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SEMDOC

Statewatch European Documentation &
Monitoring Centre on justice and home
affairs in the European Union

PO Box 1516, London N16 0EW, UK
tel: 0181 802 1882 (00 44 181 802 1882)
fax: 0181 880 1727 (00 44 181 880 1727)

LIMITE

EUROPOL 60

NOTE

from : the Europol Drugs Unit

to : the Europol working group

Subject : **Outline of the Europol Drugs Unit Working Programme 1998**

1. Introduction

This text represents an initial outline of the draft working programme for the main projects of the EDU/Europol as foreseen for 1998 as distributed to the meeting of the HENUs 18-19 March 1997. It has been drafted to take into account the evaluations of the activity plans for 1996 and the first semester of 1997, ongoing initiatives and activities requested by Member States.

Forthcoming advice, decisions and priorities arising from experts' meetings, the meetings of the HENUs, working groups, the forthcoming EU Presidencies, the Council of Ministers, the Council of Heads of State and the high level working group will influence and determine the actual work undertaken in 1998.

Special emphasis will be given to the implementation of the EU Action Plan Against Organised Crime as agreed by the Amsterdam summit.

General situation reports will be produced for each area of the EDU/Europol mandate as an overview for Member States both to the political level and for use by law enforcement agencies.

The operational activities of the EDU will be particularly influenced by the specific areas of criminality and investigation related needs of Member States law enforcement agencies.

These projects are as discussed by the WG Europol in relation to the EDU budget proposals as subsequently adopted by Ministers.

2. Main projects in specific areas of crime

For 1998 the main priorities will be to focus on all intelligence related activities in general (linked to the start of the post-Convention phase), on activities concerned with money laundering (high on the political agenda), on trafficking in human beings (starting operational activities) and on technical and tactical co-ordination between Member States' law enforcement agencies (given the future U.K presidency interest). The following projects are listed starting with those considered to be of the highest priority.

2.1. Illicit drug trafficking

- maintaining the database system on seizures of ecstasy and images of ecstasy tablets (Logo project) and distribute a catalogue throughout the Member States (Joint Action);
- supporting initiatives for the development of a chemical profiling system under the authority of the Working Group Police Co-operation (Joint Action);
- supporting initiatives for the development of a purity indicator system under the authority of the Working Group Police Co-operation (Joint Action);
- exchanging information on new synthetic drugs between Member States, the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction and the Commission following the Joint Action on the introduction of an early warning system on new synthetic drugs;
- update of a handbook on drug production for distribution to Member States (Council Resolution);
- update of a handbook on drug cultivation for distribution to Member States (Council Resolution);

- continuation of the project on drug trafficking by Turkish criminal families (initiated by work programme 1997 and confirmed by the working groups on Europol and Drugs and Organised Crime);
- development of operational Latin American Cocaine projects (initiated by work programme 1997 and confirmed by the working groups on Europol and Drugs and Organised Crime);
- continue involvement in the Maritime Intelligence work, especially in exchanging and analysing information including cooperation with the Mar-Info system;
- production of a general situation report. This will include information on levels of organised crime, domestic production and cultivation, drug seizure statistics and drug price overviews (ongoing);
- organisation of a conference on cannabis cultivation in MS;
- *continuation of the Albanian project¹ (HENU request).*

2.2. Trafficking in human beings (Joint Actions)

- The following activities are envisaged subject to the results of the project team, the decisions of the Working Group Europol, Steering Group II, K4, COREPER and the JAI Council.
- *continuing a study of current initiatives by other organisations;*
- *carrying out a feasibility study into possible open source scrutiny;*
- *giving support for the creation of national contact points;*
- *support for structure of databases in Member States (e.g. missing children, paedophiles);*
- *development of a training programme for trainers;*
- *undertaking of specific studies, concerning trafficking of women, children & prostitutes in particular, and also giving support to operational and investigation related projects of the Member States;*
- *development of a general situation report.*

¹ All items in italics are subject to the results of ongoing technical meetings in 1997

Crimes involving clandestine immigration networks

- *preparation of a common structure for national reports;*
- production of a general situation report;
- *undertaking a study of the most successful methods of investigation;*
- *study the interagency and multidisciplinary approach to combating clandestine immigration networks within member states;*
- *continuation of Balkan project resulting in common investigations and operations of MS law enforcement agencies, taking into account the Schengen initiatives;*
- *bulletin board on clandestine immigration networks.*

2.4. Illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive substances

- continuing to facilitate the transfer of data on seizures between Member States (HENU request; part of work programme 1997);
- production of a general threat assessment.

2.5. Illicit vehicle trafficking

- provision of expertise and support for development of databases at national level;
- *production of an overview of modus operandi (falsifications of documents, trafficking routes etc.) in order to improve prevention programmes;*
- standardisation of national reports and statistics;
- development of the maritime control project;
- production of a general situation report.

2.6. Money laundering

- co-ordination of a study at national level on the effectiveness of the legislation regarding money laundering and asset seizures *(if the EDU's proposal is accepted by the Working Group on Drugs and Organised Crime; see the High Level Group recommendations numbers 15, 26 b and 28)*;
- the collation, selection and distribution of non-operational money laundering information;
- the development of an operational support function;
- the further development of a pilot project for a monitoring system on criminally derived cash/assets from and towards the EU, if the results of the initial (1997) pilot project justify so;
- the participation in the study for the creation of a database for suspicious transactions;
- the finalisation of the 1997 EDU Activity Plan on the Development of an International ML-Training Course and the implementation of the results;
- the production of a yearly analysis of money laundering trends, based on the results of money laundering investigations in the EU Member States.

2.7. Technical and operational support

- purchasing of basic means for operational technical support;
- conduct a study of possible co-operation of informants and undercover agents;
- evaluation of technical tests and studies;
- revision of practices and procedures document;
- production and continuous updating of a manual on controlled deliveries (Council decision).

2.8. Centre of Excellence

- development of an appropriate database accessible for MS;
- data input to create the directory of Centres of Excellence (Joint Action);
- monitoring of the use of the Centre of Excellence (Joint Action);
- internship (training attachments to EDU for selected Member States' personnel) in analytical techniques;
- internship in open sources and documentation research.

3. Crime Analysis

- ongoing analytical support for Member States and internal project groups;
- continuation of the development of analytical guidelines for the pre and post-Convention phase;
- development of a training programme for trainers;
- organisation of the 4th Criminal Intelligence Analysts Conference;
- preparation of the analytical structure for the post-Convention situation;
- continuation of and improvement in specialist support to member states.

4. Information Technology

- upgrade secure e-mail links between 6 Member States and EDU;
- further develop internal IT security (network separation, firewalls, virus protection, encryption);
- improve internal access to information through in-house Intranet services;
- development of finance and personnel system.

The Europol Computer System

- finalisation of stage 2- the operational requirement;
- award of the contract for and initiation of stage 3- the development and supply of the system;
- further development of the interim Europol Computer System, including laboratory testing and delivery of an operational system by 1 July 1998.

6. Legal issues

To be initiated, continued or finalised in '98:

- confidentiality regulations;
 - relations with third states and bodies;
 - TECS contractual aspects;
 - data protection procedures;
 - personnel issues (e.g. contracts, social security provisions, disciplinary procedures);
 - support to the examination by the Multi-Disciplinary Group of the possible place and role of judicial authorities in their relations with Europol.
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