



Brussels, 12 February 2016
(OR. en)

6056/16
ADD 5

JAI 94
ASIM 14
RELEX 101
FRONT 66
CADREFIN 8
ENFOPOL 33
PROCIV 5
VISA 35
JUR 73

COVER NOTE

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

date of receipt: 10 February 2016

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

No. Cion doc.: COM(2016) 85 final ANNEX 5

Subject: ANNEX to the Communication from the Commission to the European
Parliament and the Council on the State of Play of Implementation of the
Priority Actions under the European Agenda on Migration
Follow up to Western Balkans Leaders' Meeting - State of Play report

Delegations will find attached the Commission document COM(2016) 85 final ANNEX 5.

Encl.: COM(2016) 85 final ANNEX 5



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 10.2.2016
COM(2016) 85 final

ANNEX 5

ANNEX

to the

**Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on
the State of Play of Implementation of the Priority Actions under the European Agenda
on Migration**

Follow up to Western Balkans Leaders' Meeting - State of Play report

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Follow up to Western Balkan Leaders' Meeting – State of Play report

Action plan		Status
Permanent exchange of information	1. Nominating contact points within 24 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All participating countries, institutions and agencies nominated contact points ✓ Increased bilateral and multilateral contacts in the region ✓ Comprehensive exchange of information between police chiefs on policies and practices at the borders ✗ Insufficient prior notification about changes in national policies ✗ Unilateral measures including de facto nationality- and destination-based entry conditions and fence constructions
	2. Joint needs assessments within 24 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Initial assessment and subsequent on-the-spot missions carried out by the Commission ✓ Possible EU funding options identified for the reported longer term gaps and emergency assistance allocated for immediate needs ✗ Await comprehensive and final needs assessment from Greece
Limiting Secondary Movements	3. Discouraging the unannounced movements of refugees or migrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increased cooperation and communication between border authorities ✗ Lack of political will to create permanent reception capacity ✗ Some countries still actively organise transportation for migrants from one border to another ✗ Member States to urgently start applying the relevant EU rules ✗ Frontex, in close cooperation with the existing EU funded programmes on return should be encouraged to closely cooperate with the relevant Western Balkan countries on further developing their operational capacity to apprehend, register, identify and return irregular migrants who are not in need of international protection
Supporting refugees and providing shelter and rest	4. Increasing support to migrants, including through the Civil Protection Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ EU funding contributed to support all countries along the route ✓ Croatia and Greece activated Civil Protection Mechanism ✗ Majority of requests for assistance for ongoing Civil Protection Mechanism operations, including for Serbia and Slovenia, have not been met by Member States.
	5. Increase in reception capacity in Greece to a total of 50,000 places by the end of the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ UNHCR have organised 14,950 out of the 20,000 places under the voucher scheme funded by the EU ✗ Reception capacity short of target (See Annex 2)
	6. Increase of reception capacities by 50,000 places along the Western Balkans route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Reception capacity short of target and no immediate plan/political will to fill the gap in order to reach this global target
	7. Working with International Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Network of IFIs and European Commission services works on exchanging information and creating

	Institutions	funding synergies X Need to develop medium- and long-term responses
Managing the migration flows together	8. Ensuring a full capacity to register arrivals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provision of Eurodac stations to Greece supported with EU funding with 6 deployed, 25 soon to be deployed and further 65 stations ordered for February. X All hotspots in Italy and Greece not yet fully operational in terms of the registration process (see Annexes 2 and 3) and lack of systematic security checks X Lack of systematic registration of persons by all countries along the route
	9. Exchanging information on the size of flows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Frontex daily reporting
	10. Working with EU Agencies to swiftly put in place this exchange of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Frontex daily reporting
	11. Stepping up action on return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ EU support on return and an ongoing EU funded voluntary return programme (including through emergency assistance) X Need to step up detention capacity and return operations
	12. Stepping up cooperation on readmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ High-level dialogues and Joint Readmission Committees with third countries, including Turkey and Pakistan X Obstacles to effective readmission including by Pakistan
Border Management	13. Increase efforts to manage borders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Start of implementation of the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan, including regular monitoring of flows of people and initiatives by Turkey embracing Syrians in its territory ✓ Frontex flexible operation under way at Bulgaria/Turkey border ✓ Deployment of a Rapid Border Intervention Team (Joint Operation Poseidon-Rapid Intervention) in the Aegean Sea on the request of Greece ✓ Bilateral support by a number of countries and by Frontex to enhanced surveillance activity at the border between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece ✓ Strengthening the Frontex Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network ✓ Request for Frontex assistance by Croatia X Insufficient border-related confidence-building measures between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the need to designate team leaders on the Greek side. X Guest police officers in Slovenia short of target
	14. Reconfirming the principle of refusing entry to third country nationals who do not confirm a wish to apply for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Need for action to mitigate potential build-up of people stranded at the border X Migrants to be informed of their obligation to apply for asylum in the EU country of entry, including in the hotspots, and where relevant, comply with the

	international protection	relocation obligations
Tackling smuggling and trafficking	15. Stepping up actions against migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Memorandum of understanding to allow the exchange of personal data between Europol and Frontex ✓ Establishment of the European Migrant Smuggling Centre by Europol ✓ Support to large-scale operations by Europol and Member States X Systematic checks by Member States of all travel documents at borders and checks against the Interpol Stolen and Lost Document database and the Schengen Information System X Member States to provide Europol with investigative data on forged documents X Frontex to further deploy at hotspots specialised officers for the detection of document fraud
Information on the rights and obligations of refugees and migrants	16. Using all available communication tools to inform refugees and migrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Migrants' Information Strategy Task Force has been set up (to define and implement effective information). ✓ The first wave of information products on asylum and relocation is available in 14 languages, and being used by EASO in hotspots and elsewhere X Material on irregular migration, return and legal migration to follow
Monitoring	17. Monitoring the implementation of these commitments on a weekly basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Weekly video conferences with a high level of participation