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In accordance with Article 71 TFEU and Article 6(2) of Council Decision 2010/131/EU establishing the Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI), the European Parliament and the national parliaments are provided with a report on the proceedings of COSI for the period from January 2025 to June 2026.

**Report to the European Parliament and national parliaments on the proceedings
of the Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI)
for the period from January 2025 to June 2026**

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI), based on Article 71 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU), was established within the Council in 2010¹ to facilitate, promote and strengthen coordination of operational actions of the authorities of the Member States competent in the field of internal security. Under the trio Presidency formed by Poland, Denmark and Cyprus, COSI continued to fulfil its mandate as a monitoring, advisory and decision-making body, comprising senior representatives from the EU Member States, the Commission and, where necessary, the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator (EU CTC) and relevant Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) agencies, creating synergies between police, customs, border guards and judicial authorities as well as other relevant internal security actors. COSI plays a significant role at the interface between strategic and operational levels to ensure coherence between strategic recommendations and operational action and contributes to the implementation of the strategic guidelines for legislative and operational planning within the area of freedom, security and justice provided for in Article 68 TFEU and approved by the Council on 12 December 2024². COSI prepares internal security matters for consideration by the JHA Council and provides guidance for the work of Council preparatory bodies. COSI itself usually meets twice every semester for formal meetings and once per semester for an informal meeting, while a COSI Support Group (SG) is in place to prepare discussions for COSI and facilitate its work at technical level.

During the reporting period from January 2025 to June 2026, COSI dealt as a matter of priority with the future of internal security, addressing issues such as: the European Internal Security Strategy proposed by the Commission; the way forward regarding access to data for effective law enforcement, based on the work of the High-Level Group on access to data for effective law enforcement (HLG); other challenges posed by technological developments, such as operational cooperation to counter threats posed by drones; and the activities of the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security. COSI prepared the establishment of the new four-year cycle of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) including the identification of EU crime priorities 2026-2029 to be tackled by this mechanism. In addition, COSI paid specific attention to the fight against drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, trafficking in human beings, financial crime and trafficking of cultural goods. COSI continued to monitor developments related

¹ 16515/09.

² 16343/24.

to terrorism by endorsing recommendations based on the evolving threat picture, and by drawing attention to the matter of nihilist extremism and the online recruitment of minors for committing acts of violence. Another major area of work has been the nexus between internal and external security, with a focus on the impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the conflict in the Middle East on internal security. In the area of international cooperation, COSI contributed to the consolidation of the dialogue on internal security cooperation between the EU and Latin America. A second EU-CLASI senior officials meeting was organised leading to the agreement on a Joint Declaration of the Ministers for home affairs of the Member States of the European Union and the Ministers with responsibility for security matters of the Member States of the Latin American Committee on Internal Security (EU-CLASI Joint Declaration)³. During this trio Presidency, COSI worked on the establishment of a regional dialogue with partner countries from the Mediterranean region with the perspective of a first senior officials meeting being organised in autumn 2026. Finally, COSI has monitored the activities of JHA agencies and of their network, helping to create synergies and to ensure the consistency of their work, and contributed to reflections about the future of the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol).

³ 6403/25.

2. HORIZONTAL MATTERS CONCERNING INTERNAL SECURITY

2.1 European Internal Security Strategy

The strategic guidelines provided for in Article 68 TFEU and approved by the Council in December 2024 shape the direction of EU policy in the area of freedom, security and justice and provide a framework for the implementation of the relevant aspects of the EU's Strategic Agenda 2024-2029.

COSI exchanged views in May 2025 about "ProtectEU: a European Internal Security Strategy"⁴, a communication presented by the Commission on 1 April 2025, in preparation of an exchange of views at the JHA Council in June 2025. Delegations broadly supported the priorities and work strands identified by the Commission. Questions were raised in relation to the proposed threat analysis to be carried out by the Commission, and regarding the definition of hybrid threats. There was general support for strengthening JHA agencies in their supporting role to Member States⁵.

The discussion continued in September 2025, when delegations agreed that COSI should be provided with regular reports from the Commission on the implementation of key initiatives, extending beyond the field of Home Affairs when necessary. Delegations underlined that COSI should play a strategic and guiding role in identifying priorities and in the development of initiatives, drawing on Member States' national implementation experience.

In November 2025, COSI endorsed the way forward with regard to the work in the Council on the implementation of the European Internal Security Strategy⁶. COSI provided strategic guidance to the Commission with a view to further refining the concept of the planned regular threat analysis and to avoid any duplication of existing structures or products.

In May 2026, the Commission made a presentation on cross-cutting security trends replacing the initially planned regular threat analysis.

⁴ 7750/25.

⁵ The Polish Presidency prepared a Presidency Report (9267/25) summarising discussions held in the Council and its preparatory bodies.

⁶ 14470/1/25 REV1.

2.2 Internal security mainstreaming

COSI was regularly informed about the state of play of legislative files with a potential impact on internal security being discussed both inside and outside JHA. This includes a regular overview on digital files, providing detailed information about relevant legislative files managed outside JHA, including the implementation of the Artificial Intelligence Act (AI) and the Digital Services Act (DSA), and the legislative proposals for a Digital Omnibus and a Digital Networks Act, and a table showing relevant legislation within JHA and its implementation status.

In September 2025, the Commission informed about the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and its implications for internal security. In addition, delegations raised awareness of the internal security impact of the proposed regulation on drug precursors, the draft Regulation to restrict lead and its compounds in ammunition for outdoor shooting and in fishing tackle for environmental reasons, the negotiations concerning the Regulation establishing the Union Customs Code and the European Union Customs Authority, and the preparation of the draft Commission guidelines on high-risk AI systems in implementation of the AI Act.

COSI will continue to monitor relevant horizontal legislative files and alert Member States to their potential internal security implications.

3. SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

3.1 EMPACT

COSI continued to provide strategic guidance and oversight for EMPACT.

At the informal COSI meeting in Warsaw in March 2025, Europol presented the EU Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (EU SOCTA) 2025. The main findings suggested that organised crime is increasing, adapting faster than ever and representing a direct threat to our societies. The internet has become the primary theatre of operations with criminal activities being accelerated by artificial intelligence (AI). Online fraud is reaching an epidemic phase in terms of scale, diversity and sophistication. Building on the key threats presented by Europol, delegations started an exchange of views on the identification of the EU crime priorities for the EMPACT cycle 2026-2029.

In parallel, delegations exchanged views about the future of EMPACT building on the recommendations from the evaluation of the previous EMPACT cycle 2021-2025. Instead of an institutionalisation of the mechanism, Member States preferred to reinforce EMPACT through Council conclusions. Delegations restated the need to financially reinforce EMPACT, also in view of the negotiations on the next MFF.

In May 2025, COSI endorsed the draft Council conclusions on the enhancement of EMPACT and on EU crime priorities for the EMPACT cycle 2026-2029⁷ that were approved by JHA Council in June 2025⁸. Taking into account past experience, the Danish Presidency prepared a proposal on the decision-making on EMPACT core actors. COSI SG agreed on amending the EMPACT Terms of Reference with regard to the nomination and agreement on core actors and on a revised EMPACT reporting mechanism.

⁷ The following seven EU crime priorities were identified by the Council in its conclusions for the next EMPACT cycle: (1) Identifying and disrupting the most threatening criminal networks and individuals; (2) Tackling the fastest growing crimes in the online sphere, namely cyberattacks, online child sexual exploitation, and online fraud schemes; (3) Fighting drug trafficking by focusing on the production, trafficking, and distribution of cannabis, cocaine, heroin, synthetic drugs, and new psychoactive substances; (4) Tackling migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings; (5) Targeting firearms and explosives crime; (6) Disrupting networks involved in environmental crime; (7) Fighting economic and financial crime such as VAT and Missing Trader Intra-Community (MTIC) fraud, excise and customs fraud, intellectual property crime, and the counterfeiting of goods and currencies.

⁸ 9397/25.

The COSI SG regularly monitored the implementation of the EMPACT operational action plans (OAPs), including the joint action days (JADs). It considered financial and communication aspects related to EMPACT and explored the synergies between the Law Enforcement Working Party (LEWP) - Customs action plan and the EMPACT OAPs.

To launch the new EMPACT cycle 2026-2029, COSI SG agreed on the General Multi-Annual Strategic Plan prepared by the Commission including the Common Horizontal Strategic Goals before the launch of the drafting process of the OAPs. Subsequently, COSI SG concluded the process to nominate the Drivers, Co-drivers and participants in the 13 OAPs and endorsed the OAPs 2026-2027.

In June 2026, Europol presented the main findings of the report “The blueprint of criminal opportunism” providing an overview of changing threats regarding the most threatening criminal networks following a first edition of the report released in 2024. Europol also presented the draft customer requirements in preparation of the interim report on new, changing or emerging threats due in 2027 for the consideration of delegations.

3.2 Organisation and prioritisation of networks affiliated with the LEWP (Police)

In May 2026, COSI endorsed the timeline for the work on the organisation and prioritisation of law enforcement networks affiliated with the LEWP (Police). This exercise is aiming at streamlining the work carried out by the affiliated networks, improving their governance and reporting. During the Cyprus Presidency, it was agreed to anchor this process for the incoming trio of presidencies.

3.3 The administrative approach and special investigative techniques

In light of the planned proposal from the Commission to revise the Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA of 24 October 2008 on the fight against organised crime, COSI exchanged views in May 2026 on fighting organised crime at EU level in an effective way through applying the administrative approach and special investigative techniques. Delegations supported strengthening the barrier model and advocated for the development of a Union framework building on national experience and allowing the exchange of administrative information. With regard to special investigation techniques, delegations expressed their preference for optimising existing tools such as the European Investigation Order over harmonisation through new Union legislation.

3.4 The use of online infrastructure for organised crime-related violence

At the informal meeting in Copenhagen in July 2025, COSI discussed violence as a service, and in particular the online recruitment of minors for committing acts of violence. Delegations agreed that violence as a service was an increasingly worrying challenge that should be tackled through a whole-of-society approach including cooperation with industry, prevention, law enforcement cooperation and the exchange of investigative techniques. The implementation of the DSA and the evaluation of the Terrorist Content Online Regulation were mentioned as legislative elements to be observed.

3.5 Drug trafficking

Regarding changes and emerging trends in drug markets and trafficking routes, experts confirmed at the informal COSI meeting in Warsaw in March 2025 that following the investments to improve the resilience of the main European ports, there is a diversion to secondary small ports. Drugs demand is increasing, and labs are proliferating in Europe, both for the production of synthetic drugs and for the processing of cocaine.

In February 2026, COSI exchanged views on the Commission's communications on an improved framework on fighting drug trafficking, focusing on the EU Action Plan 2026-2030. Most delegations welcomed the proposed EU Drugs Strategy and the Action Plan and some of them stressed the importance of keeping COSI closely involved, in particular to provide strategic guidance on those actions that require operational cooperation. COSI agreed that the Action Plan should be complemented with activities related to, amongst other things: the follow-the-money approach; the maritime dimension including ports and the involvement of the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (Narcotics) (MAOC-N); the development of public-private partnerships, for instance in relation to cooperation with postal and parcel services; the reinforcement of cooperation with tech companies to prevent online recruitment; the use of go fast and (semi-)submersible vessels; and the possible replication of good practices in the legal framework at national level. Some delegations mentioned that the role of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) in the fight against drug trafficking would require closer examination.

In May 2026, the Presidency informed delegations about the ongoing work leading to the approval of Council conclusions on jointly operationalising the EU Drug Strategy⁹ at the JHA Council in

⁹ 9974/26.

June 2026 and stated that COSI would continue to provide guidance on operational cooperation matters related to the implementation of the Action Plan against drug trafficking. Portugal raised awareness about the work of the MAOC-N and the need to provide the organisation with adequate Union funding to ensure the continuation of current activities and the implementation of planned new activities.

3.6 Preventing and combating migrant smuggling in the digital age

COSI exchanged views in February 2025 about the main challenges of countering migrant smuggling in the digital age and considered tools and solutions that could be developed or enhanced in this regard. The Polish Presidency presented the work of the specialised cyber department within the Polish Border Guard as an example of an effective national solution especially to follow and seize the money. In the discussion, delegations referred to the need to strengthen cooperation and information exchange between Member States and with third countries and international organisations, facilitated by Europol whenever appropriate; to further develop the dialogue with private parties, including through the EU Internet Forum; to ensure the effective implementation of existing legislation (e.g. DSA, e-evidence package); to endeavour to reach a swift political agreement on the proposed new legislation under the anti-migrant smuggling package; and to make best use of existing structures such as EMPACT, the EU Internet Referral Unit at Europol and the ‘DigiNex’ expert network.

The Cyprus Presidency followed up on preventing and combating migrant smuggling in the LEWP (Police) by issuing a Presidency report highlighting concrete operational recommendations to law enforcement agencies.

3.7 Trafficking in human beings

At the informal COSI meeting in Warsaw in March 2025, delegations underlined that the fight against the trafficking in human beings should be one of the EU crime priorities for the new EMPACT cycle. Among the measures to effectively tackle this type of crime, delegations pointed to the cooperation with online platforms (that should implement DSA obligations), the use of web crawlers, including during Hackathon actions days, by law enforcement to detect and dismantle sites, cross-border/ international cooperation with countries of origin and the monitoring of the use of legal business structures which often serve to disguise these illegal activities.

The Cyprus Presidency followed up on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings in the LEWP (Police) by issuing a Presidency report highlighting concrete operational recommendations to law enforcement agencies.

3.8 Follow the money: Financial investigations and cryptocurrencies

On financial investigations and cryptocurrencies, the discussions at the informal COSI meeting in Nicosia in January 2026 highlighted the increasing use of crypto assets by organised crime and the need for enhanced expertise in tracing and freezing these assets. Further training and improved information exchange are considered areas for further investment. The exchange of views also touched upon strategic autonomy with some delegations stressing the need for EU crypto tracing tools, and access to data for effective law enforcement. The review of the Europol mandate was considered an opportunity to strengthen the agency's support capacities in the financial crime area.

3.9 Illicit trafficking of cultural goods

At the informal COSI meeting in Nicosia in January 2026, delegations agreed on the seriousness of this crime and the need to strengthen the monitoring of online sales and to cooperate with cultural institutions. Exploring a common EU transaction register and maximising the use of existing networks such as CULTNET, together with cooperation with Europol and Interpol, are areas identified for further work. The Cyprus Presidency followed up on the illicit trafficking of cultural goods in the LEWP (Police) by agreeing on a presidency report¹⁰ highlighting concrete operational recommendations to law enforcement agencies.

¹⁰ 9312/26.

4. COUNTERTERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Terrorism and violent extremism continue to pose a significant threat to the European Union and its Member States. COSI has been regularly assessing the challenges posed by terrorist threats and considering actions to counter them effectively. Every six months since 2016, COSI has endorsed recommendations based on the EU threat assessment in the field of counterterrorism.

At the informal COSI meeting in Nicosia in January 2026, delegations considered nihilistic extremist violence defined as misanthropic attacks without particular ideology or motivation save the fascination by violence. Following a presentation by the EU CTC, delegations acknowledged nihilistic extremist violence an emerging threat across Member States. Both victims and perpetrators are often minors or young people operating in the digital environment. The phenomenon is complex and difficult to categorise. Existing legal tools and fora to deal with the matter should continue fostering cooperation with technical providers. Delegations also stressed the need of a multidisciplinary approach with preventive measures and awareness raising campaigns, particularly among young people.

5. TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

5.1 Access to data for effective law enforcement

Following the Council conclusions on access to data for effective law enforcement from December 2024¹¹, the Polish Presidency proposed measures that could be launched in the short term or be prioritised in the roadmap that was then still under preparation by the Commission. In addition, the Polish Presidency provided examples of communication activities and a repository of non-exhaustive key messages and case examples that could help national authorities, including law enforcement and judicial authorities, the Commission, the EU CTC and the JHA agencies, when communicating about access to data for effective law enforcement at national, EU or international level. Delegations welcomed the initiative to start implementing some measures immediately, and to develop a common narrative for communicating on access to data. COSI invited the EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) and Europol to collect relevant case examples and communication products.

Following the presentation by the Commission of a roadmap for lawful and effective access to data for law enforcement on 24 June 2025¹², at the informal COSI meeting in Copenhagen in July 2025, delegations broadly welcomed the roadmap but with some Member States having hoped for a higher level of ambition and clearer timelines. A panel discussion on access to data in end-to-end encrypted communication services with representatives of academia, industry and civil society focused on balancing rights and developing technical solutions following a risk-based approach. Work on this matter will be pursued by a Commission expert group developing a Technology Roadmap for Encryption by 2026.

In September 2025, COSI exchanged views about the follow-up in the Council structures in preparation of the JHA Council in October 2025. Delegations considered the overview prepared by the Danish Presidency to be a suitable framework for coordinating, discussing, and monitoring the implementation of the roadmap and other measures prioritised by the Member States.

¹¹ 16448/24.

¹² 10806/25.

In November 2025, COSI endorsed the way forward with regard to the work in the Council structures on access to data for effective law enforcement¹³, and exchanged views on the standardisation aspects of access to data for effective law enforcement. Delegations explored solutions to better coordinate and prioritise law enforcement representation in standardisation bodies and invited the Commission and Europol to support the Member States in further developing them. Delegations underlined that sufficient funding should be made available to Member States under the next MFF.

In May 2026, COSI delegates indicated their expectation of forthcoming discussions within the Council structures on data retention and the Technology Roadmap for Encryption. Other topics stressed included the need to enhance efforts in digital forensics, strengthening the engagement in standardisation, and communicating more actively about the challenges faced by law enforcement.

In June 2026, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) presented to the COSI SG a survey on public perceptions on access to data illustrating a large difference in public opinion among Member States including in relation to trust in national authorities. Europol and Eurojust reported about illustrative case examples collected by them covering failed or delayed investigations and success stories. COSI SG stressed the importance of continuing with the collection of case examples. Sweden announced to co-organise with the United Kingdom the Second International Symposium on Lawful Access (ISLA) in Stockholm on 17 and 18 November 2026.

5.2 Operational cooperation to counter drone threats

In May 2026, COSI welcomed the Commission's Action Plan on Drone and Counter-Drone Security and noted the increasing frequency and sophistication of malicious drone activity. Enhanced information sharing at EU level, alongside joint procurement, training, research, and exercises, were identified as key priorities. The input from COSI fed into the report prepared by the Ad Hoc Working Party on Preparedness, Response Capability and Resilience to Future Crises (AHWP Resilience) that was presented to the Permanent Representatives Committee in June 2026.

¹³ 14472/1/25 REV1.

5.3 EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security

Under COSI's strategic guidance, the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security (Innovation Hub) has been established as a collaborative network of JHA agencies and bodies with the objective of supporting the work of internal security actors in the EU and its Member States by providing innovation updates and effective solutions. The Innovation Hub held its annual event in Brussels in November 2025, at which experts discussed strategic foresight, biometrics, AI, encryption, and drones.

COSI took note of the information provided by the Steering Group of the EU Innovation Hub for Internal Security (mid-term review of priorities, 2025 and 2026 work plans, 2024 and 2025 annual activity reports). COSI endorsed the renewed composition of the Steering Group of the Innovation Hub for the period July 2026 to December 2027.

6. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

6.1 Cooperation with Latin American countries

During the trio Presidency, COSI worked on further strengthening the internal security partnership with Latin American countries. COSI contributed to the preparation of the third EU-CLASI ministerial meeting that took place in the margins of the JHA Council in Brussels in March 2025, and to the EU-CLASI Joint Declaration that included for the first time an annex providing for a roadmap to implement priorities for operational cooperation.

In November 2025, the COSI delegates met their Latin American counterparts for the second time in the format of an EU-CLASI senior officials meeting to discuss issues of common concern related to serious and organised crime. They discussed how to strengthen bi-regional operational cooperation building on EMPACT and the new CLASI OAPs. Several examples of successful operational cooperation were mentioned. Both sides highlighted a strong alignment of priorities in combating transnational crime, particularly in crime areas such as trafficking in human beings, trafficking of firearms and of drugs.

COSI and CLASI discussed about the challenges in information exchange for law enforcement purposes between the two regions. Delegations stressed the importance of existing bilateral cooperation schemes and ongoing cooperation with Europol and Interpol, while recommending the swift conclusion of further international agreements enabling cooperation between CLASI countries and Europol. The upcoming ratification of the Ameripol Treaty was seen as another opportunity to facilitate information sharing.

COSI and CLASI further exchanged views about the resilience of logistical hubs against criminal infiltration, confirming the importance of information exchange, public-private partnerships (like the European Ports Alliance), and of addressing vulnerabilities such as corruption and the trafficking of precursor chemicals. Several delegations advocated for joint risk assessments and training programmes. Mutual trust and continued cooperation to tackle challenges like corruption and the criminal infiltration of the legal economy were considered necessary elements to strengthen democratic governance and security in both regions.

COSI was informed about the EU-CLASI interinstitutional meetings in Santiago de Chile in February 2026 and in hybrid format in July 2026. The COSI SG started working on a new draft EU-CLASI joint ministerial declaration in preparation of the envisaged next EU-CLASI ministerial meeting in Brussels in December 2026.

6.2 Regional dialogue on internal security with the Mediterranean

During the trio Presidency, COSI considered strengthening the EU's security partnership with Mediterranean countries in the context of the new Pact for the Mediterranean. Delegations agreed on the region's strategic importance and highlighted the need for enhancing operational cooperation and information exchange in areas such as migration, drug trafficking or counterterrorism. In February 2026, most delegations confirmed their willingness to engage in an internal security dialogue with the Mediterranean countries. They showed preference for an incremental approach, starting with a limited number of thematic priorities, building on EMPACT, and with a limited number of partner countries. COSI agreed that the new dialogue should articulate with existing initiatives, in particular the high-level EU-MENA cooperation dialogue. On the arrangements for the dialogue, delegations indicated their preference for annual meetings at senior official level, ideally back-to-back with a COSI meeting. The Chair of COSI invited the Commission to prepare a mapping of existing relevant security initiatives in the MENA region which was subsequently presented by the Commission to the COSI SG.

In May 2026, the Cyprus Presidency updated delegations about the ongoing work to launch an internal security dialogue with the southern Mediterranean partners, including first exchanges with several countries in the region together with the Commission and the EEAS. The incoming Irish Presidency announced that the first senior officials meeting would be planned to take place back-to-back with the COSI meeting in November 2026.

6.3 Cooperation with the Western Balkans, the United States and Interpol

COSI was informed by the Presidency about the preparation and the outcome of the ministerial meetings on justice and home affairs with the Western Balkan partners and the United States of America, and the regular senior officials' meetings on justice and home affairs with the Western Balkan partners, the United States of America and Interpol. COSI was kept informed by the Commission about the state of play of negotiations for a cooperation agreement between the EU and Interpol.

7. NEXUS BETWEEN EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL SECURITY

7.1 Internal security implications of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

With Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continuing, COSI exchanged views about preventive measures related to the threat of weapons and ammunition being smuggled from Ukraine. While the EU has not experienced a massive inflow of firearms from Ukraine so far, delegations agreed that the situation required continuous monitoring as it could change in the future. Therefore, further preventive measures should be considered. Delegations confirmed their willingness to continue working closely with Ukraine on the implementation of the EU list of actions to counter firearms diversion.

In November 2025, Estonia proposed a coordinated response to the internal security threat posed by Russian ex-combatants.

7.2 Internal security implications of the situation in Syria

Based on an action plan presented by the EU CTC, COSI assessed the situation in Syria and its implications for the EU's internal security, in preparation of the JHA Council meeting in March 2025. Delegations agreed that there was a need to remain vigilant and to be prepared, in the form of stepping up information sharing, enhancing border controls and making best use of the Schengen Information System.

8. JHA AGENCIES

In February 2025, the EU Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA) presented the annual report of the JHA Agencies Network 2024 to COSI. The Network's priorities for 2024 were presented by FRA. In February 2026, FRA presented the annual report of the JHA Agencies Network 2025 to COSI. The Network's priorities for 2026 were presented by the EU Drugs Agency (EUDA).

In May 2025, COSI had a strategic discussion on the future of Europol to contribute to the Commission's preparatory work for a review of the agency's mandate, taking into account the joint statement by the European Police Chiefs on the future development of Europol. Delegations reiterated that any operational action by Europol must be carried out in agreement with the authorities of the Member States concerned, and that the application of coercive measures should remain the exclusive responsibility of national authorities. Delegations indicated areas where Europol could become more active in supporting Member States such as financial investigations and asset recovery, the pooling of innovation and technology capabilities, the provision of tools for law enforcement, information exchange and relations with private parties and third countries.

Discussions on the future of Europol continued in February 2026 in preparation of an exchange of views at the JHA Council in March 2026. COSI confirmed that the role of Europol as a central hub for the exchange and analysis of information should be strengthened, in particular by improving Europol's existing tools, interoperability between systems and standardisation. COSI also confirmed that closer cooperation of Europol with other EU agencies and bodies and third parties should be ensured while respecting the individual mandates of each agency. Delegations agreed on the importance of tackling hybrid threats but expressed caution about the involvement of Europol in that area and a possible enlargement of its mandate in that regard. Many delegations highlighted the need to limit Europol's support activities in that regard to cross-border criminal offences. In terms of governance, most delegations expressed support for maintaining the current governance structures of Europol while strengthening the role and responsibilities of the Europol National Units and the Liaison Officers where needed.

In May 2026, COSI took note of the key findings of the EU Law Enforcement Training Needs Assessment 2026- 2029, presented by the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), and the chairperson of the Coordinating Committee in the area of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters (CATS) informed about the discussion on cooperation between Europol and Eurojust that took place at that committee's informal meeting in April 2026.
