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Answer given by Vice-President Borrell
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.4.2021)

Security related training programmes supported by the Commission, such as the one implemented through the European Police Academy (CEPOL), seek to raise awareness on international standards and norms as well as legal procedures and judicial oversight, thereby contributing to a human rights-based law enforcement culture, based on lawful modern investigation techniques. Programmes further adhere to the ‘Operational Human Rights Guidance for EU external cooperation actions addressing Terrorism, Organised Crime and Cybersecurity’¹.

Regarding capacity-building activities provided by CEPOL in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the Honourable Member will find information on the participating countries and the content provided in the attached table. Both types of training courses referred to in the table were attended by security forces that report to the Ministry of Interior in the respective countries. In the case of Lebanon, security forces that report to the Ministry of Defence also attended.

Through the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), the Commission is also funding a regional training programme² supporting partner countries to address terrorist threats from a rule of law perspective. In this context, one training was organised jointly with the Council of Europe specifically focused on raising awareness on international norms and standards applying to Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) techniques and digital forensics. Police authorities from EU Member States presented at workshops to their peers in partner countries (in this case, representatives of Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Algeria), focusing on issues regarding procedures, legal guarantees, admission of evidence and judicial oversight.

¹ <https://ct-morse.eu/resource/guidance-integrating-a-rights-based-approach-to-eu-programming-in-terrorism-organised-crime-and-cybersecurity/>.

² Under the project ‘Counter-Terrorism in Middle East and North Africa (CT MENA)’, implemented by a consortium of EU Member States.