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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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10673/04 EXT 1

SCH-EVAL 38 COMIX 417

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

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Subject:	Schengen evaluation of Portugal
	- Report on the follow-up given to the recommendations

Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



ANNEX

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 18 June 2004

10673/04 EXT 1 (24.09.2012)

SCH-EVAL 38 COMIX 417

REPORT

from:	the Portuguese delegation
to:	the Schengen Evaluation Working Party
prev. doc.:	14243/1/03 SCH-EVAL 69 COMIX 658
Subject:	Schengen evaluation of Portugal
	- Report on the follow-up given to the recommendations

The correct application by Portugal of the Schengen acquis has been evaluated during the second half of 2003, in accordance with the decision of the Executive Committee of 16 September 1998 and the note on the continuation of the work on Schengen evaluation and implementation; action programme and timetable, which was approved by the Council on 28 – 29 May 2001.

Visits have been paid to sea border posts (Horta/Azores and Lisbon), air border posts (Lisbon and Faro), consulates (Johannesburg and Luanda), SIS and SIRENE offices, police stations and to the data protection authority.

The evaluation teams emphasised the strong performance of the Portuguese authorities in several fields and identified, in some other cases, specific deficiencies that need to be redressed.

Portugal was invited to inform the Council in writing within the next six months on the follow up given to the recommendations in the reports.

The competent Portuguese authorities paid great attention to the contents of those reports and are sparing no efforts to address the concerns that have been raised by the experts.

They have therefore progressively responded over the first half of 2004 to the recommendations made by the inspection teams.

Nonetheless it is important to recognise that full compliance with these recommendations presupposes the adoption of distinct types of measures (amendments to the legislative framework, recruitment of new officers and employees in order to reinforce existing staff members, installation and/or renewal of equipment and adaptation of premises and infrastructures) that imply different degrees of difficulty and different time periods (short-, medium- and long-term measures).

Despite the relatively short period of time (six months) since the approval of these recommendations by the Council (Justice and Home Affairs), the present progress report records various positive achievements already attained in the short term.

Portugal will continue to make every effort to improve its performance within the framework of obligations imposed by the set of Schengen provisions and, in this context, the Portuguese delegation undertakes to ensure that the competent bodies of the Council are regularly informed of the current situation, through update reports considered necessary on diligence's undertaken and statement of the concrete results in order to satisfy in full all other recommendations.

The report provided below, on the follow-up process to date, of the recommendations of the expert teams is presented in six different chapters (SIRENE Bureau, SIS, sea borders, air borders, police co-operation and consulates).

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Pages 3 through 21: NOT DECLASSIFIED