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#### COVER NOTE

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From: Secretary-General of the European Commission,  
signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director

date of receipt: 16 December 2015

To: Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of  
the European Union

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Subject: ANNEX to the REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on the follow-up to the Leaders'  
Meeting on refugee flows along the Western Balkans Route

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Delegations will find attached document COM(2015) 676 final - Annex 1.

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Strasbourg, 15.12.2015  
COM(2015) 676 final

ANNEX 1

**ANNEX**

*to the*

**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND  
THE COUNCIL**

**on the follow-up to the Leaders' Meeting on refugee flows along the Western Balkans  
Route**

## Annex: Summary of delivery of the Leaders' Meeting Plan of Action

| Action plan   |  | Status   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Permanent exchange of information</b>                  | 1. Nominating contact points within 24 hours   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ All participating countries, institutions and agencies nominated contact points</li> <li>✓ Increased bilateral contacts</li> <li>X Insufficient prior notification about changes in national policies</li> <li>X Unilateral measures including de facto nationality-based entry conditions and fence constructions</li> </ul>   |
|   | 2. Joint needs assessments within 24 hours   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Initial assessment and subsequent on-the-spot missions carried out by the Commission</li> <li>X Await final needs assessment from Greece</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Limiting Secondary Movements</b>                       | 3. Discouraging the unannounced movements of refugees or migrants                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Increased of cooperation and communication between border authorities</li> <li>X Lack of political will to create reception capacity for stays of more than 24 hours</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Supporting refugees and providing shelter and rest</b> | 4. Increasing support to refugees, including through the Civil Protection Mechanism            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ EU funding supported all countries along the route</li> <li>✓ Croatia and Greece activated Civil Protection Mechanism</li> <li>X Majority of requests for assistance for ongoing Civil Protection Mechanism operations have not been met</li> </ul>   |
|   | 5. Increase in reception capacity in Greece to a total of 50,000 places by the end of the year | X Reception capacity short of target   |
|   | 6. Increase of reception capacities by 50,000 places along the Western Balkans route           | X Reception capacity short of target   |
|   | 7. Working with International Financial Institutions   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Network set up to coordinate work</li> <li>X Need to develop medium- and long-term responses</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Managing the migration flows together</b>              | 8. Ensuring a full capacity to register arrivals   | X Hotspots in Italy and Greece not fully operational   |
|   | 9. Exchanging information on the size of flows   | ✓ Frontex daily reporting  |
|   | 10. Working with EU Agencies to swiftly put in place this exchange of information              | ✓ Frontex daily reporting  |
|   | 11. Stepping up action on return   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ EU support on return</li> <li>X Need to step up return operations</li> </ul>  |
|   | 12. Stepping up cooperation on readmission   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ High-level dialogues with third countries</li> <li>X Obstacles to effective readmission</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Border Management</b>                                  | 13. Increase efforts to manage borders   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Activation of EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan</li> <li>✓ Frontex operations under way on most key borders, including at sea (Poseidon) and at Bulgaria/Turkey and Greece/former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia borders</li> <li>✓ Formal request by Greece for the deployment of a Rapid Border Intervention Team</li> <li>✓ Strengthening the Frontex Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network</li> <li>X Insufficient border-related confidence-building measures between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</li> <li>X Guest police officers in Slovenia short of target</li> <li>X Still obstacles in provision of Frontex assistance to Croatia and Serbia</li> </ul> |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|   | 14. Reconfirming the principle of refusing entry to third country nationals who do not confirm a wish to apply for international protection | X Need for action to mitigate potential build-up of people stranded at the border  |
| <b>Tackling smuggling and trafficking</b>                                 | 15. Stepping up actions against migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Memorandum of understanding to allow the exchange of personal data between Europol and Frontex</li> <li>✓ Establishment of the European Migrant Smuggling Centre by Europol</li> <li>✓ Support to large-scale operations</li> </ul> |
| <b>Information on the rights and obligations of refugees and migrants</b> | 16. Using all available communication tools to inform refugees and migrants   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Task Force on Communication</li> <li>X Launch of first communication operations</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Monitoring</b>   | 17. Monitoring the implementation of these commitments on a weekly basis  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Weekly video conferences with a very good level of participation</li> </ul>   |