EUROPEAN UNION
THE COUNCIL

Brussels, 10 July 1997 (14.07)
(OR. f)

9239/2/97
REV 2

LIMITE

CK4 24

NOTE

from: COREPER (Part 2)

No. prev. doc.: 7421/97 JAI 14, 9239/1/97 CK4 24 REV 1

Subject: Implementation of recommendation No 22, concerning the establishment of a Multidisciplinary Working Party on Organized Crime, of the Action Plan to combat organized crime

Delegations will find attached the terms of reference for the Multidisciplinary Working Party on Organized Crime, as decided on by the Permanent Representatives Committee on 10 July 1997.

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Composition and structure

As desired by the High Level Group, the Working Party should comprise high-level competent authorities having daily experience of police, customs and justice work, officials involved in policy-making and Europol representatives in order that an integrated approach to organized crime can be adopted.

The Working Party will meet whenever necessary in order to carry out its tasks adequately, but no less than 3 times during each Presidency.

Tasks

(a) implementation, or monitoring of the implementation by other competent working parties, of Action Plan recommendations principally addressed to the Council, especially Nos 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29 and 30;

(b) monitoring of the implementation of recommendations which are not principally addressed to the Council;

(c) assessment of practical cooperation, involving in particular the pinpointing of difficulties resolvable only by political decision-making;

(d) designing the strategies and policies of the Union in the fight against organized crime;

(e) preparation of high-level decisions, such as decisions concerning new instruments (e.g. relating to practical police and judicial cooperation), priorities in tackling organized crime and other forms of agreement needed for the efficient fight against organized crime;

(f) providing the K.4 Committee with information which is useful for drawing up the interim progress reports on implementation of the Action Plan, and advising that Committee on the preparation of the report to be submitted to the European Council in June 1998 on the progress made in carrying out the measures proposed in the Action Plan;

(g) ensuring follow-up of the High Level Group's recommendation that there should be increased coordination between the first and third pillars in combating organized crime.

Consequences for the existing third pillar working-party structure

It is suggested that the Working Party on International Organized Crime – set up under Steering Group III – should be abolished following the establishment of the new Working Party on Organized Crime. On the basis of experience with the new Working Party's activities, Coreper should moreover consider no later than the end of 1997 whether the Working Party on Drugs and Organized Crime should limit its remit to drugs issues relevant to tasks performed in accordance with Article K of the Treaty or cease to function.

The fact that the Working Party on Organized Crime has been established must not prevent items relating, for instance, purely to police cooperation against organized crime from being dealt with by other Council working parties. It is a matter for the K.4 Committee to decide on appropriate coordination between the working parties under its responsibility.

Decision

Coreper has decided to set up the Multidisciplinary Working Party on Organized Crime (MWP) under the authority of the K.4 Committee on the following conditions and in accordance with the following arrangements:

- the Member States will ensure that high-level experts are sent who have proven experience in fighting organized crime from the judicial, police and customs viewpoints. Given the variety of tasks to be carried out by the Working Party – definition of policy, discussion of legislative texts and exchanges of experience – and the requirement of multidisciplinary composition, it is desirable that the Council cover the travel costs of 4 delegates from each Member State;

- with regard to the discussion of legislative texts, the Multidisciplinary Working Party will be able, when it deems necessary, to draw on the expertise of third-pillar working parties;

- the option should be open of organizing meetings on specific topics so as to make the best possible use of resources;

- the Working Party on International Organized Crime is abolished;

- Coreper will consider by 31 January 1998 at the latest whether to limit the tasks of the Working Party on Drugs and Organized Crime to drug issues relevant to tasks performed in accordance with Article K of the Treaty or to abolish that Working Party.