Security and justice: establishing a European institute of Police studies. Initiative Spain

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PURPOSE : to present the Spanish initiative which aims to establish a European Institute of Police Studies. CONTENT : initiatives are being developed within the European Union aimed at securing cooperation between the Member States for the purpose of defining effective public security policies and, within this framework of cooperation and collaboration, Institutes of Police Studies in various Member States have been holding informal meetings on an annual basis aimed at establishing a network. The informal, open nature of the aforesaid network, devoid of any clearly defined, set structure or organisational or operational anchor, limits its effectiveness, complicates the decision-making process and prevents any objective assessment of its research and conclusions, thus rendering implementation of its recommendations impossible. In the scoreboard to review progress on the creation of an area of freedom, security and justice in the European Union updated for the second half of 2001, the Commission highlighted that attention should be directed on the one hand towards increasing the effective capacity of the various instruments set up to implement police cooperation (Europol, Eurojust, European Police College, Police Chiefs Task Force) and on the other hand towards ensuring coordination between those bodies, thus guaranteeing their complementarity and avoiding any risk of duplication or contradiction of effort. It is proposed that the Institute's task shall be to implement the programmes and initiatives adopted by the Council in response to the crime phenomenon in general, its causes, manifestations and effects or consequences for society and for the structures of the European Union, acting on proposals from the governing board. By optimising cooperation between its various national training and research institutes, the Institute shall aim to contribute to the creation of a body of technical and scientific knowledge on the fight against crime and the maintenance of law and order and public security in order to assist the bodies responsible for police cooperation to perform the functions assigned to them. The Institute shall have the following objectives: - to understand, study and analyse socio-economic and political processes having an impact on security; - to encourage study and research into criminal phenomena and forms of crime to unify research criteria and tools so that analysis can be reflected in police activity; - to improve common strategies for comparative investigations with a view to increasing the number of operations on the ground and operations carried out by the competent local authorities; - to cooperate with the institutions of the Union in designing security policies by drawing up the relevant proposals; - to encourage joint research projects; - to create online databases, including lists of researchers, accessible to all the players involved in the Institute; - to foster cooperation between the Institute and other academic institutions at university level. The Institute shall offer its cooperation to the institutes of candidate countries for accession to the European Union as well as those of Iceland and Norway. Lastly, with regard to the budget, it is proposed that theInstitute's budget shall be managed by the secretariat on the basis of a financial regulation.