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PARLNAT 223

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: National Parliaments

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

In accordance with Article 15(3) of Council Regulation 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 Schengen, the Council hereby transmits to national Parliaments the Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2016 evaluation of Malta on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of police cooperation¹.

¹ Available in all official languages of the European Union on the Council public register, doc. 11328/17

Council Implementing Decision setting out a

RECOMMENDATION

on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2016 evaluation of Malta 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 Schengen², 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 Malta 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) 1080.
- (2) Issues related to international police cooperation, in particular information requests, are well handled at national level by the Maltese Police Forces through its International Relations Unit.

² OJ L 295, 6.11.2013, p. 27.

- (3) In light of the importance of swift information exchange and retrieval for international police cooperation, priority should be given to the implementation of recommendations 3, 5, and 8.
- (4) This decision setting out a recommendation should be transmitted to the European Parliament and to the parliaments of the Member States. Within six months of its adoption, the evaluated Member State shall, pursuant to Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013, provide the Commission with an action plan including an assessment of (possible) improvements and a description of required actions,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

that Malta should

1. establish a Schengen roadmap or international strategy for police cooperation, which should complement the elements covered under its Integrated Border Management Strategy;
2. consider making the police intranet more user friendly, for instance by making it more easily searchable;
3. establish – as already planned – a common case management system for SIS/SIRENE, Europol and Interpol;
4. establish a tracking system for deadlines to facilitate the implementation of Article 4 of Council Framework Decision 2006/960/JHA;
5. consider extending SIENA access to other units inside the police and other law enforcement agencies;
6. increase the contribution of data to the Europol Information System (EIS) by for example installing an automated data loader;

7. connect – as already planned – the Prüm Vehicle Registration Database and EUCARIS to the National Police System (NPS);
8. install Interpol functionalities such as Mind/Find, and integrate the Interpol e-ASF (e.g. covering SLTD) into the National Police System (NPS);
9. provide regular training to police officers at local level with regard to international police cooperation and the use of databases;
10. consider developing an e-learning platform for its law enforcement agencies.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President
