

COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 27 September 1999 (30.09)
(OR. fin)

SEMDOC
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10996/99

LIMITE

ENFOCUSTOM 45

NOTE

from :	Finnish Presidency
to :	Customs Cooperation Working Party (Experts)
Nos prev. doc.:	12237/1/98 ENFOCUSTOM 57 REV 1 + COR 1; 7602/4/99 ENFOCUSTOM 20 REV 4
Subject :	Draft programme for joint customs surveillance operations in 2000

Introduction

The customs administrations of the EU countries have carried out 11 joint surveillance operations on the basis of a five-year mandate approved by the Council of the European Union on 29 November 1996 and a Council Resolution of 9 June 1997 on guidelines concerning joint customs operations. In the spring of 1999, the Customs Cooperation Working Party discussed the German initiative for renewing the document approved in 1997 on guidelines concerning customs operations. A new **handbook for joint customs operations** was approved at the Finnish Presidency's first meeting in July. The handbook contains 25 action points for planning, implementing and assessing EU customs operations.

The Member States carried out four joint customs surveillance operations in 1998. The targets were air freight (Quest), sea transport (Tridente), container traffic (Felix) and road transport (Roadrunner). The last mentioned was carried out together with the World Customs Organisation. Some Member States also took part in the surveillance operation aimed at combating paedophile material (Osprey 1-3) in conjunction with the G8 countries.

In 1999 as many as four joint operations were organised targeting air freight and express courier services (Toledo), rail transport (Boxcar), sea transport (Euromare) and sea traffic (Viking). In addition to these, an operation targeted at road and sea transport (Leo) will be organised this year.

The Customs Cooperation Working Party's Experts should draw up periodically and in any case at the end of each year, a final list of operations to be carried out the following year, taking account of the multiannual plans for certain types of operations. Joint customs surveillance operations should be financed as much as possible from EU funding programmes.

In planning the programme, the Customs Cooperation Working Party's general aim should be to carry out four joint customs operations each year, in which all or most Member States participate.

Customs operations programme for the year 2000

1) Express Courier Operation

The aim of the operation is to combat drug smuggling and other prohibited or restricted sensitive goods in the context of express courier traffic.

The operation will be coordinated by:

2) Sea Traffic Operation

As above, the aim of the operation is to identify and supervise vessels which may be used to smuggle drugs and other sensitive goods.

The operation will be coordinated by:

3) Road Traffic Operation

The aim of the operation – a repeat of the "Roadrunner" operation carried out in 1998 – is to combat drug smuggling along the Balkan route.

The operation will be coordinated by:

4) Air Freight Operation

The content and coordinator of the operation have not yet been decided on.

Final remarks

The Finnish Presidency intends to draw up a document on joint customs operations other than those agreed on in the Customs Cooperation Working Party. This document will be submitted at the Experts' meeting to be held in November 1999.

More detailed information on the joint operations of the year 2000 to be approved at expert level at the Customs Cooperation Working Party's meeting in November will be given in a separate plan for each individual operation.

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**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 11 November 1999 (15.11)
(OR. fin)**

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**10996/1/99
REV 1**

LIMITE

ENFOCUSTOM 45

TRANSLATION SUPPLIED BY THE PRESIDENCY

NOTE

from :	Presidency
to :	Experts Working Party
No. prev. doc.:	10996/99 ENFOCUSTOM 45
Subject :	Joint customs surveillance operations in 2000

Introduction

The customs administrations of the EU countries have carried out 11 joint surveillance operations on the basis of a five-year mandate approved by the Council of the European Union on 29 November 1996 and a Council Resolution of 9 June 1997 on guidelines concerning joint customs operations. In the spring of 1999, the Customs Cooperation Working Party discussed the German initiative for renewing the document approved in 1997 on guidelines concerning customs operations. A new handbook for joint customs operations (11562/99 Enfocustom 48) was approved at the Finnish Presidency's first meeting in July. The handbook contains 25 action points for planning, implementing and assessing EU customs operations.

The Member States carried out four joint customs surveillance operations in 1998. The targets were air freight (Quest), sea transport (Tridente), container traffic (Felix) and road transport (Roadrunner). The last mentioned was carried out together with the World Customs Organisation. Some Member States also took part in the surveillance operation aimed at combating paedophile material (Osprey 1-3) in conjunction with the G8 countries.

In 1999 as many as four joint operations were organised targeting air mail and express courier services (Toledo), rail transport (Boxcar), sea transport (Euromare) and sea traffic (Viking). In addition to these, an operation targeting road and sea transport (Leo) will be organised this year. Operation "Taboo II" planned for the year 1999 and targeting high-tax goods is postponed to the first quarter of 2000. Operation "Eagle" targeting paedophile material will be organised by the United Kingdom in 2000. Some EU Member States and third countries will participate in it.

The Experts Working Party is to draw up periodically, and in any case at the end of each year, a final list of operations to be carried out the following year, taking account of the multiannual plans for certain types of operations. Joint customs operations should be financed as much as possible from EU funding programmes.

The Experts Working Party should plan the programme with an eye to the general aim of ensuring that four joint customs operations involving all or most of the Member States are carried out every year.

Customs operations programme for the year 2000

1) High-Tax Goods Operation "Taboo II" (1st quarter)

The aim of the operation is to combat cigarette and alcohol smuggling in the context of commercial traffic. Road, sea and railway transport will be monitored in this operation. The aims of Operation "Taboo II" are: A) to endeavour to develop existing risk profiles by combining intelligence collected by the participating countries and to identify organised crime syndicates further on the strength of such intelligence, B) to target surveillance at well-known high-risk land and maritime routes, C) to seize cigarettes and alcohol smuggled in the context of commercial traffic.

The operation's briefing meeting was held in Finland on 25 to 26 October 1999. All EU Member States took part in the meeting, along with Norway, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Poland and Hungary. These countries will also take part in the operation itself. The international Operation Coordination Unit (OCU) for Operation Taboo II will be in the United Kingdom and several liaison officers from the individual participating countries will be posted there.

The operation will be coordinated by the United Kingdom.

2) Sea Traffic Operation (IInd quarter)

As in earlier sea traffic operations, the aim of the operation is to identify and monitor vessels suspected of smuggling drugs and other sensitive goods. European waters and seas, especially in the southern parts of the continent, are a gateway and destination for various kinds of illicit traffic coming from South America, North Africa, the eastern Mediterranean area and sometimes from northern Europe. The objects of illicit trafficking vary from drugs (mainly cocaine and hashish) to cigarettes and alcohol, as well as other sensitive goods. Furthermore, such goods are often unloaded on European coasts.

The aims of the operation are 1) to monitor and seize drugs, cigarettes, alcohol and other sensitive goods from vessels (notably, pleasure boats and vessels under 1 000 gross registered tons) suspected of engaging in illicit trafficking, 2) in addition to achieve other kinds of results, such as extensive exchange of information and experience between the participants, air/sea traffic operations and the implementation of joint projects. The operation's briefing meeting will be held in Spain in late March-early April of 2000.

The operation will be coordinated by Spain.

3) Road Traffic Operation "Roadrunner II" (IIIrd quarter)

The aim of the operation – a continuation of the "Roadrunner" operation carried out in 1998 – is to combat drug smuggling along the Balkan route. The particular target is to seize heroin, although the operation will also cover other sensitive goods. The recommendations agreed on at the debriefing meetings for operations "Roadrunner", "Boxcar" and "Leo" will be taken into account in the preparation of the actual operation.

During the operation, the participating States will target surveillance particularly at lorries moving along the Balkan Route but also at ROLA traffic, if necessary. Before the operation is launched, intelligence will be gathered from the participating countries and liaison officers from EU customs administrations will be sent out to strategically important points on the Balkan Route.

In addition to the Member States, the intention is to invite participants from non-EU countries and to request certain international law-enforcement agencies to take part in the operation arrangements.

The operation will be coordinated by Germany.

4) Express Freight Traffic Operation (IVth quarter)

The aim of the operation is to monitor express freight traffic involving drugs and other prohibited or restricted goods. The operation is related to the 9971/99 ENFOCUSTOM 36 document drawn up by France, which contains an action plan to combat fraud in connection with express freight traffic. After a seminar on express freight traffic in the first phase, France intends in the second phase of the action plan to organise an operation targeting such freight.

The operation will be coordinated by France.

Final Remarks

More detailed information on joint operations for the year 2000 to be approved at the Experts Working Party's meeting in November will be given in schedules to be drawn up for each individual operation.

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**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 3 December 1999

**10996/1/99
REV 1 COR 1**

LIMITE

ENFOCUSTOM 45

Draft translation provided by the Presidency

NOTE

from :	Presidency
to :	Customs Cooperation Working Party (experts)
No. prev. doc.:	10996/1/99 ENFOCUSTOM 45 REV 1
Subject :	Joint Customs operations in 2000

The title of the document should read as follows:

"Joint Customs operations in 2000".

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The fifth sentence under point 2) shall be amended to read as follows: "The aims of the operation are: 1) to supervise and seize drugs, cigarettes, alcohol and other sensitive goods from vessels (notably, pleasure boats and vessels under 1000 gross register tons), suspected of illicit traffic 2) extensive exchange of information and experiences between the participants, exercise of joint operations in sea traffic and improved insight into international sea smuggling routes."