

10765/96

LIMITE

ENFOCUSTOM 45

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Customs Co-operation Working Party

on : 16 October 1996

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Working Party approved the agenda as set out in Telex No. 4058 of 11 October, 1996.

2. National Mobile Search Squads (Madrid Action Point No. 24)
(Doc. 10513/96 ENFOCUSTOM 41)

The Finnish delegation, in consultation with the Presidency, will present a revised version of its document and questionnaire, taking into account the comments made by the other delegations.

3. Third Pillar Customs 2000

- Draft Joint Action
(Doc. 10102/1/96 ENFOCUSTOM 35 Rev. 1)

The French delegation presented its revised proposal for a Joint Action (Customs 2000); however, because of time constraints no detailed discussion was possible; this item will be discussed further at the next meeting. The Working Party was informed that Customs 2000 is on the agenda for the K4 Committee Meeting of 21 and 22 October, 1996, but only for information purposes (in relation to the Article relating to funding).

4. Refine (i) Targeting criteria, methods of selection, etc. and (ii) Collection of Customs and Police Information; (Action Point No. 20)
(Doc. 10739/96 ENFOCUSTOM 44)

The Working Party had a first exchange of views on the above mentioned draft document drawn up by the Presidency, with the assistance of Denmark and

Germany. A number of amendments were suggested during the course of the meeting and it was agreed that these would be incorporated in a revised text. Member States were invited to submit, as soon as possible, any additional amendments in writing to the Presidency for consideration with a view to their possible inclusion in the document.

5. Controlled Deliveries Manual

- Draft letter to Schengen Secretariat regarding Customs aspects of the entries in the Manual (Doc. 10696/96 ENFOCUSTOM 43)

The Working Party noted that the K4 Committee had approved the EU manual on controlled deliveries (Doc. 10465/96 ENFOPOL 151) at its meeting of 7/8 October; it being noted that the Europol Drugs Unit will regularly update this manual. Some Member States felt that it would not be appropriate for the CCWP to write to the Schengen Group along the lines suggested by the Presidency in its draft letter. It was agreed that delegations would study the list of amendments attached to the draft letter; delegations wishing to suggest any amendments or additions to the list were requested to fax them to the Presidency as soon as possible. The next meeting of the Working Party will consider how best to achieve the necessary amendments to the EU Manual (e.g. by possibly submitting the list of amendments to EDU who are responsible for updating the manual).

6. Joint Training Questionnaire (Action Point No. 45)
(Docs. 9248/96 ENFOCUSTOM 21, 9787/96 CK4 23 Rev. 2)

All MS have now replied to Questionnaire and results are being analysed. The Working Party noted the suggestion of the Swedish delegation to organise a meeting of specialists on the question of joint training, after an analysis has been made of the replies given to questionnaire 9246/96 ENFOCUSTOM 21.

7. Relations with CEEC's in respect of drug trafficking - Customs input (see draft non-paper from Commission services, circulated at CCWP Meeting of 30.9.96)

The Commission representative pointed out that the Commission services non-paper has been revised since the last meeting of the K4 Committee. The new paper has been circulated to K4 delegates. As regards the previous version of the document which was under discussion at the present meeting, the Working Party felt that, with the exception of one or two points, the document was a fairly accurate description of the current situation and was in general a well-constructed document.

8. Draft Joint Action on Balkan Route Proposal

- Situation report following K4 Meeting of 7/8 October, 1996

The Working Party was informed that the K4 Committee at its meeting of 7/8 October agreed in principle with the proposal that the EU should contribute 100,000 ECU towards the cost of the WCO's strategic operation on the Balkan Route; however, K4 could not agree on the budgetary source for this contribution and agreed to continue the discussion on this aspect at its next meeting on 21 and 22 October, 1996.

9. Joint Surveillance Operations

- Developing a programme of operations for 1997 (Doc. 10607/96 ENFOCUSTOM 42)

The Working Party discussed the question of developing a programme of surveillance operations for 1997; it was agreed that the Working Party would hold a ½ day meeting on Monday, 25 November, 1996, dedicated to operational matters; this meeting will require the attendance of experts in the field of surveillance operations and will examine the question of drawing up a programme of operations for 1997.

At the invitation of the Presidency, the UK agreed to act as forerunner country in relation to preparing recommendations for the refinement of procedures concerning Air Transit Operations; Germany and the Netherlands agreed to assist as 'co-runners'; other Member States were invited by the Presidency to consider whether they also wish to assist as co-runners; Member States wishing to be involved should inform the Presidency as soon as possible.

10. Other Business

The Working Party was informed by Spain and Portugal of a proposal presented by Germany to the Inter-governmental Conference on transferring 3rd Pillar customs issues to the 1st Pillar of the Treaty. Because of the lateness of the hour, there was only a very short discussion on this topic. The Presidency suggested to the meeting that it is a matter for each Customs Administration to decide what its position should be in the Inter-Governmental Conference on this issue.
