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Subject: Schengen evaluation of SWEDEN
- Draft Council conclusions

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

RESTREINT UE



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NOTE

from : the Presidency
to: the Schengen evaluation Working Party
Subject : Schengen evaluation of SWEDEN
- Draft Council conclusions

1. The correct application by Sweden of the Schengen acquis has been evaluated in accordance with the decision of the Executive Committee of 16 September 1998 (cf. SCH/Com-ex (98) 26 def.) 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 2 December 2004 (doc. 15275/04 SCHEVAL 70 COMIX 718). The evaluation of Sweden took place in connection with the evaluation of the four other Member states of the Nordic Passport Union, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway.

2. An extensive questionnaire was completed and visits were paid to sea and air borders, to consulates, to SIS and SIRENE offices, to police stations and to the staff of the data protection authority.

The following comments and recommendations should be read in conjunction with the individual reports of the inspection teams in order to get a full picture of the assessment.

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3. Sweden is on the whole applying the Schengen acquis in a very satisfactory manner. At some stages of the evaluations of the Nordic countries, practices were detected that could even be considered a best practice of the application of the Schengen acquis.

However, on some other issues, Sweden should correct weaknesses and make improvements to the implementation of the acquis.

4. In the field of surveillance of the Swedish sea borders, the experts were appreciative of the level of human resources and equipment, underlining also the improvement in infrastructure compared to the facilities visited in 2000. The blue border surveillance carried out by the Coast Guard in four different Coast Guard Command Centres gives a clear picture of the threats and risks affecting the blue borders. **Sea border management was generally considered to be carried out in a satisfactory way and according to Schengen requirements.**

5. The experts were very satisfied with the level of border management at the Swedish airports, where the infrastructure is largely in place and only some loopholes were detected. Border controls at the air borders are thus performed in accordance with the Schengen standards. The WILMA system used for the checking of visas in the booths is considered as a very useful tool to support border checks

6. The handling of visa applications in both evaluated consulates was considered to be in compliance with the Common Consular Instructions. However, in both consulates, the experts noted a systematic use of supplementary appendixes, which jeopardises the uniform use of the application form.

7. The Swedish law enforcement authorities have adopted a very good intelligence led policing approach, of which international police cooperation is an integral and integrated part. A number of detailed recommendations are made throughout the text but the Evaluation Committee equally was able to identify a number of Swedish solutions as best practice. The main recommendation concerns a better use of the Schengen instruments with a view to assisting the threat assessment and help prioritise resources in a more effective manner.

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8. The level of Data Protection in Sweden was considered impressive, in particular the number and content of the inspections and the security features applying to the N-SIS.

9. The evaluation team made a list of recommendations relating to the use of SIS, among which a more regular check on alerts concerning Swedish nationals, so as to maximize the possible benefits of the use of SIS in which Sweden has invested a lot. Certain workflow procedures in the SIRENE office (concerning art. 95) were described as best practice.

10. Sweden is invited to inform the Council in writing, in the course of the next semester, on the follow-up it intends to give to these recommendations and those contained in the reports.

In the framework of the evaluation of the application of the Schengen acquis, the Council might consider the need to carry out a follow-up visit. Such a visit would be limited to what is absolutely essential in respect of the areas to be visited, the duration and composition of the visiting committee.

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