



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 31 January 2000

5636/00

LIMITE

ENFOPOL 5

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of : meeting of working party on terrorism
of : 7 January 2000

1. Adoption of the agenda

The group adopted the agenda as set out in telex 5701 of 21 December 1999, it being understood that under item 11 “Any other business” following points will be considered :

- Seminar on eco-terrorism (demand of Portuguese delegation)
- New terrorist legislation in United Kingdom (demand of U.K. delegation)
- Seminar on 4/6 April 2000 in Berlin on national legislation on terrorism (demand of German delegation)

2. Work programme for the working party on terrorism under the Portuguese Presidency.

The group welcomed the work programme presented by the Presidency that is in document 5160/00 JAI 1 (p.9). The organization of a seminar on eco-terrorism in Lisbon was highlighted.

3. Exchange of information on terrorist incidents

Delegations exchanged information on recent terrorist incidents.

Attention focussed on

- announced attacks of extremist Chechen groups in Finland and Germany.

- right wing groups in Italy and reappearance of revolutionary cells in Greece.
- Animal Liberation Front-activities in Belgium.

In his conclusions the Presidency

- noted the apparent terrorism-related arrests on US/Canadian border
- considered that
 - * announcement of attacks by Ben Laden group is worrying
 - * circumstances of hijacking of Indian plane have to be analyzed later
 - * Member States should be vigilant and proactive.

4. Evaluation paper on the terrorist threat. Continuation of the debate on the proposal submitted by the Netherlands delegation

- a) Delegations were invited to send contributions for the threat assessment document to the Presidency before 30 March 2000.
- b) Elaboration of succinct non-confidential version of threat assessment.
 - i) The Presidency announced that no written contribution had been received after the last meeting of the group on the suggestion of the Netherlands to draw up a succinct “open” parallel threat assessment document. The Netherlands delegation added that a non-confidential version of the document could be presented to national parliaments and be seriously discussed by high level bodies. It was pointed out that the succinct “open” version of the annual organized crime report could serve as an example.

Most delegations supported the suggestion of the Netherlands delegation. The French and Italian delegations expressed doubts on operational usefulness of the suggested exercise.

- ii) As a compromise and in order to keep the momentum of the initiative the group agreed on a suggestion of the UK delegation to invite the Netherlands delegation/Presidency to elaborate a pilot summary for the next meeting of the group on 15 March 2000.
- iii) The Presidency announced that it will consider to inform the Council at its meeting of 3 and 4 March 2000 on the initiative.

5. Survey and register of incidents of a racist/xenophobic nature

All delegations committed themselves to send to the Presidency, before April 2000, their contribution to aforementioned survey and register.

6. Internet and terrorism, possible creation of a directory

The Presidency presented its proposal on a system for the exchange of terrorist-related information collected on Internet (cf. 5724/00 ENFOPOL 6).

The group welcomed the initiative to take action in this field. The question was raised whether and to what extent existing channels (BDL) and organizations should be used.

The representative of Europol declared that in principle his organization could examine this issue. A final decision on this matter should be taken by the Management Board of Europol. The Presidency concluded that work on this proposal will be pursued at the next meeting of the group on 15 March 2000.

7. Europol and the fight against terrorism

The representative of Europol informed the group on recent activities of his organization as regards terrorism. A terrorist unit in Europol has now been set up. A terrorist experts meeting had been held in October 1999. A second meeting is planned for February 2000. Member States have to report now on terrorist incidents to Europol. An analytical workfile on islamic terrorism has been established

8. Results of the Troika meeting with the USA on 30 November 1999

The Presidency informed the meeting on results of the Troika meeting with the USA on 30 November 1999. For US authorities main focus is now Asia.

9. Situation regarding UN work on preparing international anti-terrorism conventions (financing of terrorism and nuclear terrorism)

The Presidency announced that

- the Convention on financing of terrorism has been concluded in December 1999. It's now open for signature. Portugal will sign in the coming weeks.
- Work on the Convention on nuclear terrorism is on a deadend. Main bone of content is the opportunity of inclusion of reference to armed forces.

10. Development of the Barcelona Process : cooperation with the countries of the Mediterranean Bassin

The Presidency informed the group on the ad-hoc meeting of 23 November 1999 in Brussels and the meeting of 25/26 May 2000 in Barcelona.

11. Any other business

- Seminar on eco-terrorism

The Presidency informed the group on the seminar on eco-terrorism that will be held in second part of May 2000.

- New legislation

The UK delegation announced that a new bill on terrorism is before the Parliament.

- Seminar on national legislation and terrorism

The German delegation announced that from 4-6 April 2000 a seminar will be held in Berlin on national legislation and terrorism.
