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European Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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Draft report

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Addendum

II. Conclusions and recommendations (*continued*)

B. Substantive items and workshops

- 4 **International cooperation and technical assistance to prevent and address all forms of crime: (a) terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; and (b) new and emerging forms of crime (agenda item 6); and current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime (workshop 4)**

Summary of deliberations

1. The Meeting discussed modern criminal threats and challenges that could not be addressed without increasing efforts to enhance international cooperation, and dedicating resources to building the capacity of law enforcement and judicial authorities, and other relevant stakeholders. Delegates mentioned the need to improve the collection and dissemination of good practices on international cooperation, including on modalities such as the transfer of sentenced persons, transfer of proceedings, recognition of foreign judgements, as well as law enforcement cooperation, including joint investigative teams and the use of special investigative techniques. Innovative instruments at the regional level, such as the European Arrest Warrant and Investigation Order, formal platforms for exchanges among national contact points, such as Eurojust and the European Judicial Network, as well as the newly created Office of the European Public Prosecutor, were mentioned as examples of good practices.

2. Participants at the meeting highlighted the significance of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the international conventions and protocols against terrorism, the three international drug control conventions, in particular the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, as legal bases for international cooperation, especially extradition,



mutual legal assistance and asset recovery. In particular, the broad scope of application of the Organized Crime Convention could be better utilized in order to strengthen international cooperation on new and emerging forms of crime. The meeting also underscored the importance of building trust among counterparts for the successful handling of international cooperation cases.

3. Delegates strongly expressed the importance of combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Cooperation with communication service providers was highlighted as essential for the detection and removal from the Internet of information that might contribute to inciting terrorist acts. The meeting highlighted the need to discuss measures aimed at the early detection of radicalization and the related promotion of a multidisciplinary approach with focus on youth. The return of foreign terrorist fighters was mentioned as a new reality that posed challenges to law enforcement agencies. The importance of protecting citizens and infrastructure and reducing vulnerability to attacks, including through enhanced border control management capabilities on land, air and sea was highlighted.

4. The meeting highlighted the fundamental importance for investigative and judicial agencies to target proceeds of crime, including by using available instruments for the seizure, confiscation and return of illicit assets, as means to detect and disrupt organized crime and terrorism-related groups. The use of cryptocurrencies and other forms of alternative and virtual currencies also presented new challenges in detecting and combating money-laundering, terrorism financing and other financial crimes. In this context, the meeting stressed the relevant role of financial intelligence units in addressing illicit financial flows, as well as the importance of building on the work of other forums, such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and relevant regional entities.

5. Delegates emphasized the need to effectively prevent and fight against corruption. It was mentioned that it is important to make best use of the recommendations and best practices identified in the peer reviews conducted under the framework of the mechanism for the review of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

6. Delegates also emphasized the need to strengthen national legislation and related international cooperation on new challenges posed by criminal groups, engaging in trafficking in drugs, human beings, firearms, cultural property and in falsified medical products, money-laundering, and environmental crime, including trafficking in wildlife, timber and timber products and hazardous waste, illegal mining and illicit fisheries. Delegates also mentioned the need to effectively combat child sexual exploitation and abuse, including when committed through the misuse of information and communications technologies. The meeting expressed the need for countries to address in a concerted manner the new threats posed by the darknet. The importance of strengthening the fight against smuggling of migrants, including by disrupting organised crime groups who facilitate irregular migration, was emphasized.

7. The meeting welcomed the substantive work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting on cybercrime and looked forward to the implementation of its work plan for the period of 2018-2021. The meeting further emphasized that priority should be given to providing capacity building to relevant officials in order to strengthen the response to cybercrime. In this context, participants at the meeting underscored the key role of UNODC, as well as of regional entities, including the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States, in providing capacity-building upon request.

8. The meeting mentioned that international efforts should be dedicated to strengthening adherence to and implementation of existing international instruments, including regional treaties, such as those under the auspices of the European Union and the Council of Europe, including an increased focus on developing specialized knowledge. The view was expressed that new international responses were needed to combat cybercrime as well as wildlife crime.

9. Participants at the Meeting supported the promotion of tailor-made technical assistance programmes aimed at enhancing the expertise and technical capabilities of criminal justice and law enforcement authorities to address complex crime challenges. In this regard, partnerships with the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations were encouraged. Delegates underscored the role of UNODC as a leading technical assistance provider in this area, as well as the importance of building synergies with other relevant UN entities and international organizations, so as to avoid fragmentation of efforts and duplication.

Outcome of deliberations

10. The following recommendations, which were not negotiated by the participants, were identified:

(a) Effectively implement the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the international conventions and protocols against terrorism, to enhance international cooperation, including asset recovery. Encourage Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to those treaties;

(b) Review and strengthen national legal frameworks, as appropriate, to promote the implementation of commitments enshrined in United Nations conventions and other relevant international agreements, and make full use of their potential in responding to international cooperation requests;

(c) Continue supporting the establishment and functioning of central authorities responsible for dealing with international cooperation requests, and provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in order to enhance the capacity of practitioners to effectively and expeditiously deal with such requests;

(d) Assist Member States in establishing or strengthening regional and cross-regional law enforcement and judicial cooperation networks as platforms for the development and dissemination of specialized knowledge on new and emerging forms of crime, and facilitate the formal and informal exchange of information among relevant authorities;

(e) Underscore the importance of international cooperation to prevent and counter cyber-enabled crime, and the role of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in promoting and protecting an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure Internet that supports shared values such as individual liberty, free expression, free markets, and privacy;

(f) Consider how the criminal misuse of new communication and information technologies is affecting and shaping traditional forms of crime, including money laundering, financial crimes, drug trafficking, and human trafficking and take the necessary action to counter such misuse;

(g) Discuss good practices in the use of new technologies by law enforcement to investigate and prosecute crimes, as well as to enhance transparency and communication with the local community;

(h) Strengthen the work of the CCPCJ in the area of international cooperation, support the role of UNODC as a leading technical assistance provider and encourage UNODC to further build synergies with other relevant UN entities and international organizations, so as to avoid fragmentation of efforts and duplication.