPOL, the German delegation suggested holding an extra week-long meeting in March 1994, so that the major problems linked to the establishment of EUROPOL could be discussed in detail.

Most delegations welcomed this suggestion.

The French delegation doubted whether the German delegation's proposals were feasible. The rules and practices regarding the organization of meetings of the Council of the Union should be complied with. A decision on this matter could be taken only by Coreper.

The Chairman said that this matter would be considered at the meeting of the K.4 Committee on 18 and 19 January 1994.
