

## **Outcome of the European Public Private Security Forum, 19th and 20th December 2005, Brussels**

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The European public private security forum was held in Brussels on 19th and 20th December 2005, with the overriding objective of identifying key elements required to activate effective European partnerships and combine the expertise, resource and intelligence of the public and private sectors in order to fight organised crime, terrorism, and threats to critical national infrastructures. It brought together more than 300 public and private sector representatives from European Union member states and other countries. In addition to the public and private sectors, EU bodies (such as Europol and Eurojust), international organisations, non-governmental organisations, industry associations and academia were also represented.

The Congress was co-financed under the European Commission's AGIS programme; developed through a partnership between AKJ Associates, the United Kingdom Home Office, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Interior, the Luxemburg Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, Finland, Europol and the International Security Management Association (ISMA); and supported by the Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security of the European Commission.

The purpose of this document is to assist the further development of European and international co-operation across the private and public sectors to reduce and prevent harm from the activities of organised crime and terrorism, and especially to make recommendations, to be taken forward by the Commission, in view of the elaboration by the Commission of an EU Action Plan on public/private partnerships in this field.

The Forum builds on previous work on public/private partnerships against organised crime and terrorism, especially on the Dublin Declaration, which was adopted in 2003 and was taken note of by the Informal Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23rd January 2004. On 29th April 2004, the Council adopted a Resolution on a model protocol for the establishment in member states of partnerships between the public and private sectors to reduce the harm from organised crime. This document could serve to assist the Commission in the drafting of the Action Plan on private/public partnerships which, according to the Council and Commission Action Plan implementing the Hague Programme, is planned for 2006 (doc. 9778/2/05, JAI 207).

Recent study shows that high levels of security and international competitiveness are closely interrelated. This fact constitutes a natural basis for public and private partnership in security. Correlation exists between competitiveness and most security-related factors like the level of organised crime or corruption. It remains to be seen, however, if terrorism is linked with competitiveness.

The private and public sectors share a common interest in jointly developing ways to identify and prevent the incidence of harm from the activities of organised crime and terrorism.

The creation of active partnerships between the private and public sectors, based on mutual trust and a common objective of reducing the harm caused by organised crime and terrorism, has proven to be an effective way to tackle these problems at the national level. It should now be assessed how the lessons learned from these experiences can be applied at the international, and especially the EU, level, in order to tackle multinational crime and terrorism.

The issues addressed and considered by speakers and delegates broadly centred on the following principal themes: The need to improve the gathering and exchange of intelligence across and within the public and private sectors.

- The need to improve public/private co-operation in order to fight against serious and organised crime.
- The need for civil society to assist in the fight against terrorism.
- The need to improve co-operation in the fields of counterfeiting and intellectual property.
- The need to combat electronic crime in co-operation with the IT-sector and to acknowledge the development of new products and technologies in the security field.

The Dublin Declaration (DD) contains 10 recommendations, some of them with direct relevance for public/private partnerships against organised crime and terrorism. Important progress has indeed been made in the area of public/private partnerships against organised crime, some of them in direct connection to the recommendations. The following advances can be reported:

- Point 1 of the DD recommended that leaders in the private and public sectors be invited to emphasise their commitment to the fight against organised crime by engaging in the formation of partnerships at all levels. An important step to meet this recommendation has been taken through the discussions which have taken place inter alia in the Council and in the EU Forum for the Prevention of Organised Crime.
- Point 2 of the DD recommended that a Protocol on partnerships between the public and private sectors at national level should be developed. This recommendation was met through the adoption of the Council resolution of 29th April 2004 mentioned above.
- Point 4 of the DD recommended that member states bring their national collection, reporting and planning cycle in line with the European process as organised by Europol. As foreseen by the Hague Programme, the Annual Organised Crime Report (OCR) will be replaced by the Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA) to be finalised in the second quarter of 2006. Based on the results presented in the OCTA, priority setting will take place through the Council structures. Law enforcement agencies will have to adjust their operational targeting and resource commitment in line with the identified priorities.
- Point 6 of the DD recommended that a comprehensive system of European crime statistics should be elaborated and a co-ordinated EU Crime statistics strategy be developed. Point 9 of the DD recommended that an EU Good Practice Guide on crime proofing techniques be developed. Important advances at EU level have been made regarding both crime statistics and crime proofing under the responsibility of the Commission.
- Point 10 of the DD recommended "that a consultative process be launched on the establishment, membership and role of a Steering Group at EU level to deliberate and advise on the Action Plan for tackling organised crime in partnership". This has been actioned in that a steering group has been created under the leadership of the Commission and that the planning of an Action Plan – to include terrorism as well as organised crime as targets – for 2006 is well under way by this steering group. This declaration is in fact part of the work on that Action Plan.

As has been made clear above, most of the recommendations in the Dublin Declaration, as well as the model protocol included in the Council resolution mentioned above, were intended for the national level. Whereas individual public/private partnership initiatives against organised crime and terrorism may often be of most use on a local, regional or national level, there are a number of sectors and areas where such partnerships could bring an important added value if they are elevated to a global and political EU perspective. The Congress agreed that actions at EU-level regarding Public Private Partnerships against Organised Crime and Terrorism should only be taken if they are needed and add value, and that all planned EU actions in this field should be assessed in accordance with this.

In the light of the discussions at the Congress, the Chairman recommended the following , which the Congress took note of:

## **Recommendations**

1. **It is recommended** that strategic meetings regarding Public Private Partnerships against Organised Crime and Terrorism are regularly held at the EU-level.
2. **It is recommended** that the private and the public sectors are given an opportunity to exchange views on new important legislation from a crime-proofing perspective.
3. **It is recommended** that the advances made since the Dublin Declaration on national and sectoral public/private partnerships be followed up, and that the process of establishing national platforms, involving the fullest possible range of stakeholders from the public and private sectors in each country to enhance the co-ordination and development of crime prevention initiatives and raise public awareness of crime prevention be continued.
4. **It is recommended** that all public/private partnerships against crime and/or terrorism in Europe be encouraged to contribute to the future comprehensive system of European criminal statistics through data emanating from crime incidence reporting and similar sources. The private sector should also be encouraged to provide input, through the partnerships, on its need for and use of different types of statistical information.
5. **It is recommended** that an inventory of existing national and multinational public/private partnership initiatives be made and that this inventory be published in the form of an anthology of best practices in different sectors in the field of public/private partnerships against crime and terrorism.
6. **It is recommended** that a detailed study be carried out on the question of how existing non-confidential information and intelligence in the possession of private and public bodies can be made more accessible for both the private and the public sectors, especially for European business organisations and law enforcement authorities. The value of existing data would be enhanced by networking existing databases through data mining and automated collection mechanisms and by using their contents as integral elements of high performing data analysis strategies. Mutual operations and partnership should be encouraged between law enforcement and the private sector in the development of common and compatible intelligence models and the sharing of the intelligence data used in these models, taking into consideration relevant domestic and international provisions on data protection in law enforcement cooperation.
7. **It is recommended** that a model for sharing crime analyses between the private and the public sectors be elaborated. Private contributions to the Europol Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA) should especially be encouraged through this model. The evaluation of the methodology of the OCTA to be carried out after its first edition has been produced in 2006 should identify ways of how input from the private sector could already be part of the national contributions of the MS to the OCTA in future.
8. **It is recommended** that awareness raising campaigns directed at the public and the private sectors as well as at the general public are organised at EU level, for example through specific websites aimed at raising awareness of the threat from organised crime and terrorism.
9. **It is recommended** that the possibilities to create common private/public training programmes in specific sectors or for specific themes be explored.
10. **It is recommended** that the possibilities of combining private and public expertise in the fight against organised crime and terrorism in specific sectors be explored. The Congress noted that the specific expertise in areas such as forensic accounting skills or financial expertise is sometimes lacking in the public sector, whereas the private sector could draw advantage from the general knowledge gathered in the public sector.

11. **It is recommended** that in order to sustain the momentum of the Congress, the process of drafting an EU Communication with an Action Plan be intensified and that the provisions in the Action Plan be followed up in an effective and timely manner. It is further recommended that the EU Action Plan should clarify the roles of the EU and national platforms of public/private partnerships, taking account of the principle of subsidiarity.

12. **It is recommended** that ongoing work in the European Union, such as the work carried out by the European Union Crime Prevention Network, is taken into account in public/private partnerships.