



Brussels, 7 May 2019
(OR. en)

9048/19

LIMITE

**DAPIX 171
ENFOPOL 216
ENFOCUSTOM 93
CRIMORG 76
JAI 476**

NOTE

From:	Italian delegation
To:	Working Party on Information Exchange and Data Protection (DAPIX)
No. prev. doc.:	6277/19
Subject:	Information Management Strategy (IMS) action No. 1 - A.T.H.E.N.A. - Draft Council Conclusions on establishing a 'Heads of SPOC'-network

The advantages of setting up in each Member State a ‘one stop shop’-unit for international police cooperation are set out in the Manual of good practices concerning the International Police Cooperation Units at National Level¹. Acting as Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for international law enforcement cooperation, those units should work closely together to ensure efficient mutual support in cross-border cases.

In the framework of the A.T.H.E.N.A.² IMS action, four Heads of SPOC-meeting were held in 2017-2019. These meetings acknowledged the positive experience of the periodical Heads of SIRENE-meetings, which established over the years a solid and efficient network. Therefore, participants in the head of SPOC-meetings recommended that Member States should build upon that experience and subsequently create a network of Heads of SPOC as well.

¹ 7968/08

² A.T.H.E.N.A.: Addressing Training to SPOC as Hub of a European Network of law enforcement Agencies

Italy as the lead Member State of the A.T.H.E.N.A. action would like to exchange views with DAPIX on the idea of creating a network and explore:

- whether Member States would support the initiative to build up a network;
- to what extent Member States would support requests for providing training experts whenever needed for the core group or fund the activities of such a network;
- whether the above mentioned agencies would contribute their expertise and advice and cooperate, where appropriate, in the activities of the network.

Furthermore, the Italian delegation suggests to submit to the Council Conclusions on establishing a 'Head of SPOC'-network and submits therefore the draft conclusions in Annex.

Draft Council Conclusions

on the establishing a

European network of Heads of SPOC for international police information exchange

The Council of the European Union,

RECALLING the threat posed by increasingly flexible and transnational structures of organized crime that has prompted Member States to intensify the exchange and sharing of their information assets through streamlined and direct access to comprehensive and reliable data,

RECALLING the advantages of setting up in each Member State a all-in-one 'one stop shop' unit for international police cooperation as indicated in the Manual of good practices concerning the International Police Cooperation Units at National Level³,

CONVINCED that those units for international police cooperation acting as Single Point of Contacts (SPOC) for international law enforcement cooperation should work closely together to respond better to the demand for a more efficient and faster support in international police cooperation,

AKNOWLEDGING the positive outcome of the first four meetings of the national Heads of SPOC organized within the IMS 'A.T.H.E.N.A.' project and funded by the Internal Security Fund Police (ISF1),

CONSCIOUS of the positive experience of the periodical 'Heads of SIRENE'-meetings, which established over the years a solid and efficient network,

³ 7968/08

CONVINCED that creating a permanent network of Heads of SPOC provides an opportunity to proceed together along these lines to support increasingly fast and effective interactions and exchanges,

CONVINCED that in order to fulfill its training related tasks SPOCs should avail of a core group of experts in charge of evaluating opportunities for training SPOC staff, proposing qualified trainers and supporting in planning the training activities for the SPOC staff.

WELCOMES the support of CEPOL in the planning of training activities for SPOC staff,

INVITES the Member States to establish a network of Heads of SPOC, which shall meet at least two times a year on invitation of the Presidency of the Council, in order to address topics such as:

- matters of common interests, such as new legal instruments, difficulties regarding workflows at domestic level, defining best practices and sharing experience;
- assess the efficiency of the cooperation between their services;
- sharing best practices on information exchange related issues;
- raise awareness about the law enforcement systems in each Member State;
- identifying possible legal and pragmatic obstacles to cross-border law enforcement cooperation.

INVITES Member States to explore funding opportunities, including the Internal Security Fund, in order to co-finance the activities of the network,

WELCOMES the involvement of INTERPOL, EUROPOL, CEPOL, FRONTEX and euLISA whenever their expertise is necessary, and INVITES the above mentioned agencies to cooperate, where appropriate, in the activities of the network whenever their expertise and advice is required,

REQUESTS that the competent fora of the Council are informed about the activities of the network on a regular basis.