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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Draft Council Conclusions on European Integrated Border Management (EUIBM)

One of the key objectives of the European Border and Coast Guard, since the entry into force of its founding Regulation¹, is the development and implementation of the European Integrated Border Management (EUIBM) by way of a series of concrete steps. The aim of the EUIBM is to manage the crossing of the external borders efficiently, as well as to address migratory challenges and potential future threats at those borders, thereby contributing to addressing serious crime with a cross-border dimension and ensuring a high level of internal security within the Union, in full respect of fundamental rights while safeguarding the free movement of persons in it.

The Commission submitted on 14 March 2018 in Annex 6 of its Progress Report on the Implementation of the European Agenda on the Migration², the main elements for developing the EUIBM. Building on these main elements, the development by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency of the technical and operational strategy for the EUIBM and, afterwards, the development by the Member States of their national IBM strategies, are anticipated to implement the EUIBM strategic framework.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/1624, OJ L 251, 16.9.2016, p. 1.

² doc. 7199/18 ADD 6.

In order to contribute to the endorsement of this procedure towards the implementation of the EUIBM, including its envisaged time-line, the Presidency submitted the attached draft Council Conclusions, which have been examined by the competent Council bodies.

On this basis, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to suggest that the Council approve the Council Conclusions on the European Integrated Border Management (EUIBM) as set out in the Annex to this Note, as an “A” Item at a forthcoming meeting.

Draft Council Conclusions on European Integrated Border Management (EUIBM)

The Council:

- reiterates that the development and implementation of the European Integrated border management (EUIBM) strategy remains a shared responsibility of the Union institutions and the Member States, while Member States shall retain primary responsibility for the management of their sections of the external borders. Building on the main elements described by the Commission in Annex 6 of the Progress report on the Implementation of the European Agenda on Migration, the development and establishment of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency's (Frontex) technical and operational EUIBM strategy and the Member States' national Integrated border management (IBM) strategies will implement the EUIBM strategic framework;
- highlights that the coordinated development of the IBM Strategies at national and European levels is the core for implementing the EUIBM. This includes the full involvement of the Member States within the development and implementation processes of the IBM at all levels;
- welcomes the results achieved so far during the strategy development process coordinated by the Commission;
- takes note of the main elements for developing the EUIBM Strategy as presented by the Commission in the Annex 6 of the Progress report on the Implementation of the European Agenda on Migration;
- highlights that free movement is a milestone of the Schengen acquis and a fundamental component of the area of justice, freedom and security and underlines that a functional, uniform and effective management of the EU external borders, which takes into account the different nature of these borders will contribute ensuring the proper functioning of the Schengen area that offers a high level of protection to citizens;

- invites Frontex to prepare, in close cooperation with the Member States and the Commission, a technical and operational EUIBM strategy within the framework of the 11 strategic components as defined in Article 4 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/1624 on the European Border and Coast Guard. That technical and operational strategy should be established by the end of 2018 based on the main elements as described by the Commission and taking into account the three horizontal components – fundamental rights, training, research and innovation;
- invites the Member States to prepare or align appropriate national IBM strategies, taking into account the technical and operational strategy to be developed by Frontex and the main elements for developing the EUIBM Strategy described by the Commission in Annex 6 of the progress report on the Implementation of the European Agenda on Migration, at the latest by June 2019, or within 6 months from the adoption of the technical and operational strategy by Frontex, if the latter is adopted after the end of 2018;
- invites the Commission to foresee an evaluation of the national IBM strategies in the 2019 and 2020;
- invites the Commission to consider further development of common standards of the EU border control and in particular of the external border surveillance, as well as, based on the results of the evaluation, the further consolidation of good practices for facilitating the development and the common approach in the implementation of the EUIBM, including elaboration of EUIBM-handbook in close cooperation with the Member States and Frontex.