EUROPEAN UNION
THE COUNCIL

Brussels, 31 January 1995 (10.02)
(OR. f)

4572/95

RESTREINT

ENFOPOL 18

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: Police Cooperation Working Party

on: 20 January 1995

ITEM 1 – ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
(see telex No 6 of 3 January 1995)

The United Kingdom asked for the question of harmonization of radio communications to be included under item 9 (other business) and also wished to make a statement on automatic fingerprint recognition under item 7 (scientific and technical research).

The Netherlands delegation wanted to raise the question of the role of the police in crime prevention under item 9 (other business).

The Presidency asked for items 5 and 6 to be switched.

The agenda was adopted.

ITEM 2 – ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The Presidency informed the Working Party of the form that future proceedings would take, their substance and the role of the Council General Secretariat, which was to be the central body for replies to all the new questionnaires.

ITEM 3 – POLICE COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC ORDER

Two items were introduced by the French Presidency

3.1. In accordance with the recommendation in 9600/94 ENFOPOL 123 + COR 1, the Presidency proposed drawing up a table of the departments designated by each Member State to participate in the information exchange network through which requests for local assistance would be passed.

The table would distinguish between hooliganism and large gatherings of people even if the contact point was sometimes the same. Details should be sent to the Presidency as soon as possible.

3.2. The Presidency was to submit a six-point questionnaire to the delegations, replies to which should arrive by 15 April 1995 (4355/95 ENFOPOL 16) so that a summary of experience with direct exchanges of information on the occasion of major events and meetings could be established.

The conclusions would be submitted to Steering Group II.

ITEM 4 – CONTINUING TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS

The Presidency presented the envisaged training measures (French-German regional bilateral training courses – seminar on racism and xenophobia – seminar on Islamic fundamentalism – seminar on technical and scientific police work).

The German and Netherlands delegations advocated the continuation of existing bilateral exchange programmes in this framework.

The Spanish delegation announced that the seminar for heads of training schools and centres would be held in Spain in the autumn of 1995.

In connection with the seminar on racism and xenophobia, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and German delegations said that another seminar on the same subject was to be held in the autumn and asked for coordination over the content in order to avoid duplication.

The French delegation announced the subjects that would be dealt with at the French seminar (sociological study – comparative study of legislation – police responses – coverage by other social sectors).

The Presidency said that coordination would also be necessary with Steering Group III, as it was planning to hold a seminar on this topic in February.

During the meeting the German delegation circulated a document in German on the ten topics for international training projects planned by the German Police Academy for 1995.

The Presidency said the aim of this information exchange on training programmes was to open up as many as possible of them to police officers from other European countries.

ITEM 5 – COOPERATION WITH THE CCEEs

Two items were introduced by the French Presidency:

5.1. Finalization of the work begun under the German Presidency in accordance with 8742/94 ENFOPOL 97 + COR 1: football hooliganism correspondents.

The German delegation said it would soon be able to forward the list of contacts designated by the CCEE authorities.

5.2. Coordination of assistance to the CCEEs

It was agreed that the delegations would continue replying to the Irish and Danish questionnaires, which would be kept up to date.

The Presidency proposed a new questionnaire to the delegations – 4202/95 ENFOPOL 11, intended to collect information on bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the countries of the European Union and the CCEEs in order to rationalize action in this field.

Replies should be sent to the General Secretariat of the Council by 15 April 1995.

The Netherlands delegation was asked to inform the Working Party at its next meeting of the Council of Europe's proceedings on this subject, and the Austrian delegation was asked to submit a progress report on the proceedings of the Academy of Central Europe set up in Budapest.

ITEM 6 – COMBATING RACIST AND XENOPHOBIC VIOLENCE

The Presidency referred to the Working Party's instructions to implement the recommendations in 11768/94 JAI 78, particularly points B1, B5, B6 and B7 (4173/95 ENFOPOL 5).

- Basic and continuing training: the delegations' comments on how this topic was to be integrated into the basic and continuing training of police officers were to be submitted by 1 February 1995.

- Exchange of information at operational level: the Presidency's suggestions of using the Liaison Bureau network and appointing a national correspondent as a single contact point for racist and xenophobic matters were adopted.

  The names of the persons and departments should be sent by 1 February 1995.

- Cross-border cooperation

  The Presidency asked the delegations to make an inventory of existing cross-border agreements and in future, wherever possible, to incorporate in them elements helping to combat racism and xenophobia.

  Replies should be sent by 1 February 1995.

- Research

  The Presidency announced that a seminar on this subject was to be held in Paris in April 1995.

  The German delegation informed the Working Party of a report on a German research project on the origins and forms of expression of racism directly linked to a person's job; it comprised several stages: discussion, analysis, conclusion then evaluation and drafting of proposals at a symposium to be held in Münster in June 1995.

  The German delegation also raised the question of the Community funding of these measures.

  The delegations agreed that the reply to that question was a matter for the K.4 Committee or else the JHA Council.

  The Presidency also informed the Working Party of the projects planned by the Consultative Commission: establishment of a European monitoring centre for racist and xenophobic outbreaks and implementation of a European programme on problem areas.

ITEM 7 – SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH

- On the matter of the research questionnaires (8740/94 ENFOPOL 95 – 8741/94 ENFOPOL 96), the work undertaken by the German and United Kingdom delegations would be carried on in the interests of continuity (4174/95 ENFOPOL 6 – 4175/95 ENFOPOL 7).

  Those delegations that had not yet replied were asked to do so as soon as possible so that the final summary could be completed by 1 March 1995.

- On the question of closer technical and scientific cooperation (4176/95 ENFOPOL 8)

7.1. * The Presidency asked the delegations for written replies on the relevance and usefulness of continuing the central collections.

At the request of the Netherlands and United Kingdom delegations, the Presidency would ask the Europol EDU, in its capacity as an operational analysis unit, for its technical opinion on the usefulness of these collections and what form they should take.

7.2. * The Presidency submitted to the delegations a questionnaire on the organization and tasks of technical and scientific police work, with the aim of drawing up a coherent work programme and, in the longer term, of giving thought to a common European Charter on technical and scientific police work.

7.3. * The Presidency informed the Working Party of the guidelines given for the seminar on forensic science and identification to be held in Paris in late April/early May, for professionals in the field.

The United Kingdom delegation suggested that, following a seminar held in the Trevi framework on automatic fingerprint recognition, it draw up a questionnaire on the subject.

It could be used at the Paris seminar.

ITEM 8 – URBAN VIOLENCE AND POLICE COOPERATION (4177/95 ENFOPOL 9)

The delegations all welcomed the French initiative in this field.

The Presidency proposed to approach the subject from the police angle, to exchange information on the development of urban violence, share experience and on that basis attempt to arrive at some proposals or specific practical solutions, if possible adaptable to each country.

For that purpose a questionnaire, based on an empirical definition of the concept of urban violence, was submitted to all delegations. It was left open to comment and any other attempt at a definition.

Replies should be sent by 30 March 1995.

ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS

9.1. Study of the role of the police in prevention

The Netherlands proposal on a study of the role of the police in prevention was considered by all the delegations to be linked to the previous one on urban violence.

The Presidency proposed dealing with this approach under item 8.

9.2. Radio communications

Further to the United Kingdom delegation's request, the Presidency proposed that the Police Cooperation Working Party make an official approach to the Belgian Schengen Chair on the question of the extension to the European Union of the work on radio communications discussed by the Schengen countries.

The Working Party would be informed of the outcome of that approach and the matter would be placed on the agenda of the Working Party's next meeting, in May.

The proposal was unanimously adopted.