



Council of the  
European Union

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SCH-EVAL 157  
SIRIS 106  
COMIX 537

## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	18 November 2022
To:	Delegations

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No. prev. doc.:	14193/22
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Subject:	Council Implementing decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2021 evaluation of <b>Greece</b> on the application of the Schengen <i>acquis</i> in the field of the <b>Schengen Information System</b>
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Delegations will find enclosed the Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2021 evaluation of Greece on the application of the Schengen *acquis* in the field of the Schengen Information System, adopted by the Council at its meeting held on 18 Novembre 2022.

In line with Article 15(3) of Council Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 of 7 October 2013, this Recommendation will be forwarded to the European Parliament and national Parliaments.



## RECOMMENDATION

### **on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2021 evaluation of Greece on the application of the Schengen *acquis* in the field of the Schengen Information System**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922 of 9 June 2022 on the establishment and operation of an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen *acquis*<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 31(3) thereof,

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 Schengen<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 15(3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) A Schengen evaluation in the field of the Schengen Information System was carried out in respect of Greece in November 2021. 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(2022) 4300.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 160, 15.6.2022, p. 1–27.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 295, 6.11.2013, p. 27.



- (2) Article 31 (3) of Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922 of 9 June 2022 on the establishment and operation of an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis foresees that for evaluations carried out before 1 February 2023, the adoption of evaluation reports and recommendations shall be carried out in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 and in particular Article 15 thereof.
- (3) The on-site team considered the high involvement of the SIRENE Bureau in the efforts of developing a training system and in the distribution of information on the Schengen Information System to the end-users as best practices.
- (4) In order to ensure the systematic use and full development of the Schengen Information System, priority should be given to implementing recommendations 1 and 2 concerning the increase in the numbers of staff working in the N.SIS Office and the Case Handling Office dealing with SIRENE.
- (5) This Decision should be transmitted to the European Parliament and to the national Parliaments of the Member States. Within two months of its adoption, Greece should, pursuant to Article 21(1) of Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922, establish an action plan to implement all recommendations to remedy the deficiencies identified in the evaluation report and provide that action plan to the Commission and the Council,

#### RECOMMENDS:

that Greece should

#### **National system (N.SIS), data centre and back-up site**

1. increase the number of staff working in the N.SIS Office in view of the anticipated increase in workload related to the renewal of the Schengen Information System and the integration with ETIAS, VIS and interoperability;



## **SIRENE Bureau**

2. increase the number of staff in the Case Handling Office dealing with SIRENE cases in order to handle the tasks of the N.SIS Office, especially considering the increased workload related to the renewal of the Schengen Information System and the integration with ETIAS, VIS and interoperability;

## **Creation of SIS alerts**

3. streamline and optimize the processes of the structure in charge with the creation of alerts at the Hellenic Police in order to make increased utilisation of all categories of SIS alerts;
4. make increased use of the possibility to create alerts for discreet or specific checks on persons for the purposes of prosecuting criminal offences and preventing threats to public security, in order to support national investigations of cross-border crime;
5. raise awareness of the services in charge of creating alerts (besides the SIRENE Bureau) about the possibility to add warning markers to alerts;
6. establish a procedure to actively follow-up on the data quality reports provided by eu-LISA;

## **Access to SIS via national applications**

7. ensure that ‘any name’, ‘partial’, and ‘any number’ queries can be performed in the ‘standard queries’ window and that ‘any name’ search option is included by default in the standard query;
8. improve the user-friendliness of the search application interface in order for the most relevant information to be identified easily at first sight and to ensure that the ‘action to be taken’ regarding alerts on objects does not display irrelevant information;



9. improve the user-friendliness in the display of photographs attached to alerts, in order to avoid that the end-users need to download the photographs to display them on the screen and that the attachments stay in the download directory unless it is deleted by the end-user, which jeopardizes data security;

#### **Use of SIS by the national authorities**

10. integrate all national databases used for police checks into the General Search Application, in order for the police officers to carry out a single query and to enhance the utilization of the Schengen Information System for police checks, especially for Greek citizens;
11. establish an automated workflow integrated in the system to register hits and report hits directly to the SIRENE Bureau;
12. ensure the automatic locking of all computers after a certain lapse of time in order not to jeopardize data security;
13. improve the integration of the workflow in case of a hit at the border crossing points, ensure the integration of ABC gates with the General Search Application and increase the number of workflow functionalities supporting the officers in their procedures, especially at the external borders;
14. ensure that during border checks in the border crossing point of Kakavia border guards check not only the travel documents but also the resident permits;
15. provide the vehicle registration service with direct access to the Schengen Information System;



16. provide the customs authorities with access to alerts on objects for discreet or specific checks for national security reasons;
17. streamline the procedure for checking in SIS third country nationals applying for residence permits and enhance the automation when accessing SIS, in order not to increase the workload of the SIRENE Bureau.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council*

*The President*

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