

Prevention of crime: European network.

Initiative France and Sweden

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The committee adopted the report by Roberta ANGELILLI (UEN, I) broadly approving the initiative under the consultation procedure, subject to a number of amendments largely taken over from the Council working party text. These were aimed mainly at tidying up and clarifying the text. In particular, the committee wanted to set out the aims of the future network more clearly by giving a more detailed definition of crime prevention. It emphasised that such measures must help to reduce citizens' feeling of insecurity and that the network should pay particular attention to juvenile, urban and drug-related crime. The network should also develop cooperation with the applicant countries, third countries and international organisations. On the question of the contact points to be designated by the Member States, the committee agreed that these should include at least one representative from national crime prevention authorities but felt that researchers and academics need not necessarily be included (as specified in the proposal). However, it stipulated that they could be designated as contact points along with other actors in crime prevention and that Member States should, in all instances, ensure that they were involved through the appointed contact points. The committee also added OLAF, Eurojust and the Drugs Monitoring Observatory as bodies which should be associated with the network's work in relevant areas. Lastly, the committee wanted the network to be run by a committee consisting of one representative of each Member State (rather than by a governing board consisting of the designated national contact points) and felt that decisions should be adopted by a simple majority rather than by unanimity.