COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Council conclusions on the Commission communication on the European Union internal security strategy in action

3071st JUSTICE and HOME AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 24 and 25 February 2011

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council of the European Union,

RECALLING that in the Stockholm Programme, the European Council calls upon the Council and the Commission to define a comprehensive Internal Security Strategy based on a number of stated principles,

BEARING IN MIND that the Internal Security Strategy for the European Union: "Towards a European Security Model" (Internal Security Strategy)[1], adopted by the Council on 25 and 26 February 2010 and endorsed by the European Council on 25 and 26 of March 2010, sets out the common threats and challenges that Europeans face, the EU's internal security policy and the principles underpinning it; defines a European Security Model consisting of common tools, a commitment to further cooperation and solidarity between Member States and the close involvement of the EU's institutions, agencies and bodies; and, within the implementation of the Stockholm Programme, asks the Commission to adopt a communication on the Internal Security Strategy, including action-oriented proposals,

UNDERLINING that all the main threats and challenges to EU internal security, namely terrorism; organised and serious international crime, including drug trafficking[2], trafficking in human beings and criminal activities related to illegal immigration; cybercrime; cross-border crime; violence; natural and man-made disasters; as well as other significant challenges, such as road traffic accidents, require an effective response based on close cooperation and coordination between Member States and the EU's institutions, agencies and bodies. Such responses must respect the Union's common values, including the protection and promotion of fundamental rights within the Union and in its relations with the wider world,

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1 Doc. 7120/10 CO EUR-PREP 8 JAI 182

2 See notably the EU Drugs Action Plan for 2009-2012 (doc. 16116/08 CORDROGUE 85 SAN 281 ENFOPOL 237 RELEX 944) and the European pact to combat international drug trafficking (doc. 8821/10 JAI 320 COSI 20 CORDROGUE 40 CRIMORG 79 JAIEX 39).

RECALLING that Article 72 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) stipulates that Member States are responsible for maintaining law and order and safeguarding internal security and that Article 71 of the TFEU provides that a standing committee shall be set up within the Council in order to ensure that operational cooperation on internal security is promoted and strengthened within the Union (COSI), which shall facilitate the coordination of the actions of Member States' competent authorities,

RECALLING that, pursuant to the Stockholm Programme, developing, monitoring and implementing the Internal Security Strategy should become one of the priority tasks of COSI,

BEARING IN MIND that the Stockholm Programme and the Internal Security Strategy both call for the establishment of closer links between the external and internal aspects of EU security,

RECALLING that in the Stockholm Programme, the European Council calls on the Commission to consider the feasibility of establishing an Internal Security Fund within the next multi-annual financial framework,

RECALLING that the Council conclusions on the creation and implementation of an EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime, adopted on the basis of the Stockholm Programme and the Internal Security Strategy on 8 and 9 November 2010, establish a multi-annual policy cycle and a clear methodology for setting, implementing and evaluating priorities in the fight against organised and serious international crime,

WELCOMES the Commission's communication on the EU Internal Security Strategy in Action: Five steps towards a more secure Europe[3], which contributes to the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy,

AGREES that the European Security Model, as defined by the Internal Security Strategy and contributed to by the Commission's communication, should be based on a shared agenda for action, an appropriate balance between prevention and tackling the consequences of threats to security, the development of security policies based on common values and a renewed effort to establish closer links between the external and internal aspects of EU security and to promote initiatives designed to strengthen the capacity for action of third countries,

AGREES that the five strategic objectives for internal security developed by the Commission, namely the disruption of international criminal networks, the prevention of terrorism and addressing radicalisation and recruitment, raising levels of security for citizens and businesses in cyberspace, strengthening security through border management and increasing Europe's resilience to crises and disasters, are crucial to further strengthening freedom, security and justice in the European Union,

CALLS UPON all parties concerned to address the threats and challenges to internal security identified by the Internal Security Strategy. The Council will consider each legislative proposal and action necessary to strengthen internal security within the Union as it is brought forward,

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[3] Doc. 16797/10 JAI 990

STRESSES that, in line with the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality attached to the Treaty on European Union, the Internal Security Strategy must be implemented without creating an unnecessary financial or administrative burden falling upon the Union, national and regional authorities, economic operators and citizens. Action should only be taken on the basis of a prior assessment of its expected financial and administrative impact and where such an assessment has demonstrated the added value of action at Union level,

INSTRUCTS COSI, within its mandate[4], to coordinate, support and monitor the development and implementation of the Internal Security Strategy as one of its priority tasks. For that purpose, COSI must ensure consistency in the implementation of operational actions necessary to strengthen internal security within the Union, including effective cooperation between the relevant national authorities as well as between the agencies, and provide regular updates regarding these actions. In particular, it must ensure that the actions to be brought forward to implement the Internal Security Strategy in the area of serious and organised crime remain consistent with the Multi-Annual Strategic Plans and annual Operational Action Plans that COSI is due to adopt on the basis of the Council priorities in this area,

INVITES the Commission to cooperate with COSI, within its mandate, with a view to ensuring that:

- the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy reflects a shared agenda for action,
- the strategic objectives for EU internal security developed by the Commission regarding the fight against serious and organised crime remain consistent with the priorities to be defined by the Council on the basis of the Organised Crime Threat Assessment report in 2011 and the Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment reports from 2013 onwards,
- funding for EU internal security, including within the framework of a potential Internal Security Fund in the next multi-annual financial framework, reflects the strategic objectives and priorities of the Internal Security Strategy, facilitates the best possible implementation of the prioritised actions by the relevant national authorities and agencies and remains sufficiently flexible to allow for adaptation to new security threats and challenges,

UNDERSCORES the urgency of fostering closer cooperation between actors engaged in the external and internal dimensions of EU security, notably with the newly established European External Action Service,

INVITES Member States to ensure a level of participation at COSI that reflects COSI's mandate of facilitating cooperation on internal security,

INVITES the Commission to submit to the European Parliament and the Council by the end of 2011 its first annual report on actions taken within the framework of the Internal Security Strategy; to provide regular updates on actions taken to strengthen internal security within the Union and to take account, in its annual reporting, of the reporting mechanism set out in the EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime."

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[4] OJ L 52, 3.3.2010, p. 50.