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LIMITE

ENFOCUSTOM 16

NOTE

from : the future Irish Presidency

to : Customs Co-operation Working Party

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7747/96 JAI 34
7745/2/96 CORDROGUE 32 REV 2
7856/96 ENFOCUSTOM 12
8189/96 ENFOCUSTOM 14
8190/96 ENFOCUSTOM 15

Subject: Work programme for customs co-operation

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of this matter, it is essential for work to begin as soon as possible and a conclusion to be reached in the shortest possible time.

Other Items on Current Work Programme of CCWP

As regards the revision of the Naples Convention, the Irish Presidency intends to continue work on this with a view to submitting a number of alternative options to the K4 Committee to enable them to give political direction on a way forward from the current impasse.

In relation to the Joint Customs Surveillance Exercises carried out annually by the Customs services of the Member States, the Presidency regards these as contributing in no small way to the strengthening of external borders and they can therefore be regarded as part of the actions taken to implement the External Frontier Strategy. As regards these Joint Exercises, the Presidency intends to initiate a review of the arrangements currently in place for such operations aimed at improving their efficiency; in this connection, it is proposed to submit a paper relating to the setting up of more clear-cut organisational arrangements for the conduct and review of future exercises of this type. Also, the Presidency intends to seek a global mandate from Council to carry out these exercises annually without having to look for Council approval at the beginning of each year.

Proposals concerning measures to combat counterfeiting, which were originally put forward by the French Presidency during the first half of 1995, have recently been re-submitted to Council for approval. Measures to combat counterfeiting are also included in the Council's proposed multi-annual programme for Justice and Home Affairs for the period 1 July, 1996 to 30 June, 1998. The Irish Presidency proposes to take account of these developments by including this item on the Work Programme for the CCWP.

Working methods

If there is to be satisfactory progress on all the above matters, not just during the Irish Presidency, but also during the succeeding Netherlands, Luxembourg and UK Presidencies, it will be necessary to harness the goodwill and expertise of all Member States. The concept of "forerunner countries" has been used successfully in other 3rd Pillar fora and could readily be utilised by the CCWP. The use of forerunner countries is particularly valuable in the 3rd Pillar area since 3rd Pillar activities are not supported by the extensive resources of the Commission.

Action by Members of the CCWP

Member States are requested to consider both the proposed actions shown in the Annex and the methodology suggested in progressing those actions and to be prepared to discuss them in depth at the first meeting of the CCWP in the Irish Presidency on 10th July, 1996. In particular, Member States are requested to consider if they could act as the "forerunner country" for one of these topics. As mentioned earlier, a number of the proposals listed above will be the subject of more detailed individual papers prepared by the Irish Presidency for circulation to members of the CCWP.

A number of Action Points are of shared interest between the CCWP and the Drugs and Organised Crime Group (DOCG); on some issues, a jointly prepared Police-Customs document will be presented simultaneously to both the DOCG and the CCWP for discussion. Some joint sessions of the DOCG and the CCWP may also be envisaged for items of joint interest to Police and Customs. Where the DOCG takes the lead role on any issue of joint interest to both Police and Customs, the CCWP will need to be

#	ACTION POINT	IRISH PRESIDENCY PROPOSAL
18	Improve external border control	• Reactivate the External Frontier Strategy Report. • Select those parts of the Report to be progressed. • Each Member State to develop a national strategy plan to enhance controls at its part of external frontier. • Set up small team(s) of experts from Member States to visit <i>centres of excellence</i>. • Identify "best practice" to assist Member States in developing national plans. • CCWP to be advised of these plans. • 3rd Pillar Customs 2000 Joint Action to give political/practical support for the plans. • Periodic follow-up review of national situations. • Update and extend the External Frontier Questionnaire. • Liaise with DOCG on police aspects of external frontier strategy. • One or more <i>forerunner</i> countries to be asked to take prime responsibility for this topic. • Review arrangements in place for annual Joint Customs Surveillance Exercises. • Seek global mandate from Council to carry out these Surveillance Exercises.
19	Control of container traffic	• Conduct a comparative study of container control throughout the Union. • Set up a small team of experts from Member States to visit <i>centres of excellence</i>. • Identify "best practice". • Draw up guideline on "best practice". • A <i>forerunner</i> country to be asked to take prime responsibility for this topic.
20	Refine (i) targeting criteria, methods of selection, etc. and (ii) collection of customs and police information	• Study to be carried out with a view to seeing how best to progress this topic. • Draw up guideline on "best practice". • A <i>forerunner</i> country to be asked to take responsibility for progressing this topic.
21	Conclude Memorandum of Understanding with business	• CCWP to develop a Joint Action encouraging Member States to use MOUs to the widest extent possible. • A proposal from the Irish Presidency will be circulated.
22	Exchange regional reports on law enforcement problems	• No action planned during Irish Presidency.
23	Identify national resources in the air and maritime fields	• Questionnaire to be issued by CCWP with a view to identifying air/sea resources held by Customs, Police and other law enforcement agencies. • Liaise with DOCG on police and other law enforcement agency aspects. • A CCWP <i>forerunner</i> country to be asked to take responsibility for progressing this topic.

#	ACTION POINT	IRISH PRESIDENCY PROPOSAL
24	Create national mobile search squads at external frontiers	• This topic mainly concerns certain Member States with land boundaries with 3rd countries. • Possible comparative study of current practice. • Draw up guideline on "best practice". • Co-operate with DOCG on this subject. • A <i>forerunner</i> country having a land boundary with 3rd countries to be asked to take prime responsibility for progressing customs, police and other law enforcement agency aspects of this topic.
25	Co-ordinate work prepared by Europol with CIS	• Liaise with Europol W.G. on the possibility of establishing links between the CIS and the work being prepared by EDU/Europol relating to intelligence exchange between law enforcement agencies. • A <i>forerunner</i> country (Netherlands) has agreed to take responsibility for progressing customs aspects of this topic.
26	Create common police/customs task forces to fight organised crime	• DOCG and CCWP to jointly develop a Council Resolution encouraging Member States' Police and Customs services to enter into ever closer co-operation underpinned by co-operation agreements or MOUs. • Document jointly drawn up by Irish Presidency of DOCG and CCWP to be presented in both Groups.
28	Exchange law enforcement officers - either bi-laterally or centrally	• DOCG Presidency paper, drawn up in consultation with CCWP Presidency, to be presented at DOCG. • CCWP delegates to participate in discussions at DOCG.
29	Co-operate on controlled deliveries	• Build on work of Schengen, EDU and Interpol. • Discussion document jointly drawn up by Irish Presidency of DOCG and CCWP to be presented in both Groups. • A special expert group meeting to be convened by DOCG on controlled deliveries, to which Customs will also be invited. • Presidency to produce an EU manual on controlled deliveries, including a guideline on "best practice", to be jointly agreed by DOCG and CCWP. • Network of contact points to be drawn up.
30	Curb drug tourism	• DOCG will progress this topic • Customs input to be provided as necessary (possibly by a <i>forerunner</i> country)
31	Curb trafficking on European Routes	• Initiate joint Customs road surveillance exercises, especially on Balkan Route. • Examine WCO proposals for action on Balkan Route. • Prepare proposal (e.g. Joint Action) for Council on measures to be taken by Customs to curb drug trafficking on Balkan Route. • Liaise with DOCG on aspects of joint police-customs interest in relation to road surveillance exercises. • A <i>forerunner</i> country (Germany) has agreed to take responsibility for preparation of customs input on this topic. • Initiative commenced during Italian Presidency (see Doc. Enfopol 40) will continue to be followed up in DOCG.

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32	Develop or improve the necessary legal bases for action on joint surveillance, controlled deliveries, etc.	- Continue work on Naples II text; include appropriate optionality in Title IV to facilitate more rapid progress. - Early referral to K4 for decision on sensitive issues. - DOCG to progress non-Customs aspects of this general topic.
33	Effective exchange of sensitive information between MS and at EU level	- A <i>forerunner</i> country (Netherlands) to be appointed in DOCG to progress this Action Point. - Special one-day meeting of DOCG to be held on this topic during Irish Presidency. - Seminar to be organised on this topic by Dutch Presidency during first half of 1997. - Dutch Customs have agreed to co-ordinate CCWP input on this topic.
34	Examine need for chemical profiling system/European network of forensic labs.	- Police Co-op. Group will progress this topic. - Customs input to be provided as necessary (possibly by a <i>forerunner</i> country).
35	Develop purity indicator system	- Police Co-op. Group will progress this topic. - Customs input to be provided as necessary (possibly by a <i>forerunner</i> country).
37	Improve co-ordination of information exchange on money laundering; examine feasibility of EU-wide financial database	- DOCG will progress this topic. - Customs input to be provided as necessary (possibly by a <i>forerunner</i> country).
39	Produce a report on financial transport techniques (money laundering)	- DOCG will progress this topic. - Customs input to be provided as necessary (possibly by a <i>forerunner</i> country).
42 43 44	Actions relating to precursors	- Primary role for Customs 1st Pillar (EQWP). - CCWP input to be provided as necessary (possibly by a <i>forerunner</i> country).
45	Increase joint training programmes in the Justice and law enforcement field	- Police Co-op. Group will progress this topic. - Customs input to be provided as necessary (possibly by a <i>forerunner</i> country).

Other Items on Work Programme

#	ITEM	IRISH PRESIDENCY PROPOSAL
-	Measures to combat counterfeiting.	A <i>forerunner</i> country to be asked to take responsibility for progressing customs aspects of this topic.