



COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION



## **Council Conclusions on the Russian organised crime threat assessment report**

*2863rd JUSTICE and HOME AFFAIRS  
Council meeting*

*Luxembourg, 18 April 2008*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

**"The Council of the European Union,**

**Considering** that, as is demonstrated by the Organised Crime Threat Assessment Report (OCTA), organised crime groups relative to certain regions constitute a serious threat to the security of the European Union and its Member States.

**Taking into account** that a regional approach supports the OCTA by further developing its findings and by identifying specific threats against the European Union and its Member States in a particular geographical context.

**Recalling** that, with regard to Russian organised crime, the Action Oriented Paper on implementing with Russia the Common Space of Freedom, Security and Justice<sup>1</sup> called for making better use of the Member States' Liaison Officers stationed in the Russian Federation in order to intensify the fight against serious crime, notably organised crime, and to better identify relevant threats.

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<sup>1</sup> 15534/1/06 JAI 619 RELEX 820 ASIM 80 CATS 173 COTER 49 NIS 199.

# **P R E S S**

**Noting the need** for Europol and the Member States' law enforcement authorities to collate all relevant information on Russian organised crime which impacts on Member States in order to obtain a more comprehensive and detailed assessment of the specific threats to be used for intelligence-based law enforcement operations, such as COSPOL projects. In that context the role of Europol, especially with regard to crime analysis, should be strengthened.

**Endorses** the idea of developing a Russian Organised Crime Threat Assessment (ROCTA). In that context Europol should develop a template of an intelligence requirement in line with the OCTA methodology. This intelligence requirement should be developed in close consultation with the OCTA Working Group and specialised units in the Member States . In doing so, account shall be taken of the input by Member State Liaison Officers stationed in the Russian Federation.

**Calls upon Member States**, via their Europol National Units, to respond to that intelligence requirement. In doing so, account shall be taken of the input by Member State Liaison Officers stationed in the Russian Federation.

**Calls upon Europol** to communicate the intelligence requirement to those EU agencies or bodies within the area of Freedom, Security and Justice and to those third countries or bodies deemed necessary in order to draft the ROCTA. Russian Federation law enforcement authorities will be sent a generic intelligence requirement requesting qualitative data on the impact of Russian organised crime on the EU.

**Urges** all such countries and bodies to respond to this intelligence requirement.

**Calls upon Europol** to draft a threat assessment on Russian organised crime (ROCTA) which impacts on the EU Member States. The Council calls upon Europol to produce the 2008 ROCTA in line with the OCTA methodology. Further development of the methodology will be discussed by the OCTA Working Group after the evaluation process of the 2008 ROCTA. The continued need for a ROCTA, its future scope and its frequency should be reviewed by the competent Council Working Group after every ROCTA. As a rule, the ROCTA should not be drafted more often than every two years.

**Calls upon Europol** to distribute the ROCTA, in line with the OCTA, via the ENUs to the Member States for further distribution as deemed appropriate by them."