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From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 11 May 2017
To: Delegations

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Subject: Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2016 evaluation of Greece on the application of the Schengen *acquis* in the field of police cooperation

Delegations will find in the Annex the Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2016 evaluation of Greece on the application of the Schengen *acquis* in the field of police cooperation, adopted by the Council at its 3534th meeting held on 11 May 2017.

In line with Article 15(3) of Council Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 of 7 October 2013, this Recommendation will be forwarded to the European Parliament and national Parliaments.

Council Implementing Decision setting out a

RECOMMENDATION

on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2016 evaluation of Greece on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of police cooperation

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 of 7 October 2013 establishing an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis and repealing the Decision of the Executive Committee of 16 September 1998 setting up a Standing Committee on the evaluation and implementation of Schengen¹, and in particular Article 15 thereof

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The purpose of this decision setting out a recommendation is to recommend to Greece remedial actions to address deficiencies identified during the Schengen evaluation in the field of police cooperation carried out in 2016. Following the evaluation, a report covering the findings and assessments, listing best practices and deficiencies identified during the evaluation was adopted by Commission Implementing Decision [C(2017) 85].
- (2) Police cooperation in Greece in the framework of Schengen is well in place. Various improvements were made since the Schengen evaluation of 2010.
- (3) It is important to remedy each of the deficiencies identified with the least possible delay. Therefore no indication of priority of implementation of the recommendations should be given.

¹ OJ L 295, 6.11.2013, p. 27.

- (4) This decision setting out a recommendation should be transmitted to the European Parliament and to the parliaments of the Member States. Within three months of its adoption, the evaluated Member State shall, pursuant to Article 16, paragraph 1 of Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013, establish an action plan to remedy the deficiencies identified in the evaluation report and provide this to the Commission and the Council,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

that Greece should

1. swiftly ratify the revised police cooperation agreement with Bulgaria and ensure its full implementation;
2. continue its efforts to establish a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) within the International Police Cooperation Division (IPCD) of the Hellenic Police and make all the necessary arrangements to ensure that the SPOC will be fully operational by April 2018 at the latest;
3. continue its efforts to build a case management system for the entire IPCD;
4. continue its efforts to install a data loader to raise its contributions to the Europol Information System and continue improving its usage of this system;
5. fully exploit the possibilities of the Prüm framework ² for information exchange and operational cooperation, as well as of Regulation (EU) No 603/2013 as regards access of their competent authorities to the Eurodac database for law enforcement purposes;
6. swiftly implement Council Decision 2008/633/JHA of 23 June 2008 concerning access for consultation of the Visa Information System (VIS) by designated authorities of Member States and by Europol for the purposes of the prevention, detection and investigation of terrorist offences and of other serious criminal offences (the VIS Decision);

² Council Decision 2008/615/JHA of 23 June 2008 and Council Decision 2008/616/JHA of 23 June 2008 on the implementation of Decision 2008/615/JHA.

7. monitor the foreign languages regime required by the IPCD with a view to ensure an appropriate staffing;
8. consider increasing the number of joint liaison officers by engaging with other Member States than Cyprus on the basis of Council Decision 2003/170/JHA of 27 February 2003 on the common use of liaison officers posted abroad by the law enforcement agencies of the Member States;
9. consider a 24/7 working regime for the PCCC Promachonas, in particular in view of the steady increase of the number of request that the PCCC has to deal with;
10. consider modernising the police cooperation agreement with Italy of 10 January 2000 in order to enhance its capabilities to fight cross-border crime;
11. explore the feasibility of putting in place, where necessary, a standardised digital radio communication system, based on the assessment of all relevant aspects, taking due account of the capacities of neighboring countries and the capacity for interoperability, and consider also equipping the police forces operating in the border areas with appropriate radio equipment.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President
