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LIMITE

ENFOPOL 140

NOTE

from : The Presidency

to : The Police Co-operation Working Party

Nr. prev. doc. : 5118/96 ENFOPOL 49, 8223/96 ENFOPOL 101

Subject : Urban security, crime prevention : diversion of young people from crime, including crime relating to drugs
- Report from Seminar in Dublin on 31 July, 1996

As stated in its workplan for the second half of 1996 (8934/96 Enfopol 118), the Presidency plans to maintain progress in the development of appropriate responses to urban violence/crime in major European cities. Work has been done in this area in the course of previous Presidencies and recent seminars on urban crime and crime prevention have been held in Zaragosa (February, 1996) and Stockholm (May, 1996), respectively.

A seminar on Juvenile Diversion Projects - inter-agency, community based projects aimed at diverting young people from crime, including drug related crime - organised by the Presidency under the auspices of the Police Co-operation Working Group, was held in Dublin on 31 July, 1996.

The seminar was attended by delegates from EU Member States and the EU Commission. Presentations were made by practitioners closely involved in Juvenile Diversion Projects in Dublin City and its suburbs. Presenters included senior and middle ranking police officers, the Chief Probation Officer with the Irish Probation and Welfare Service and Community Workers involved in the co-ordination of projects. The German delegation also presented a paper and there were valuable contributions from other delegations in the discussions which followed each of the presentations.

Arising from these discussions, delegations agreed that the following conclusions should be brought to the Police Co-operation Working Party as a

contribution to discussions on the development at EU level of crime prevention strategies for our major cities.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Community based projects work and have immense value in building contacts between police and communities.

2. Member States must respond to the problems of marginalised young people by means of integrated and easily accessible programmes specially designed to meet the specific needs of young people in trouble, or at risk of being in trouble, with the law.

3. Constructive programmes need to be developed to compensate for the lost opportunities these young people have experienced in educational, personal and social development.

4. Development of such programmes requires a multi-agency approach.

5. Within the Third Pillar, the development of innovatory programmes, characterised by preventive or diversionary intervention, should be examined.

6. As the projects are clearly cost-effective, specific EU recognition of them and EU funding for the establishment of new projects as well as the expansion of existing projects should be pursued.

7. The effective operation and development of Juvenile Diversion Programmes, including effective inter-agency co-operation and interaction between agencies and local communities, requires appropriate training in community relations for police officers, and indeed for personnel in all the agencies involved in such schemes.

8. A large proportion of urban crime in all Member States is attributable to young people and it follows that effective tackling of the more criminally inclined of our young people would go a long way towards making our cities safer for all the citizens of Europe.