

6445/98

LIMITE

EUROPOL 33

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of : Europol working group

on : 26/27 February 1998

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The group agreed on the agenda as set out in telex 793 of 23 February 1998 it being understood that under point 8 "Any other business" upon request of the French delegation the following matter will be considered :

- Development of stage 2 of the TECS : Problems with UNISYS.

2. EDU matters

- Pursuant to K.4 Committee meeting of 10.02.98 :

Request of Schengen Executive Committee for mandate to EDU for threat assessment of illegal immigration of Iraqis (Kurds)

The group noted the involvement of EDU in work on illegal immigration of Iraqis (Kurds). It agreed to make available to the Schengen Executive Committee the threat assessment document presented to the Europol group (5693/98 EUROPOL 16) as well as planned future documents on this item.

Various delegations expressed their concern on possible duplication of work between activities on illegal immigration of Iraqis launched in the framework of Schengen Task Force on one hand and activities of the European Union on the other hand. The creation of a database to be developed by France had been agreed in the framework of Schengen whereas Europol is supposed to start activity in this field after entry into force of the Convention.

The representative of EDU pointed out that for the moment exchange of personal data can only be done by a Member State. That's why EDU is only giving support to France, leading State at the moment. After entry into force of the Convention, Europol is supposed to take the lead. In the meantime EDU can prepare activities in this field. Finally, the director of EDU reported on visits to EDU/Europol.

3. Extension of the mandate of Europol to include terrorism (5284/98 CK4 5 ; 6250/98 EUROPOL 30)

The group welcomed the approach of the Presidency on the extension of the mandate of Europol to include terrorism (cf. 6350/98 EUROPOL 31).

The representative of EDU promised to present an outline feasibility study with options to financial experts meeting on 16/17 March 1998. The terrorism working group at its meeting of 9 March 1998 will also address the issue. The Swedish delegation said that its Parliament should be consulted. The group agreed to pursue examination of this item at its next meeting on the basis of results of aforementioned meetings and a report by EDU.

4. Design of the Index System (doc. 5741/98 EUROPOL 19)

Major agreement was reached on the text on the design of the Index system in document 5741/98 EUROPOL 19. Outstanding problem is access to the system in case of sensitive operations. An exception can be considered based on article 4 §5 of the Europol Convention. In finding a solution the human factor can be important e.g. through liaison officers. The presidency announced that examination of the text will be continued at a next meeting.

5. Confidentiality Regulations (5694/98 EUROPOL 17)

The group welcomed the lifting of the reservation of the Italian delegation on article 2 § 1. Various formulas for article 2 §3 were considered. The results of the work of the group are in document 5694/1/98 EUROPOL 17 REV 1.

6. Security Manual

Substantial progress was achieved in work on the Security Manual. A text taking into account results of the meeting will be elaborated by the Presidency.

7. Rules of procedure of the Joint Supervisory Body

Discussion of revised text prepared by EU Data Protection Commissioners (doc. 5584/1/98 EUROPOL 13 REV 1, 6022/98 EUROPOL 23, 6159/98 EUROPOL 26)

The group examined in depth all articles of the draft rules of procedure that are in document 5584/1/98 EUROPOL 13 REV 1. On the basis of the discussion a succinct document will be drawn up in which major problems are explained. Moreover, a detailed document reflecting state of play on all articles will be drawn up.

8. Any other business

*** Development of stage 2 of the TECS : Problems with UNISYS**

The representative of EDU explained the current state of relations with UNISYS. The representative of UNISYS has committed himself to deliver on 16 March 1998 agreed projects. At the next meeting of the Project Board on 16 March 1998 a number of options have to be discussed.

The Presidency announced that on 2/3 April 1998 this problem will be rediscussed by the group in the light of reports of the Project Board and financing experts.