

Results 50

ACTIONS IN HOME AFFAIRS

4th Spanish Presidency of the EU Council on Home Affairs
[January – June 2010]



**Spanish
Presidency
of the Council
of the European
Union**

em 2010.es

0.- INTRODUCTION

“More Security, More Justice, Freer Citizens - 50 Actions For Moving Forward”

During the first half of 2010, Spain assumed its fourth Presidency of the European Union Council, in a **moment of special relevance** marked by the **entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty**; the renovation of the Commission and the European Parliament, result of the latest elections held in June 2009; and, most specifically in home affairs, the launching of the **Stockholm Programme**, the third programme of development of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice.

This general framework has determined the content of the Troika programme and that of the half year Spanish Presidency. Our aim, in line with the Stockholm Programme, has been to contribute to making Europe an increasingly secure place, ensuring its citizens the exercise of their rights and freedoms through a new **programme consisting in 50 actions**.

In this regard, we have strived to prioritize those initiatives allowing European citizens to sense the added value the EU can bring to security matters. This is the message we have sought to convey through our work, which can be divided into two large blocks: on the one hand, those activities that are **strategic in nature**, within the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice; and on the other, those which are more **operational and specific in nature**, whose aim is to facilitate working, improving cooperation and mutual trust between police services and other law enforcement bodies.

In the strategic plan, one of our priorities was the immediate launching of the Stockholm Programme. To this end, the Council has adopted certain conclusions regarding the **Action Plan** which analyses and establishes the premise of the Programme.

In compliance with the mandate stipulated in the Stockholm Programme, the Spanish Presidency furthered the adoption of the **EU Internal Security Strategy** that defines the European Security model in a simple and methodical manner.

We have aspired to **inform citizens** of our internal security model, conveying to them three basic messages: that we share common risks and threats; that we have acquired a number of mechanisms to tackle them, as the necessities have arisen, on national as well as EU levels; and that we have certain inalienable principles and values upon which our European security model should be built, which should shape the way we meet future challenges.

All of these elements define and shape our **comprehensive** internal security model, now included and expressed in the European Internal Security Strategy.

We have, at the same time, launched a new **Internal Security Committee**, introduced by the Lisbon Treaty with the aim of reinforcing operational cooperation. It shall largely be the guarantor of implementation and follow-up of the Internal Security Strategy on an operational level.

Strengthening **transatlantic relations** has been another of our major **strategic objectives**. To this end, we have established intensive EU-US dialogue with the understanding that in a multi-polar world, Europe and the United States should continue being essential allies and partners. We have worked on specific aspects for the building of a transatlantic area of freedom, security and justice, pushing for joint commitments on air security through the adoption of the **Toledo Declaration**; and on the specific issue of terrorism, the **common declaration to combat terrorism**; and the negotiation of the EU-US agreement on the transfer of financial messaging data (**TFTP**); as well as other actions regarding mobility, protection of critical infrastructures and immigration.

With respect to immigration and asylum, our efforts have focused on the development of a true European immigration and asylum policy, consolidated by the Lisbon Treaty. In this regard, the Council has, for the first time, examined the progress made in the application of the **European Pact on Immigration and Asylum**, adopted in 2008, renewing its commitment with the objectives of the Pact, verifying the advancements made and identifying the areas where the Member States, as well as the Union, will concentrate their efforts in the coming year.

Work has continued on the development of the **Common European Asylum System**, pushing forward legislative proceedings currently under negotiation, and completing the regulation which will allow for the prompt launching of the **European Asylum Support Office** with its base in Malta.

Progress has also been made in the development of European systems for information exchange, such as the second generation Schengen Information System (**SIS II**).

On an **operational level**, we have promoted direct cooperation amongst the security forces of member states by sharing know-how and strengthening mutual confidence. In this regard, it is noteworthy to mention the adoption of a model which will facilitate the creation of **joint police cooperation teams**, as well as a mobility programme for students at police training centres of member states, inspired by the **Erasmus Programme**.

Security at international level football matches has been another of the relevant issues addressed over the course of these six months, particularly by updating the **handbook of recommendations for police cooperation to prevent and control violence and disturbances at football matches with an international dimension**.

In the area of prevention and fight against **terrorism**, we have strived to step up preventive measures by cultivating cooperation amongst the Member States' **counter-terrorism centres**, as well as strengthening the security and monitoring of **explosives**, strengthening early-warning mechanisms in the case of theft of explosives, and traceability of intercommunity transport. A strong push has been given, as well, to the development of **multinational investigation teams with third countries** and prevention mechanisms against **radicalisation and recruitment**.

Regarding **organised crime** and serious offences, emphasis must be placed on the work done in the area of **cibercrime**, and the bolstering of offices for locating and administering the **assets** produced from these crimes. Mention should also be made of support given to EUROPOL, which has become a new European agency, thus strengthening its capacity to prevent and fight organised crime.

Given that this type of crime is characterised by being cross national in nature, it is important to **involve** other countries. Thus, we champion the role that liaison officers have in this effort, which is the purpose of the liaison officer meetings in key countries and regions such as **Latin America and the Caribbean and West Africa**. Regarding the latter region, a coordination framework has been adopted, based on the current situation, in order to attain a better response to the threat of organised crime in the short and medium term, especially in support of the initiatives that are already being carried out on a regional level. Moreover, a **European pact against international drug trafficking** has been adopted which includes commitments in the efforts directed at entry routes for cocaine and heroine into Europe.

In line with the Stockholm Programme and the European Security Strategy, one of our priorities has been the protection of **the most vulnerable individuals and victims of crime**, especially victims of terrorism and violence against women.

The Presidency has attempted to place on the European agenda the fight against **gender violence**. This is a cross-cutting objective of the Spanish Presidency which has been manifest, in internal affairs, by encouraging exchange of experiences and best police practices, and the elaboration of a handbook of police processes on this subject.

Moreover, Spain has promoted concrete actions and alert mechanisms for cases of **missing minors and other persons in risk situations**.

In the sphere of immigration, the Presidency has attempted to reinforce the **common policy on immigration and asylum**. We have pushed for the creation of a framework of fluid dialogue and cooperation with **countries of origin and transit** of immigration, as well as strengthening comprehensive border management and the fight against illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings, boosting the role of the agency **FRONTEX**, whose new regulation has been furthered under the Spanish Presidency; and the advancement in strategic initiatives in border control and surveillance such as **EUROSUR**.

In our endeavour to place citizens at the centre of our initiatives, we have attempted to uphold freedom of circulation of European citizens, facilitating external border crossing. In this sense, it has been essential to apply new technology to border management and to champion innovation. The Presidency has fostered the use of passports containing biometric elements and **swift and automated border controls**. In conjunction with this initiative, two pilot projects have been launched for automated border entry at Madrid and Barcelona airports using the European biometric passport. We have also put forward initiatives to **ensure document security and to fight against forgery**.

Moreover, on a purely operational level, the Spanish Presidency has supported and carried out practical operations. These operations have been geared toward the improvement of operational coordination against certain crimes.

We must not overlook other areas of relevant action such as cooperation on civil protection, where we have focused on increasing EU capacity for response to crises and natural disasters, particularly in the prevention and extinguishing of fires, providing psycho-social attention for victims of large scale disasters, and the expansion of the use of the European Civil Protection Mechanism against extraordinary events.

Concerning **road safety**, we have worked on a European level exchange of best practices to ensure better safety on motorways, in motorcycle transit through cities, and in work-related trips. Lastly, the Spanish Presidency has boosted interchange of experiences and training for **prison administration**.

Bearing in mind that our internal security increasingly depends on external security and vice versa, we have placed special emphasis on strengthening the **external dimension** of the Area for Freedom, Security and Justice.

The international cooperation of the EU and Member States on a bi-lateral and multilateral level is crucial in order to guarantee the security and rights of our citizens, as well as for promoting these conditions abroad.

In short, we have focused our efforts on improving the mechanisms within our reach to offer citizens the highest level of security possible by strengthening the cooperation and coordination of policies and actions amongst Member States in both strategic and operational areas, intensifying mutual confidence and guaranteeing citizens' rights.



1.- STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

01 European Union Internal Security Strategy

A European Union Internal Security Strategy was presented by the Presidency, defining common threats and challenges, the EU internal security model, the values and principles underpinning this security model and the 10 priority lines of action to respond to these shared threats and challenges. It is an instrument enabling citizens to learn about the European security model in a simple and direct manner.

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 25-26 February 2010. Endorsed by the European Council of 25-26 March 2010.

Related events: Preparatory meetings: Valencia, 15-16 June, 6-9 July 2009; Madrid, 15 (Complutense University) and 17 (Senior Officials) December 2009.

02 Joint EU-US Declaration on Counterterrorism

A joint declaration was drafted and adopted, gathering up common shared principles between the USA and the EU to combat terrorism, enshrining values such as the prohibition of torture, the right to a fair trial, the elimination of impunity, respect for all religions and cultures and, of course, respect for international law in all its variations applicable to the fight against terrorism.

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 3-4 June 2010.

03 Adoption of the EU-US Joint Declaration on Aviation Security, following the attempted attack on an aircraft approaching Detroit, known as the Toledo Declaration.

Owing to the attempted attack on an aircraft approaching Detroit on 25 December 2009, an EU-US-Associated Countries-Candidate Countries Declaration was drafted and adopted, on aviation security measures regarding terrorism, thus conveying to the citizens the message of all the parties' common commitment to facing situations of this nature.

Date of adoption: Informal JHA Council Meeting, Toledo, 21-22 January 2010.

04 Approval of the Terrorist Financing Tracking Programme (TFTP) Agreement between the EU and the USA

Following the Council mandate of April 2010, the European Commission reached an agreement with the USA at the beginning of June. The Council of the European Union and the USA signed the agreement on the 28 June. On the 8 July the Plenary of the European Parliament gave its consent to this instrument, which will enter into force on 1 August 2010.

Related events:

- ▶ European Parliament Resolution on the Recommendation from the Commission to the Council to authorise the opening of negotiations for an agreement, 5 May 2010.
- ▶ Council mandate for negotiation, 10 May 2010.
- ▶ Signing of the Agreement, 28 June 2010.
- ▶ LIBE Committee voted in favour on 5 July 2010.
- ▶ The Plenary of the European Parliament gave its consent to the agreement on 8 July 2010 (484 votes in favour, 109 against and 12 abstentions).

05 Council Decision on setting up the Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) and launching of the Committee

The Council Decision establishing the COSI was adopted and this Committee met for the first time on 11 March, thus materializing the mandate of Article 71 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union which sets forth: "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." Since then the Committee has held two more meetings and has adopted an essentially operational approach, chaired by the Director-General of the Police and Civil Guard.

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 25-26 February 2010.

Related events: The first COSI meeting took place on 11 March 2010. Subsequently, two other meetings were held: 30 April and 25 June.

06 Council Conclusions on the Communication from the Commission "Delivering an Area of Freedom, Security and Justice for Europe's Citizens - Action Plan Implementing the Stockholm Programme"

The Council, through a document of Conclusions, analysed and assessed the proposed Stockholm Programme Action Plan¹, presented by the Commission, clearing the way for the immediate implementation of the Stockholm Programme.

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 3-4 June 2010.

¹ Strategic Programme adopted by the European Council at its meeting on 10-11 December 2009 for the development of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice during the following five years.

07 Council Conclusions on the follow-up of the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum

Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted, analysing the outcome of the first Annual Report submitted by the European Commission on the implementation of the Pact. As a result, the commitment to implement the Pact was renewed, progress made was assessed and priority areas for the following year were identified, such as border control, the fight against illegal immigration, and asylum.

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 3-4 June 2010. Endorsed by the European Council of 17 June 2010.

2.- POLICE COOPERATION

08 Council Conclusions on the roll out of SIS II. Results of the first technical test (Milestone 1)

The development of the SIS II project was promoted, in compliance with the work plan set forth by the Council in June 2009. Council conclusions state that the first technical test (Milestone 1) was fulfilled, and so the correct functioning of the project was verified and the framework for continuing work with a view to its launching was established.

Date of adoption: Political agreement at the JHA Council of 23 April 2010; formal approval at the Council of 10-11 May 2010.

09 Council Conclusions on an Exchange Programme for law enforcement officers, inspired by the Erasmus programme

Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted, in order to serve as a basis for the launching of a training exchange programme for law enforcement officers, inspired by the Erasmus model, which the European Police College (CEPOL) would be in charge of developing.

Date of adoption: Political agreement at the JHA Council of 23 April 2010; formal approval at the Council of 10-11 May 2010.

10 Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States on improving prevention to tackle violence against women and care to its victims within the scope of law enforcement

Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted, enabling the strengthening of police cooperation in this field, by developing law enforcement procedures (included in a handbook), exchanging information and best practices, and creating a network of national contact points.

Date of adoption: Political agreement at the JHA Council of 23 April 2010; formal approval at the Council of 10-11 May 2010.

Related events:

- ▶ Seminar on best practices in law enforcement for the prevention of gender violence; Madrid, 9-10 February 2010.
- ▶ Seminar on promoting specialized services for the prevention of gender violence; Madrid, 16-18 March 2010.

11 Council Resolution on a Model Agreement for setting up Police Joint Cooperation Teams

A Council Resolution was drafted and adopted within the framework of the Prüm Decisions proposing a model agreement-application form with the aim of streamlining the establishment of joint police cooperation teams.

Date of adoption: Political agreement at the JHA Council of 23 April 2010; formal adoption at the Council of 10-11 May 2010.

12 Council Conclusions on missing persons exposed to high risk

Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted, setting forth guidelines to maximize the potential and improve the functioning of SIRENE bureaux in the case of missing minors and other persons at risk, establishing a specific procedure and defining the circumstances of disappearance and the profile of missing persons that enables the classification of a situation as "at risk".

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 3-4 June.

13 Reflection on the creation of databases on missing persons and unidentified bodies

At technical level, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Information Exchange reflected on the necessity of creating of databases on this field at a national and European level, because, among other aspects, they would contribute to improving and streamlining information exchange between the services in charge of resolving cases of missing persons.

Date of adoption: Reflection continues in the Ad Hoc Working Group on Information Exchange

14 Council Resolution concerning an updated handbook with recommendations for international police cooperation and measures to prevent and control violence and disturbances in connection with football matches with an international dimension - Evaluation of Council Decision 2007/412/JHA concerning security in connection with football matches with an international dimension

This Handbook was updated, as it constitutes a much-used instrument among those in charge of ensuring security at football matches with an international dimension.

The Council also adopted the evaluation report on Decision 2007/412/JHA concerning security in connection with football matches with an international dimension

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 3-4 June 2010.

Related events: Meeting of experts on major sports events; Brussels 6 April 2010.

15 Updating the handbook on VIP protection

An exercise began that will lead to the updating of the 2005 EU handbook on VIP protection, thus enabling the enhancement of its goal and establishing best practices and protection methods.

Date of adoption. In March 2010, the Police Cooperation Working Group informed the VIP protection network of the agreement reached in that forum on the need for the network to review the current handbook.

Related events: Meeting of the VIP protection network; Brussels, 17 June 2010.

16 Improving ballistics information exchange for the investigation of crimes

The Police Cooperation Working Group has tried to progress on the automated information exchange on forensic ballistics following the methods laid down in other information areas that are relevant to police investigations.

Date of adoption: At the end of the six-month period, the Police Cooperation Working Group invited the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) to conduct, as soon as possible, a study on parameters for ballistics data structure, in order to have, within the EU a standardised and comparable model enabling the computerized exchange of this data among the EU Member States.

3.- TERRORISM

17 Council Conclusions on Strengthening Cooperation between National Structures Responsible for Analysis of the Terrorist Threat

Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted, contributing to strengthening cooperation between national centres and structures for assessment of terrorist threats, such as the Spanish National Centre for Counter-Terrorism Coordination (CNCA), to identifying best practices in threat analysis, and to sharing experiences.

Date of adoption: Political agreement at the JHA Council of 23 April 2010; formal adoption at the Council of 10-11 May 2010.

Related events: Meeting of directors of national centres for counter-terrorism coordination; Madrid, 21-22 January 2010.

18 Council Conclusions on the Enhancement of the Security of Explosives

Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted, enabling improved control and security of explosives, as well as traceability of intra-Community transactions involving commercial explosives, preventing them from being used for terrorist activities.

Date of adoption: Political agreement at the JHA Council of 23 April 2010; formal adoption at the Council of 10-11 May 2010.

Related events:

- ▶ Coordination meeting on the early warning system project. Madrid, 3-4 December 2009.
- ▶ Seminar on the system for controlling explosives to prevent and combat terrorism (SCEPYLT). Madrid, 8-9 February 2010.
- ▶ EU-US Explosives Security Seminar. Brussels, 17-18 February 2010.

19

Council Conclusions on collecting information on radicalization processes

Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted, contributing to standardising the process of collecting and handling information on radicalization processes, and fostering the analysis of the essential variables of the phenomenon.

Date of adoption: Political agreement at the JHA Council of 23 April 2010; adoption at the Council of 10-11 May 2010.

Related events: Seminar on radicalization processes; Madrid, 13-14 January 2010.

20

Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Member States on the setting up of ad hoc multinational teams with third countries to address terrorism

A Council Resolution was drafted and adopted, enabling the creation of multinational teams comprising police officers from the Member States and from Third Countries to address terrorist activities and radicalization processes.

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 3-4 June 2010.

21

Response teams to major terrorist attacks

Following the Spanish experience, the Counter Terrorism Working Group promoted the creation of multidisciplinary groups, comprising police officers from various Member States, to assist the authorities of third countries that have suffered terrorist attacks.

Date of adoption: Consolidated as a document of the Counter Terrorism Working Group.

4.- ORGANISED CRIME AND ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING

22

The European Pact to Combat International Drug Trafficking

At France's proposal, a European Pact to Combat International Drug Trafficking was drafted and adopted, enabling the strengthening of concerted action by Member States to combat, especially, the illicit international trafficking of cocaine and heroin in the routes of transit towards the EU, as well as the laundering of money and goods.

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 3-4 June 2010.

23

Council Conclusions on locating and managing assets proceeding from organised crime

Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted, enabling the improvement of Member States' capacity to identify and seize the proceeds of crime, strengthening cooperation between asset recovery agencies, and enabling greater effectiveness in the identification and seizure of assets proceeding from crime.

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 3-4 June 2010.

Related events:

- ▶ Seminar on locating and managing assets proceeding from organized transnational crime, Alicante, 16-18 February 2010.
- ▶ Meeting of experts on the use, in the European Union, of administrative and cooperation measures with administrative authorities in the fight against organized crime. Brussels, 9 June 2010.

24 Council Conclusions concerning an Action Plan to Implement the Concerted Strategy to Combat Cybercrime

Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted, containing a series of short- and medium-term measures to prevent and combat cybercrime in its different expressions (e.g., child pornography, identity theft, scams).

Date of adoption: Political agreement at the JHA Council of 23 April 2010; adoption at the Council of 10-11 May 2010.

Related events: Second conference on public-private dialogue on the fight against illegal online activities, Brussels, 21 May 2010 (Co-Chair of the Conference).

25 Council Conclusions Improving the Rules Governing the Administrative Control and Identification of, and the Exchange of Information and Intelligence on Criminal Activities in relation to Speedboats, Recreational Craft and their Motors

Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted, contributing to improving both the prevention of and the enforcement of the law regarding certain criminal activities, especially illicit trafficking in human beings and narcotics, by improving the monitoring, traceability and locating of watercraft used by criminal organizations to commit such criminal acts.

Date of adoption: Political agreement at the JHA Council of 22 April 2010; adoption at the Council of 10-11 May 2010.

26

Conclusions on a Latin-American and Caribbean organised crime analysis

Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted, calling upon Europol to conduct an analysis of organised crime originating in Latin America and the Caribbean. This report will enable better knowledge of the activities, practices, trends and modus operandi of the main criminal groups that are active in the region.

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 3 June 2010.

Related events: Meeting of liaison officers in South America, Bogotá (Colombia), 22-26 March 2010.

27

Action-Oriented Paper (AOP) on combating organised crime, particularly illegal drug trafficking, originating in the region of West Africa

A document was drafted and adopted, enabling the establishment of a coordination framework that contributes to improving response by the European Union and its Member States to the threat of organised crime originating in West Africa in the short and medium term, in particular by supporting the initiatives on a regional scale that are already under way.

Date of adoption: Political agreement at the JHA Council of 23 April 2010, approval at the Council of 10-11 May 2010.

Related events:

- ▶ Sub-Regional Conference on illicit trafficking in narcotics, Dakar (Senegal), 13-15 February 2010.
- ▶ Meeting of liaison officers in Africa, Dakar (Senegal), 11-12 February 2010.

28 Council Conclusions on the Prevention and Combating of the Illegal Trafficking of Waste

Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted, in order to improve practical cooperation among Member States of the European Union, their agencies and other international organizations in the fight against illegal waste trafficking.

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 3-4 June 2010.

29 Study on the use of civil aviation by organizations involved in illegal drug trafficking

In line with the EU Action Plan on Drugs, within the framework of the Horizontal Drugs Group, exchange of information and best practices was promoted regarding the problems and risks that illegal drug trafficking poses for civil aviation.

Date of adoption: This work was carried out within the Horizontal Drugs Group.

30 Conclusions Council on the 2009 Annual Report of the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN)

As part of the new regulatory guidelines for the Network, Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted, in order to strengthen their activities.

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 3 June of 2010.

Related events:

- ▶ Meetings of the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN). Valencia, 3 February 2010 and Madrid, 27 -29 April 2010.
 - ▶ Seminars: Community Police - programmes and protection for women and children - prevention of youth violence, Madrid, 27 - 28 April 2010.
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31 Development of the EU Action-Oriented Paper (AOP) on trafficking in human beings

Presidency Trio draft, applying the provisions of the Stockholm Programme on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, especially regarding cooperation with third countries and protection of unaccompanied foreign minors in the European Union.

Date of adoption: Work consolidated at the COSI level.

Related events:

- ▶ Conference trafficking in human beings, Madrid, 4 - 5 March 2010.
 - ▶ Second Meeting of national rapporteurs on trafficking in human beings, Brussels, 2 June 2010.
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5.- BORDER MANAGEMENT, IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM

32 Council Conclusions on 29 measures regarding comprehensive external border management and combating illegal immigration

Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted that include a programme of 29 urgent measures to shore up external borders, divided into five major areas: Frontex; development of the European External Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR); combating illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings; solidarity and shared management of external borders; cooperation with third countries.

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 25 February of 2010.

Related events:

- ▶ EUROSUR, pilot project, Madrid, 5 February 2010.
- ▶ Meeting on (pooled resources): Madrid, 23 February 2010.
- ▶ Airport Directors Conference, Barcelona, 2-4 March 2010.
- ▶ Meeting of the European Patrols Network, Madrid, 11-12 March 2010.
- ▶ Seminar on a secure network for the exchange of information with regard to illegal immigration in North Africa, Madrid, 29-30 March 2010.
- ▶ Conference, heads of Coast Guard services, Mijas, 7-8 April 2010.
- ▶ Euro-African Conference on Irregular Immigration, 19-20 April 2010.
- ▶ Frontex Risk Analysis Network (FRAN) Madrid, 12-16 April 2010.

33 European Day for Border Guards

Frontex organised the first European Day for Border Guards in Warsaw, in order to, among other objectives, recognise the work of the Union's more than 400,000 border guards. This day is commemorated on 25 May.

34 Council Conclusions on fast-track automatic border crossings for European citizens

In order to facilitate external border crossing for European citizens, Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted, encouraging Member States to promote the establishment of interoperable electronic external border crossing systems for the EU, based on the use of a European biometric passport.

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 3 June 2010.

Related events:

- ▶ Seminar on automated border control systems, Madrid, 14-16 April 2010.
- ▶ Launching of pilot project for Spanish fast-track border crossing at the Barcelona-El Prat and Madrid-Barajas Airports: 13 - 19 May 2010.

35 Amendment of Frontex Regulations

Aware of the need to strengthen the role of the Frontex Agency, the presentation of this legislative proposal was made a priority, to adapt its functioning to this organization's needs in accordance with the recommendations resulting from the agency's first evaluation. During this Presidency, the second reading of this document occurred at the Council level.

Date of adoption: The European Commission presented the amendment proposal on 24 February 2010.

Related events: Meeting of the Frontex Management Board, Madrid 3 - 4 February 2010.

36 Other initiatives involving border management and illegal immigration

Within the framework of adapting Council structures to the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty, there has been reflection on the future of information exchange regarding illegal immigration and border control.

The following initiatives were developed: drafting of a common format regarding warnings on authentic and false documents for Member States of the European Union; compiling of information on the current state of identity cards in Member States; and creation of a specific Europol archive for information exchange on criminal organizations related to the falsification of identity and travel documents.

Date of adoption: Work in the areas of the Border Groups, Working Party on False Documents and CIREFI.

37 Adoption of the Regulation for the creation of the European Asylum Support Office

The Minister of the Interior, representing the Presidency of the Council, and the President of the European Parliament signed, on 19 May, the EASO Regulation, thus culminating the regulatory development of the Office, which will enable it to immediately start functioning.

Date of adoption: 19 May 2010.

38 Amendment of the European Refugee Fund, 2008-2013

The regulatory development on the reform of the Decision establishing the 2008-2013 European Refugee Fund, transferring to the Office the funds for carrying out several actions, formerly financed by this Fund.

Date of adoption: 19 May 2010.

39 Resettlement programme

Progress was made on the negotiation of a resettlement programme that will provide flexibility in the asylum-seeking system under exceptional circumstances, along with an increase in the Refugee Fund, a rise in the budget of EASO, and sufficient economic compensation for those Member States especially under pressure.

40 Establishment of a Common European Asylum System

Procedural progress and debate continued regarding the asylum issues that were already under way at the beginning of our Presidency: **The Dublin Regulation** and the **Asylum Procedures Directive** and the **Qualifications Directive**.

6.- CIVIL PROTECTION

41 Council Conclusions on Psychosocial Support in the Event of Emergencies and Disasters

Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted, encouraging Member States to include, in their respective civil protection systems, psychosocial assistance for the victims of major disasters.

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 3 - 4 June 2010.

Related events: Seminar on Psychosocial Intervention in Emergency and Disaster Situations: Resilience Development (Madrid, 8-9 February 2010).

42 Council Conclusions on use of the European Civil Protection Mechanism in major disasters.

Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted, promoting the use of European civil protection mechanisms, including financial ones, in the event of major disasters.

Date of adoption: JHA Council of 3 - 4 June 2010.

Related events:

- ▶ Workshop on a coordinated civil protection response in extraordinary events, Madrid 3-4 March
- ▶ Meeting of Civil Protection Directors General, Madrid, 10-11 June

43 Council conclusions on the Prevention of Forest Fires within the EU

Council Conclusions were drafted and adopted to promote and strengthen the prevention of and response to forest fires.

Date of adoption: Political Agreement at the JHA Council of 22 April 2010; adoption at the Council of 10-11 May.

7.- PENITENTIARY INSTITUTIONS

44 Penitentiary systems

Adherence to a European network of training schools for staff in penitentiary institutions was promoted; as well as exchange of experiences in prisons and probation services, particularly regarding prevention of radicalization during imprisonment; collaboration among Member States for the implementation of penal policies within the framework of the Lisbon Treaty; and development of alternative measures to imprisonment.

Related events:

- ▶ Seminar on Prevention of Radicalization in Prisons and Probation Services: Segovia, 27-29 January 2010.
 - ▶ European network of schools for training prison staff: Toledo, 12 -13 April 2010.
 - ▶ European Conference of Directors-General of Penitentiary Services: Barcelona, 16 April 2010.
 - ▶ General Assembly and Conference of the CEP (European Organization of Probation): Malaga, 27- 29 May 2010.
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8.- TRAFFIC

45

Initiatives on road safety

Within the framework of the European Road Safety policy, among other actions, there was an evaluation of the measures developed by Member States to fulfil the Third European Road Safety Programme 2001-2010, focusing mainly on reducing fatalities by 50%. Spain has already met this target.

Related events:

- ▶ High-Level Meeting on Road Safety; Madrid, 29 April 2010.
 - ▶ E-SUM Project Meeting, on motorcycle safety in cities; Barcelona, 11 May 2010.
 - ▶ Meeting on Road Security in the Workplace; Barcelona, 14 June 2010.
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9.- JOINT OPERATIONS

46 Operations

COSI Operation. From 7-10 June 2010 there was the first global operation on a European scale involving all of the services responsible—Police, Customs, Border Control—of the fifteen participating Member States in order to, following the stipulations of the Stockholm Programme, support and coordinate the efforts of these services, as well as the European and international agencies combating terrorism and organised crime.

Operation for controlling illicit trafficking of motor vehicles on the external borders of the EU. With the aim of promoting cooperation among participating States and identifying criminal networks, routes, destinations and modus operandi, it was carried out at border crossings and other places especially sensitive to these kinds of crimes (e.g. parking facilities, shopping centres, housing developments). It was carried out during the first week of March, with the participation of 16 Member States.

Operation Transrail. Comprised carrying control operations in railway stations and along train routes, both national and international, in order to detect persons sought by the competent authorities of any of the participating Member States. These operations were carried out between 8-12 March 2010, with the participation of services from 14 Member States.

Rapid Response Exercise (Civil Protection). Simulated air crash rescue, with multiple victims and implications of radiological risk. Participation by six Member States. Venue: Madrid-Barajas Airport, 25-27 June 2010.

10.- EXTERNAL RELATIONS

47

United States of America (USA)

Work has continued in order to develop a transatlantic area of freedom, security and justice, promoting concrete aspects enabling us to be more effective in preventing and combating terrorism, organized crime, mobility, and other serious forms of crime, basically of a transnational nature.

Related events:

- ▶ US-EU Senior Officials Meeting, Madrid, 11-12 January 10.
- ▶ Seminar on radicalization, self-radicalization and de-radicalization involving terrorism, Madrid, 13-14 January 2010.
- ▶ EU-USA seminar on explosives, Brussels, 17-18 February 2010.
- ▶ Conference on trafficking in human beings, Madrid, 4-5 March 2010
- ▶ Expert meeting on protection of critical infrastructure, Madrid 4-5 March 2010
- ▶ EU-USA JHA Ministers Meeting, Madrid, 8-9 April 2010.
- ▶ Expert Meeting on automated border crossing systems, Madrid, 14-16 April 2010.
- ▶ Joint EU-USA seminar on violent extremism, Brussels, 16-17 June 2010

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Eastern Partnership

Russia

Advances were made in EU-Russia relations regarding the following: agreement on visa facilitation; signature of bilateral protocol implementing the agreement on readmission of illegal immigrants signed between the EU and the Russian Federation in 2007; dialogue regarding visa issues with the aim of eventually waiving visas between the EU and Russia; and, finally, start of negotiations for an operational agreement with EUROPOL, as long as the established demands on data protection are fulfilled.

Related events: Meeting of the Permanent Partnership Council on Freedom, Security and Justice, held in Kazan, 25-26 May 2010.

Ukraine

There was notable progress on the operational phase of visa dialogue, aimed at waiving them.

Related events: Ministerial Meeting on Freedom, Security and Justice, held in Brussels, 9 June 2010.

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Latin America and the Caribbean

In addition to intensifying cooperation in the fight against drugs, the importance of strengthening ties with authorities in this region in order to combat organised crime was highlighted. Moreover, efforts were made to promote cooperation between liaison officers of Member States in the region.

Related events:

- ▶ High-Level Meeting on the EU-LAC Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism on Drugs; Madrid, 26 April 2010.
- ▶ First meeting of liaison officers in Latin America and the Caribbean; Bogotá, 23-24 March 2010.

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Other key regions

Mediterranean

The development of the Barcelona Process was intensified through actions in two fields: civil protection and the fight against terrorism. In collaboration with the European Police College and within the framework of the EuroMed Police Project, Spain fostered a meeting of Directors-General of Police and Security Services of Member States and of MEDA countries, to address aspects involving prevention of and reaction to terrorism.

In the field of civil protection, issues addressed included prevention and early warning, and among the actions proposed were: risk analysis of the Mediterranean basin, the creation of a common warning system for the threat of tsunamis and other risks, and the fight against desertification.

Related events:

- ▶ Meeting with Directors-General for Security of MEDA countries, Madrid, 18-19 November 2009.
- ▶ Meeting of Directors-General for Civil Protection within the Union for the Mediterranean, Paris, 5 May 2010.

Africa

In addition to adopting the Action-Oriented Paper on combating organised crime, particularly illegal drug trafficking, originating in the region of West Africa (see action 27), the Sub-Regional Ministerial Conference on illegal drug trafficking in West Africa was supported and there was active participation.

This meeting came after the third meeting of liaison officers in West Africa, in which experiences were shared in different areas related to the fight against illegal drug trafficking, illegal immigration, trafficking in human beings, illicit trafficking in motor vehicles, cyber-crime, organised crime, and other expressions of organised criminal activity in the region.

Related events:

- ▶ Ministerial Sub-Regional Conference on Illegal Drug Trafficking, Dakar (Senegal) 13-14 February 2010.
 - ▶ Third meeting of liaison officers in West Africa, Dakar (Senegal) 12 February 2010.
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