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**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 16 November 2000 (22.11)
(OR. fr)**

13307/00

LIMITE

CRIMORG 152

COVER NOTE

from : Mr Pierre VIMONT, Permanent Representative of France
Mr Gunnar LUND, Permanent Representative of Sweden
date of receipt : Brussels, 15 November 2000
to : Mr Javier Solana, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
Subject : Communication from the Governments of the French Republic and of the
Kingdom of Sweden
– Initiative of the Governments of the French Republic and of the Kingdom of
Sweden for the Council to adopt a draft Decision on setting up a European
Crime Prevention Network ¹

Dear Secretary-General

Pursuant to Article 34(2) of the Treaty on European Union, we enclose a proposal from the Governments of the French Republic and of the Kingdom of Sweden for the adoption by the Council of a Decision on setting up a European Crime Prevention Network.

¹ The French and Swedish delegations have announced that an explanatory note will be submitted on this initiative soon. That note will be an addendum to this document.

We should be most obliged if you would arrange for it to be published in the Official Journal, pursuant to Article 17 of the Council's Rules of Procedure, and forwarded to the European Parliament for its Opinion.

(complimentary close)

(s. Pierre VIMONT)

(s. Gunnar LUND)

**DRAFT COUNCIL DECISION ON THE SETTING UP OF A EUROPEAN CRIME
PREVENTION NETWORK**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union and in particular Articles 29 and 34(2)(c) thereof,

Having regard to the initiative of the French Republic and the Kingdom of Sweden,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas:

1. The Vienna Action Plan called for crime prevention measures to be drawn up in the five years following the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty.
2. The Tampere European Council concluded that there was a need to develop crime prevention measures, to exchange best practices and to strengthen the network of competent national authorities for crime prevention, as well as cooperation between national organisations specialising in this field, specifying that this cooperation could have as its chief priorities juvenile, urban and drug-related crime: to this end, a study of the possibility of a programme financed by the Community was called for.
3. Several significant seminars and conferences on crime prevention, most notably those held in Stockholm in 1996, in Noordwijk in 1997, in London in 1998 and in the Algarve in 2000 called for the establishment of a network within the European Union to develop cooperation on crime prevention; the High Level Conference in the Algarve also highlighted the need for a multidisciplinary, joint approach to crime prevention.

4. Society as a whole must be involved in the development of a partnership between national, local and regional public authorities, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and citizens. Knowing that the causes of crime are multiple and must therefore be dealt with by measures at different levels, by different groups in society, in partnership with the players involved who have different powers and experience, including civil society.

5. Since the majority of the crimes of which European citizens are victims are committed in urban areas, urban policies linked with crime prevention must also be taken into consideration,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

A European Crime Prevention Network, hereinafter referred to as "the Network" shall be set up between the Member States.

The Network shall have a Secretariat and a Governing Board.

Article 2

1. The Network shall consist of contact points designated by each Member State.

The contact points, of which the number per Member State shall not exceed three, shall represent, at the least, the national authorities competent for crime prevention in its many aspects and researchers or academics specialising in this field. Others involved in the field, particularly non-governmental organisations, local authorities and the private sector may also be represented.

The Commission shall also designate a contact point. A Europol contact point shall participate in the Network for the aspects which concern it.

2. Each Member State shall ensure that the contact points in its country have sufficient knowledge of at least one other language of the European Union to enable them to communicate with the contact points in the other Member States.

Article 3

1. The Network shall contribute to developing the varied aspects of crime prevention at European Union level and shall support crime prevention activities at local and national level.
2. In particular, the Network shall:
 - (a) report to the Council on its activities each year, through the competent working bodies, and state the areas for priority action in its work programme for the following year. This report shall be forwarded to the Parliament. Although it will cover all types of criminality, the Network will pay particular attention to the fields of juvenile, urban and drug-related crime;
 - (b) be available to the Council and to the Commission to assist them at their request with any question relating to crime prevention, and particularly to take account of preventive aspects of existing and future decisions, legislative acts and other instruments and to assist the Council and the Commission to identify effective strategies for crime prevention, particularly in connection with the implementation of the Community programme relating to crime prevention;
 - (c) facilitate cooperation, contacts and exchanges of information and experience between Member States and between national organisations, as well as between Member States and the Commission, other Council bodies and other groups of experts and networks specialising in crime prevention matters;
 - (d) collect and analyse information on existing crime prevention activities, evaluate and analyse best practices, and collect and analyse existing data on criminality and on its development in the Member States, in order to contribute to consideration of future national and European decisions; the Network shall also assist the Council and the Member States in replying to questionnaires on crime and crime prevention;

- (e) contribute to identifying and developing the main areas for research, training and evaluation in the crime prevention field;
- (f) organise conferences, seminars, meetings and other activities designed to promote consideration of these matters, and to disseminate its results;
- (g) Organise the annual award of the European Crime Prevention Prize.

Article 4

1. To realise these aims, the Network shall favour a multidisciplinary approach and shall take urban policies connected with crime prevention into consideration.
2. To accomplish its tasks, the Network shall be in close contact with crime prevention organisations, as well as research institutions and non-governmental organisations in the Member States.
3. The Network shall set up and operate a website, containing its regular reports and any other useful information, particularly a compendium of best practices.
4. The Network shall endeavour to use and promote the results of projects funded through Community programmes.

Article 5

1. The Network shall hold its first meeting within three months following the entry into force of this Decision.

2. It shall meet at least once every six months on the invitation of the Presidency of the Council at that time. Other meetings may be called at the request of the Council or Commission.
3. The Secretariat for the Network shall be provided by the Commission.
4. The Governing Board of the Network shall consist of the representatives of the Member States who have been designated as contact points from the national authorities.

It shall be chaired by the representative of the Member State which is holding the Presidency of the European Union at the time.

It shall meet at least once each Presidency. It shall draw up its Rules of Procedure, to be adopted by unanimity.

5. The Governing Board shall decide the Network's annual programme and shall inform the Council and Commission thereof. It shall draw up the annual report on the activities of the Network. The report shall be forwarded to the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament. The Governing Board's decisions shall be adopted by unanimity.
6. The Network shall be financed from the Union's budget.

Article 6

The Council shall evaluate the activities of the Network in the two years following implementation of this Decision.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 22 December 2000 (16.01)
(OR. fr)**

**13307/00
ADD 1**

LIMITE

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ADDENDUM TO COVER NOTE

from : Mr Pierre VIMONT, Permanent Representative of France
Mr Gunnar LUND, Permanent Representative of Sweden

date of receipt : Brussels, 15 November 2000

to : Mr Javier Solana, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

Subject : Communication from the Governments of the French Republic and of the
Kingdom of Sweden

- Initiative of the Governments of the French Republic and of the Kingdom of
Sweden for the Council to adopt a draft Decision on setting up a European
Crime Prevention Network

Delegations will find attached the explanatory note from the French Republic and the Kingdom of Sweden on the above initiative.

DRAFT COUNCIL DECISION ON THE SETTING UP OF A EUROPEAN CRIME PREVENTION NETWORK

EXPLANATORY NOTE

I. General comments

The entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam on 1 May 1999 provided the European Union and its Member States with extensive opportunities for crime prevention. The key provision in this respect is Article 29 of the Treaty on European Union, which sets the European Union the objective of providing its citizens with a high level of safety, in particular *"by preventing crime, organised or otherwise"*.

The Action Plan of the Council and the Commission on how best to implement the provisions of the Treaty of Amsterdam establishing an area of freedom, security and justice, adopted by the Council on 3 December 1998, follows up these new provisions and provides for measures *"to develop cooperation and concerted measures on matters relating to crime prevention"* to be taken within five years of the entry into force of the Treaty.

At the Tampere European Council on 15 and 16 October 1999, the Heads of State or Government emphasised the importance of crime prevention at the level of the Union because of the significant role it played in combating crime; they confirmed, *inter alia*, the need to provide the European Union with an appropriate framework for dealing with crime-prevention issues, concluding that:

"41. The European Council calls for the integration of crime prevention aspects into actions against crime as well as for the further development of national crime prevention programmes. Common priorities should be developed and identified in crime prevention in the external and internal policy of the Union and be taken into account when preparing new legislation."

"42. The exchange of best practices should be developed, the network of competent national authorities for crime prevention and cooperation between national crime prevention organisations should be strengthened and the possibility of a Community funded programme should be explored for these purposes. The first priorities for this cooperation could be juvenile, urban and drug-related crime."

The need for the European Union to have an appropriate framework for gathering, analysing and disseminating information both interinstitutionally and among the Member States has been under discussion for several years. At important seminars and conferences on crime prevention, in particular those held in Stockholm in 1996, Noordwijk in 1997 and London in 1998, calls were made for a European Union-level network to be established to develop cooperation on crime prevention. The High-Level Conference at Praia da Falésia, in the Algarve in May 2000 concluded on the basis of the Tampere European Council conclusions that *"a network should be established at European Union level in order to develop cooperation on matters relating to prevention. The role of the network, its responsibilities and powers must be specified by the Council"*.

Aim of the draft Decision

The purpose of the European crime prevention network is to encourage Member States to cooperate in preventing all types of crime. It will enable authorities to exchange best practice, compare experiences, gather and disseminate information, statistics, studies and research relating to crime prevention and train crime-prevention staff.

The network will bring together crime-prevention experts from the various sectors concerned: national authorities, local authorities, research bodies and those working in the field.

Their role will be to amass knowledge about crime prevention, make it accessible, carry out comparative analyses that can be fed into the discussion process and are relevant for action, in particular by providing the decision-makers with the knowledge acquired.

By its ability to provide stimulus, the network will encourage cross-checking and consistency in the research, studies, thinking and action being carried out in the field of crime prevention at European level and in the Member States.

The network is designed to deal with all types of crime. However, it will pay special attention to the three priorities set by the Tampere European Council (juvenile, urban and drug-related crime).

Choice of instrument

This initiative is based on Article 29 of the Treaty on European Union, which sets the Union the objective of providing its citizens with a high level of safety in an area of freedom, security and justice and which mentions, as a means of attaining that objective, the prevention of crime, organised or otherwise.

The choice of a Decision, under Article 34(2)(c) of the Treaty on European Union, is explained by the wish to see the network effectively established; a Decision also ensures greater legal certainty.

Funding

The draft Decision proposes funding from the European Union budget.

II. Article-by-Article examination

Article 1

This Article sets up a European Crime Prevention Network, with a Secretariat and a Governing Board.

Article 2

This provision describes the network, which consists of contact points designated by the Member States.

The number of network contact points has to be limited in the interests of greater efficiency. It is therefore proposed that each Member State designate no more than three.

The contact points must be representative of the various sectors concerned: national authorities, researchers and academics and those operating in the field. The emphasis is to be on a multidisciplinary approach. The Commission should also designate a contact point, as should Europol for the aspects which concern it.

Contact points should be able to communicate among themselves easily, without relying on interpreters: they must therefore know at least one other language of the European Union in addition to their own.

Article 3

This Article sets out the network's tasks. Its overall task is to develop the various aspects of crime prevention at European Union level and support local and national crime-prevention activities.

To achieve this, the network will prepare an annual report to the Council, in which it will account for its activities and state the priorities which it has set itself for the following year. It will assist the Council and the Commission, at their request, with any question relating to crime prevention. It is accordingly responsible for taking crime-prevention aspects into account in all the activities of the Council and the Commission.

The network must also be available to the Member States. It will facilitate exchanges between them and any contacts between the Member States and the European institutions on crime-prevention matters.

Lastly, the network has the task of analysing information and stimulating action in the field of crime prevention. It will collect, analyse and disseminate information, encourage the development of research, training and evaluation activities and organise meetings, conferences and seminars and the annual award of a European Crime Prevention Prize.

Article 4

This Article deals with the network's working methods.

Emphasis is on a multidisciplinary approach, which takes urban problems into consideration. In this connection the network will establish the necessary links with national bodies, the research sector and non-governmental organisations dealing with crime prevention.

The network will also set up a website for wide dissemination of the information that it collects and the reports that it prepares.

Finally, it will endeavour to use and promote the results of projects funded through Community programmes.

Article 5

This Article describes the network's operating procedures.

As soon as possible after the network has been established, meetings will be held at regular intervals to enable the contact points to get to know each other and establish shared working habits.

The network's bodies have been designed to ensure that the network operates smoothly and flexibly. The Governing Board will consist of representatives of the national authorities and will prepare the annual report on the activities of the network. The Secretariat, whose task it is to ensure that the network operates on a permanent basis, will be provided by the Commission.

The network will be funded from the Union's budget.

Article 6

Evaluation of the network's activities is an essential aspect, which will be carried out by the Council two years after implementation of the Decision.

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