

SEMDOC

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

PO Box 1510, London N16 0EW, UK
tel: 0181 802 1882 (00 44 181 802 1882)
fax: 0181 880 1727 (00 44 181 880 1727)

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LIMITE

ENFOPOL 56

NOTE

from : Presidency

to : Police Cooperation Group (experts on public order)

No. prev. doc. : 8012/97 ENFOPOL 111, 12448/97 ENFOPOL 220, 13232/97 ENFOPOL 235

Subject : **Public order**

- Results of questionnaire 13232/97 ENFOPOL 237 and recommendations

COOPERATION ON LAW AND ORDER AND SECURITY (8012/97 ENFOPOL 111)

1. An agenda has already been circulated for the meeting of public order experts to be held on 15 April 1998. A report of the conclusions of the experts meeting would ideally be made to the Police Cooperation Working Group when it meets on 16-17 April.
2. With a view to preparing to provide such a report and to inform discussion at the experts meeting, the Presidency has prepared the attached draft report (Annex 1). This incorporates, as well as basic background:
 - 2.1. a summary of the results of the questionnaire issued in December (ENFOPOL 235) and two basic conclusions which can be drawn from this;
 - 2.2. some draft recommendations to act as a focus for discussion at the expert meeting.

3. In preparing a draft report in advance, the Presidency in no way wishes to pre-empt discussion at the meeting of 16 April or the conclusions experts may reach. We hope that experts will be able to agree on any necessary immediate changes to the arrangements for information exchange set out in the Annex to ENFOPOL 111. (paragraph 4.1. of the draft report refers as does the attached note from the Belgium delegation at Annex 2). Beyond that, however, the draft recommendations are Presidency proposals for discussion. Their incorporation or otherwise in any report will depend entirely on the views experts express on 16 April. There will also, of course, be room to record additional or other conclusions depending on the discussion.
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Draft report**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1. On 26 May 1997, the JHA Council adopted a joint action, which was designed to minimise and reduce the threat of transnational crime and disorder. (Enfopol 111)

1.2. The joint action incorporated the following agreements:

- Member states shall provide information to other Member States, about the movement of sizeable groups which may pose a threat to law and order;
- Members may post liaison officers to other Member States when so requested;
- each spring the Presidency of the Police-Co-operation Working Group shall organise a meeting of heads of central bodies for law and order and security;
- the Heads of central bodies shall encourage joint training, secondments and exercises.

1.3. Accordingly, on 9 December 1997 the United Kingdom submitted a questionnaire (Enfopol 235) for completion by Member States, to establish progress on the implementation of the joint action described above and to find out the following:

- the extent of overseas participation in events giving cause for concern on public order or security;
- the types of event which most often involve participants from other countries;
- whether public order specialists can see any trends developing;

- whether there is scope for sharing information on new policing techniques for dealing with disorder;
- whether the present arrangements for co-operation need modifying in any way.

2. RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE (ENFOPOL 235)

2.1. The majority of questionnaires were returned by the due date. The results may be summarised as follows:

- 2.1.1. During 1997, most Member States were required to police overseas participants at organised events. Football fixtures, political demonstrations, environmental protests, animal rights issues and music festivals were the most common attraction for international audiences. Such multi-national participation, made it difficult for host nations to predict the potential for disorder and some members have set up intelligence systems to ensure more accurate and timely predictions.
- 2.1.2. Several members have identified a trend towards international participation in environmental protests. Some states have experienced an increase in world wide support for extreme right-wing activity, that often incorporates violence and intimidation.
- 2.1.3. European countries are anxious to maintain liaison on the prevention of disorder at football matches and other sporting fixtures. It is clear that some members continue to experience problems before, during and after fixtures.
- 2.1.4. As described at 2.1.1, members are keen to gather intelligence before organised events take place. Most countries have asked for information from their European colleagues at one time or another, but they have been frustrated by delays which have proved critical to police operations. Accordingly, Member States have posted liaison officer to other countries to ensure a more effective exchange of intelligence and information.

2.1.5. Members would welcome more efficient and timely exchanges of intelligence, ahead of organised events. There is concern about the large number of different systems that are used for communicating information across Europe. Moreover, some countries employ several agencies in the fight against crime and disorder, which tends to exacerbate the problem.

2.1.6. Members would support frequent exchanges of information about tactics and policing methods to combat new trends.

3. CONCLUSIONS

3.1. Information and intelligence on actual events are not being passed in time for Member States to react accordingly.

3.2. Experts are concerned about the implications of failure for individual Member States and their governments and would suggest that further work should be devoted to the issue of co-operation over public order policing.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. It is recommended that:

4.1.1. existing arrangements for the exchange of information should be revised;

4.1.2. a lead group of experts from member States should undertake further discussion with a view to researching and developing enhanced models for dealing with public order and conflict management at EU level.

These minimal standards would be:

1. to have a duty service around the clock
2. to have minimal language skills
3. to have means of entry at all times to information sources
4. to use a uniform terminology
5. to be able to reply within agreed deadlines
6. to have a "red phone" system
7. to guarantee high service standards
8. to send and to receive under a classified way
9. to have the possibility to contact a competent person

Is it possible to put this proposal on the agenda of the next PCWG meeting where I can give some explanations on these nine minimal standards for a NCPO.
