Euromed Police Strategy 2017

Euromed Police IV – Euromed Police Strategy Summary 2017 – Unclassified

Following the previous Euromed Police projects I, II and III to enhance the impact of EU neighbourhood policy, the EU Member States and its immediate country neighbours have come to **a common political understanding of the fact that citizen security is a critical foundation for economic and social development.** The objective of increasing security calls for increased good governance related to **cross-border cooperation that involves national authorities on the political, strategic and technical levels**. Accordingly, the Euromed Justice and Police programme was created to strengthen cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean area on each of these levels in the fields of justice and security.

The present Strategy of Euromed Police constitutes a coordinated approach to regional police cooperation within a defined set of **priority crime areas of a transboundary nature** jointly implemented by the Euromed Police Partners. The identification of these priority areas is **based on the contributions of the two Euromed Police Networks: Analysis and Capacity Building Networks**.

These priority areas were endorsed at the first Euromed Police high-level meeting in February 2017, and can be divided into two categories:

Core priority areas
terrorism, cybercrime, irregular migration supported by criminal networks and trafficking of human beings, firearms trafficking, and drug trafficking

Crosscutting subjects
document fraud, financial investigations, money laundering, border controls, and criminal analysis

The strategy is organised into several objectives linked to the here above-mentioned priority areas – but most importantly these objectives include sustainability and information sharing. For each objective, action plans have been designed, however they will not be further discussed in this document. These action plans – which have been agreed on by all the partners – will inspire the upcoming missions organised by Euromed Police throughout the year.

1. Counter-terrorism

Objective: Strengthen the Euromed Police partners' capacity to **detect, investigate, analyse, and coordinate** the response to the threat posed by terrorism, especially foreign terrorist fighters.

Relevant considerations:

➢ **Appropriate investigative mechanisms have to be applied to current threats**, and police officers should receive training in subjects such as cybernetics;
➢ A better **relationship between law enforcement and Internet** companies should be built
➢ An enhanced international cooperation and new regulations have reduced the number of foreign terrorist fighters leaving for conflict zones, therefore increasing the **risk of attacks conducted on home ground**;
➢ **Prevention and anticipation** have been identified as **crucial** in the fight against terrorism, **radicalised individuals must be identified at the earliest stage**;
➢ 2 majors enablers of terrorism: (a) counterfeit documents, (b) illicit trafficking in firearms

2. Fight against trafficking of human beings and facilitated immigration

Objective: Extend law enforcement agencies' **knowledge and capacity to counter human trafficking and migrant smuggling networks**

Relevant considerations:

➢ Investigations have documented that **criminal organisations** involved in this criminal sector are **multinational**, have a flexible structure and, in most cases, are organised in interconnected cells or groupings, emanating from **a hub usually located in their countries of origin.** Consequently, **international cooperation is necessary to track and prosecute** them.
➢ The use of **forged documents or fraudulent use** of authentic ones is commonplace.
➢ Trafficked human beings are exploited principally **for sexual and labour** purposes
➢ The latest trends indicate an increased **use of the internet** to facilitate the commission of these types of crime. **Social media are used to recruit potential victims** and even to advertise migrant smuggling services

3. Fight against cybercrime and cyber-terrorism

Objective: Provide means for a **better understanding of cyber-investigations** and enhance the relationship between law enforcement agencies, judicial authorities, service providers, and general population

Relevant considerations:

- Cybercrime is **increasing in scale, impact, scope, and sophistication**: the great diversity of jurisdictions and global Internet Services Providers are a major challenge faced by law enforcement agencies and judicial services;
- The **greatest difficulty** faced in convicting criminals remains **attributing criminal responsibility** to a particular individual;
- The fight against **criminal use of the darknet remains a gap** in law enforcement
- The web provides a home for a host of different types of **fraud**, therefore, **citizens must adopt certain precautionary measures** when using their computers and law enforcement agencies must contribute to the dissemination of best practices in this regard.
- **Coordination and sharing of information** are crucial for effective cyber-investigations, which additionally require specialised training, harmonization of procedures to simplify law enforcement cooperation and multi-stakeholder cooperation

4. Firearms trafficking

Objective: Analyse and implement the measures necessary to **detect and counter the trafficking of firearms** both in the physical and online environment, and identify other criminal phenomena that drive this type of crime

Relevant considerations:

- Firearms and explosives trafficking is **increasingly conducted via the Internet,** so the investigation of such activities must be stepped up and prosecutions obtained;
- **Conflict and post-conflict zones** are the main sources of trafficked firearms. Thus, effective **border control is crucial;**
- Collaboration must be enhanced through **existing initiatives** that step up control and detection of firearms, such as Interpol i-Arms or the IBIN database;
- It is necessary to share best practices **to improve the administrative mechanisms** for controlling firearms and preventing trafficking.

5. Fight against drug trafficking

Objective: Identify **the most threatening drug trafficking activity** impacting Euromed Police partners, and define the measures to fight it

Relevant considerations:

- There is **increased trafficking of illicit drugs via the Internet**, which represents a special challenge for law enforcement agencies;
- **Captagon** has been identified as a drug that is particularly relevant at sub regional level in the Middle East
- The primary sources of cocaine and its main entry points to the Euro Mediterranean basin continue to be **Latin America via transatlantic flights and vessels from West Africa** respectively. Some Euromed partners report significantly increased seizures, which shows the persistent threat posed by this particular drug.