

11971/98

LIMITE

CRIMORG 159

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Multidisciplinary Group on Organised crime (MDG)

dated: 8 October 1998

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as set out in telex No. 4171 of 2 October 1998 was adopted.

2. European Judicial Network

Docs. 11629/98 CRIMORG 146
11630/98 CRIMORG 147
10034/98 CRIMORG 112 + REV 1 (en)

The Presidency and the General Secretariat reported on the outcome of the first meeting of the European Judicial Network (EJN) which took place on 25 September 1998. A general account of that meeting is given in 11630/98 CRIMORG 147 which provides a list of the contact points for the EJN. The MDG also agreed to the Presidency proposals outlined in 11629/98 CRIMORG 146 concerning the question of a telecommunications network for the EJN and the Presidency indicated that the informal Working Party to consider this issue will commence work at an early date. In addition the German delegation said it would make every effort to arrange the second meeting of the EJN as early as possible during its forthcoming Presidency. The Commission also informed the MDG that approval had recently been given under the Falcone Programme for funding a project designed to assist with the circulation of material for the EJN.

The French delegation mentioned that a conference on judicial cooperation would be held in Avignon on 16 October and invited delegations to send representatives to the conference.

3. Prevention of organized crime

Doc. 9986/2/98 CRIMORG 110 REV 2

The outcome of the GMD discussion on this item is set out in doc. 9986/3/98 CRIMORG 110 REV 3. The Presidency will submit the revised text of the draft Resolution to the K.4 Committee.

4. Time limits (Rec. 18c) Results of questionnaire

Docs. 9436/1/98 CRIMORG 100 REV 1
11631/98 CRIMORG 148

The General Secretariat presented doc. 11631/98 which had been prepared on the basis of material received from Member States in reply to the questionnaire on time limits. After a brief discussion, the Chairman requested any Member State that had not already done so to provide its reply without delay. The MDG agreed to return to this issue as soon as all the relevant material from Member States was available.

5. Report to the European Council in Vienna

Doc. 11571/98 CRIMORG 141

The Presidency introduced doc. 11571/98 CRIMORG 141 and explained that it would be updated in the light of relevant developments - e.g. adoption of new instruments. The document was not available in all languages and the MDG agreed that it should be fully considered at its next meeting. In the course of discussion the Presidency confirmed that future revisions of Annex 2 showing the progress achieved in relation to the Action Plan would make it clear that the implementation of certain recommendations was an on-going process. The Chairman also invited delegations to provide written comments on the draft report in advance of the next meeting.

6. High Tech Crime

Docs. 11632/98 CRIMORG 149
7278/98 CRIMORG 44
11633/98 CRIMORG 150

The UK delegation briefed the MDG on the informal meeting of the high-tech crime representatives of international fora on 29 September 1998 - document 11632/98 CRIMORG 149 refers. In addition a paper on high-tech links with organized crime was introduced by Europol - document 11633/98 CRIMORG 150 - and the Commission outlined its proposals to follow-up the COM-CRIME study. The Irish delegation also made a presentation on work it had undertaken to combat illegal and harmful use of the Internet.

Arising from a general discussion the Presidency undertook to prepare a draft strategy document detailing the most important elements of the EU approach to tackling high-tech crime - see 11893/98 CRIMORG 157. The MDG decided that the strategy document should be discussed at its next meeting and that, in its final form, it should be made available for the Transatlantic dialogue meeting which will take place on 21 October.

7. Organised Crime situation report

- Results of meeting of 1 October 1998

Doc. 11662/98 CRIMORG 151

The Presidency presented the conclusions of the aforementioned meeting. The representative of Europol made available the second draft of the 1997 EU Situation Report on Organised Crime. A new updated version that includes additional information, notably from the delegations of Luxembourg, Spain and the United Kingdom, will be discussed at the meeting of the Contact and Support Network Group on 14 October 1998.

The Netherlands delegation, backed by various other delegations, insisted on the elaboration of more targeted recommendations that could guide actions in Member States. The representative of Europol promised that its services will draw up a matrix of national priorities featuring in national contributions which will be circulated to delegations. The Presidency announced that the 1997 report will be discussed in detail at the next meeting of the Group on 20/21 October 1998.

8. Child pornography on the Internet

Doc. 10850/1/98 ENFOPOL 95 JUSTPEN 83 CRIMORG 127 REV 1

An informal drafting group established by the MDG considered and revised the draft Joint Action to combat child pornography on the Internet. The outcome of the work of the informal group is set out in 10850/2/98 ENFOPOL 95 JUSTPEN 83 CRIMORG 127 REV 2 and the revised text of the draft Joint Action will be examined by the MDG at its next meeting.

9. Other business

a) Agenda for next meeting

The Presidency circulated a provisional agenda for the next MDG meeting on 20/21 October.

b) Further Commission meeting with professional associations

The Commission informed the MDG that, with reference to Recommendation 12 of the Action Plan, it had arranged a follow-up meeting with the European Professional Associations for 26 October and that representatives from Member States could attend.

c) Questionnaire on recognition of criminal judgments

The Chairman reminded delegations that the deadline for submission of replies to the questionnaire on the mutual recognition of criminal judgments annexed to 10066/98 CRIMORG 115 was 15 October.

d) Re-scheduling of mutual assistance meeting

The Chairman also informed delegations that the meeting of the Working Party on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters which was due to take place on 13 and 14 October had been re-scheduled for 28 and 29 October.