Council conclusions on making security pictograms easier to recognise

3051st JUSTICE and HOME AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 2 and 3 December 2010

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

BEARING IN MIND that security is an issue which is increasingly attracting attention throughout the European Union and that the various types of stakeholders involved, both public and private, and the security systems have changed significantly and diversified in recent years;

BEARING IN MIND that EU citizens are increasingly mobile, owing to the application of the principle of freedom of movement, and that some of the activities of private security firms are of an international nature;

WHEREAS different Member States use different pictograms to inform the public, both in public security services and in private security services; whereas such pictograms contribute to the prevention of crime, to making the public feel more secure and, in some cases, to protecting people's privacy;

BEARING IN MIND that, in the light of the wide variety of languages in use in Europe, pictograms can be an excellent way to provide information for European citizens who move freely within the European Union and cannot be expected to be familiar with all of its languages;

WHEREAS at present the security pictograms in use in the Member States of the European Union vary greatly;

BEARING IN MIND that the use of very different pictograms throughout the European Union may leave the public confused and reduce their preventive effect;
BEARING IN MIND that care should therefore be taken to ensure that security pictograms are easy to identify and that everyone in the European Union ought to be able to recognise them and understand what they mean, regardless of the Member State they are in;

BEARING IN MIND that this objective must be pursued with due regard for existing national regulations and ensuring that the administrative burden for the Member States is limited as much as possible;

WHEREAS the scope of the current conclusions intends to cover pictograms only (i.e. graphic symbols communicating an idea by means of a figurative and symbolic scene) and not any other means of signalisation; whereas it intends to cover security pictograms only (relating to private and public security) and does not cover safety pictograms (relating to the prevention of accidents, fires and illnesses); whereas the current conclusions only cover pictograms that have been determined by a regulation;

HEREBY RESOLVES

that a "Catalogue of security pictograms" should be established listing the security pictograms determined by the various national and European regulations;

that the Catalogue should include, inter alia, information on the following topics:

(1) the secure transport of valuables: pictograms indicating that a system for neutralising the valuables (IBNS) is in use;

(2) private security services: pictograms identifying private security staff (specific emblems worn on work clothes);

(3) pictograms indicating that video surveillance (CCTV) is used;

(4) pictograms indicating the location of a police station, gendarmerie station, and the like;

(5) public security services: pictograms identifying public security staff (specific emblems worn on work clothes);

(6) pictograms indicating a security control point (police check, access check by a private security firm and the like);

INVITES THE EUROPEAN CRIME PREVENTION NETWORK AND ITS SECRETARIAT

1. to make the “Catalogue of security pictograms” available to the European institutions and the Member States on its website;

2. to collect, should a Member State or a European institution require information on a type of pictogram that has not yet been included in the “Catalogue of security pictograms”, the necessary information from other Member States or European institutions to be able to complete the Catalogue if necessary, using the model questionnaire attached in Annex A of the Catalogue;

3. to keep the "Catalogue of security pictograms" up to date based on the information received, if the collected information concerns a type of pictogram that was not yet included in the Catalogue, or if a Member State or European institution informs it of the changes made to a security pictogram already presented in the Catalogue;
INVITES THE MEMBER STATES AND THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

to designate a person or a department responsible for passing on information to the
Secretariat of the European Crime Prevention Network;
to e-mail the security pictograms currently prescribed in their regulations to the Secretariat
of the European Crime Prevention Network, indicating their precise meaning and citing the
regulation governing them;
to consult the "Catalogue of security pictograms" before adopting any regulation prescribing
a pictogram; and should the Catalogue not contain any information on the type of pictogram
to be prescribed in their regulations, to e-mail the Secretariat of the European Crime
Prevention Network using the questionnaire included in the Annex A of the Catalogue so
that it can consult other Member States and European institutions and, if appropriate, update
the Catalogue;
to select the pictogram to be inserted into their regulations from those in the "Catalogue of
security pictograms", provided that this choice does not go against any existing national
rules;
to pass on any changes made to a security pictogram in their regulations to the Secretariat of
the European Crime Prevention Network, using the form provided in the Annex B of the
"Catalogue of security pictograms"."