

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N
of TREVI Ministers

concerning the strengthening of co-operation in the
internal frontier regions of the European community
(Paragraph 12 of the Programme of Action)

1. The present recommendation is intended for those states of the European Community which have one or more internal borders in common, and concerns bilateral co-operation of such states in security matters. This recommendation takes account of the consequences of the implementation of the Single European Act of 1986.

2. Those states wishing to do so may use the measures listed in the present document as a basis for reinforcing their co-operation.

3. The aims of these measures are as follows:

- to allow states with one or more borders in common to adopt bilaterally, and to be used only by common agreement, a series of measures for co-operation endorsed by all twelve member states and capable of being applied wholly or in part without prejudice to measures already in force between certain states;

- to facilitate the establishment of a permanent system of transfrontier co-operation, with a view to maintaining the level of security required in all the common frontier regions, so as to avoid any reduction in such security because of the implementation of the free movement of persons and, by so doing, to ensure the territorial continuity of such security, in spite of the existence of internal geographical frontiers between states;

- to ensure that the co-operation recommended in the Programme of Action relating to the reinforcement of police co-operation against terrorism and other types of organised crime becomes effective, not only centrally within each state, but also at the level of those services with responsibility for territorial security in the border areas.

4. The measures for co-operation envisaged in this context are as follows:

I. Legal measures

5. States could make an inventory of the bilateral agreements they have concluded with neighbouring states in the area of police co-operation, verify the type and scope of such agreements, improve existing agreements or consider adopting agree-

ments if none exist. Such agreements could, in particular, take the form of administrative arrangements between Trevi Ministers and could be applied to all the areas covered by the Trevi Programme of Action.

II. Structural and permanent measures

6. The states could define the geographical context envisaged for the development of co-operation - central administration, region, "département", province, "Land", county, etc., the services involved, and the various structural levels and the designated points of contact.

7. They could in particular designate permanent contact points whose task would be to ensure the carrying through of all the co-operation procedures, including any regular working meetings that might be established between the services.

8. In the specific area of combatting organised crime, those states whose structures permit such co-operation, might decide to set up regional co-ordination units to collect all pertinent information and ensure that appropriate preventive and operational measures are taken.

9. They could set up permanent direct links between the operations rooms of the services concerned on either side of the border.

10. In order to respond to the specific requirements in certain border areas (e.g. the frequency of exchanges) and in order to facilitate the implementation there of all the measures set out in this Recommendation, the establishment of joint posts could be considered.

These joint posts would carry out duties that could include:

- providing traditional police services adapted to the specific situation in border areas;
- facilitating the exercise of rights of transfrontier observation and pursuit, in cases where states have granted one another such rights;
- facilitating the carrying out of decisions taken by appropriate authorities in respect of persons who are refused entry, and persons who are being removed or deported;
- exchanging urgent information and, within the limits of their competence, information concerning chemical or

nuclear accidents;

- exchanging information relating to wanted notices;
- helping one another in cases that may have ramifications in the partner country;
- forwarding information to command centres in connection with cases of interest to both parties;
- informing command centres in connection with important or special cases;
- acting as a structure for reception of other services concerned with serious events and giving them assistance, and perhaps serving as a binational command post;
- exercising, within the limits of their competence, the duties of contact point for the external frontier posts;
- co-ordinating patrols on either side of the frontier, each acting within its own sphere of competence.

11. Where member states decide to set up joint mobile brigades, such posts could facilitate the establishment and operational activity of these units which, in all cases, would act under the authority of the state on whose territory they carry out their duties.

III. Occasional or regular measures

12. With a view to facilitating contacts, services could exchange organisation charts and lists of personnel. These would be updated regularly.

13. Regular working meetings and informal visits could be organised between the services in order to study topical events and the ways in which exchanges of information between the services could be improved.

14. Training courses of varying lengths and at different levels - command, supervisory, operational - could be organised by the services with the aim of familiarising personnel with the working methods and administrative procedures of the states concerned.

15. Important events affecting public order could be discussed by services with the aim of co-ordinating any necessary measures on both sides of a common border.

16. On such occasions, joint communications and/or operations rooms could be set up, along with specific communications links (exchange of radio equipment).

17. The temporary secondment of personnel - with no executive powers - either unilaterally or on an exchange basis could be useful. Secondments and exchanges could also take place within training schools or for seminars, with the particular aim of improving the knowledge of languages of the personnel concerned.

18. Joint exercises could be organised to accustom personnel from different states to working together.