



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 15 June 2009 (17.06)
(OR. en,el)**

**8552/09
ADD 3**

LIMITE

**FRONT 28
COMIX 294**

NOTE

from : General Secretariat
to : Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee
(EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)

Subject : **Questionnaire on the possible creation of a system of electronic recording of entries and exits of third country nationals in the Schengen area**

Delegations will find attached the reply from Greece to the questionnaire on the possible creation of a system of electronic recording of entries and exits of third country nationals in the Schengen area, as set out in 7226/1/09 REV 1 FRONT 12 COMIX 200.

GREECE

1. With regard to your border crossing points,
- a. do you register the number of entries/exits at your border crossing points? If yes, of which categories of persons and in which breakdown (e. g. third country nationals, broken down by persons holding a visa und persons without a visa).

Yes. The numbers relate to third country nationals and to citizens of the EU Member States who are subject to border checks on entry and exit in accordance with Article 7(2) of the Schengen Borders Code. Numbers (not personal data) of Community citizens crossing our external borders are recorded for the purposes of recording travel movements and calculating the volume dealt with by our Passport Control Services.

- b. how many border guards/police officers in total are performing border checks at the external borders?

Border controls at our external borders are carried out by 5 500 border guards and 1 500 police officers.

- c. how many entries of third country nationals did you have last year (2008)? (or estimation)
 - i. with visa
 - ii. without visa

A total of 7 341 654 third country nationals entered our country last year. It is not possible to distinguish between those who are subject to the visa requirement and those who are not.

- d. how many exits of third country nationals did you have last year (2008)? (or estimation)
 - i. with visa
 - ii. without visa

A total of 6 450 313 third country nationals exited our country last year. It is not possible to distinguish between those who are subject to the visa requirement and those who are not.

- e. how many entries of EU citizens and travellers enjoying free movement of persons did you have last year (2008)? (or estimation)

A total of 16 554 415 Community citizens entered our country last year. (The numbers include Community citizens only. There are no statistics on their family members.)

- f. how many exits of EU citizens and travellers enjoying free movement of persons did you have last year (2008)? (or estimation)

A total of 16 799 807 Community citizens exited our country last year. (The numbers include Community citizens only. There are no statistics on their family members.)

2. On average, how long does it currently take to perform an entry check at the external land border for
- third country nationals holding a visa
 - third country nationals without a visa
 - EU citizens and travellers enjoying free movement of persons

The average time taken to perform an entry check on third country nationals is 15 seconds for those not subject to the visa requirement and 20 seconds for visa holders. Entry checks on EU nationals take 10 seconds.

3. On average, how long does it currently take to perform an exit check at the external land border for
- third country nationals holding a visa
 - third country nationals without a visa
 - EU citizens and travellers enjoying free movement of persons

The average time taken to perform an exit check is 10 seconds for third country nationals and 5 seconds for EU nationals.

4. On average, how long does it currently take to perform an entry check at the external air border for
- third country nationals holding a visa
 - third country nationals without a visa
 - EU citizens and travellers enjoying free movement of persons

See reply to question 2.

5. On average, how long does it currently take to perform an exit check at the external air border for
- third country nationals holding a visa
 - third country nationals without a visa
 - EU citizens and travellers enjoying free movement of persons

See reply to question 3.

6. On average, how long does it currently take to perform an entry check at the external sea border for
- third country nationals holding a visa
 - third country nationals without a visa
 - EU citizens and travellers enjoying free movement of persons

See reply to question 2.

7. On average, how long does it currently take to perform an exit check at the external sea border for
- third country nationals holding a visa
 - third country nationals without a visa
 - EU citizens and travellers enjoying free movement of persons

See reply to question 3.

8. How many illegal immigrants does your country have within the territory (estimation)?
- upper level estimate
 - lower level estimate

Note: In order to receive comparable answers for the purpose of this questionnaire, Member States should consider an illegal migrant as a person who either crossed the border illegally or overstayed the period of an authorized stay. Persons with pending application for international protection etc. shall be excluded from the figures.

There is no specific mathematical method and there are no criteria that could be used to produce a definite estimate. Any reference to numerical statistics could therefore only lead to erroneous conclusions.

9. How many overstayers did your country detect last year (2008)?
- at the border
 - within the territory

In 2008, 11 464 aliens who had overstayed the legally authorised period were detected at border entry/exit points. There are no statistics on those detected within the territory.

10. What sanctions does your country impose on overstayer detected at exit?

Administrative fines ranging from 600 to 1 200 euro are imposed.

11. Do you think the future EES should allow for different procedures at different types of border crossing point as regards data collection? (for example: taking into consideration the difficulties faced by border control authorities at some types of borders)

Yes.

12. Do you think the aims of an entry/exit system could be achieved by collecting alphanumerical data for the initial period and only after the Member States gain experiences in this field, introduce biometrics?

The reliability of alphanumerical data has already been tested. We therefore think, also in the light of developments regarding the VIS, that we can immediately proceed with the collection of biometric data.

GREECE

13. For what purposes is the information stored in the entry/exit system used?

For the analysis of travel movements, in particular tourist travel.

14. What has been the added value of the entry/exit system?

There is a clear record of travel movements from and to Greece, which allows reliable conclusions to be drawn. There is sometimes room for improvement in the investigation of certain cases from the point of view of security.

15. Are all third country nationals' entries and exits recorded? If not, why not? What are the exceptions?

Yes, in the cases of crossings via the authorised entry/exit points.

16. Is the information stored into a database
- automatically, for example using MRZ,
 - manually or
 - combination using both methods.

Combination using both methods.

17. How long does it take to insert all necessary information into database? If done,
- automatically
 - manually
 - combination

The automatic process of entering data takes a fraction of a second.

18. Which authorities have direct access to the entry/exit information?

The Hellenic Police / Aliens Division of the Hellenic Police Headquarters.

19. Can other authorities use/have access to information stored into the database based on specific request? If yes, which authorities?

Yes, on approval of the Aliens Division of the Hellenic Police Headquarters, which is owner of the application.

20. What kind of alphanumeric data is stored into database?

The alphanumeric data stored is: name, surname, passport number, nationality, date of entry/exit, country of departure/destination, number of officer performing check, border crossing point at which check was carried out.

GREECE

21. What are the search criteria of the entry/exit system and what search keys are used?

The search procedure is based on the passport number, the name and surname, the date of entry or exit and the border crossing point at which the check is carried out.

22. How long is the information stored? After the retention period expires, is the data deleted automatically?

The information is stored for 10 years.

23. How do you ensure that the system complies with general data protection standards? How is the security of the stored data ensured?

Approval from the National Authority for the protection of personal data is required for the system to operate.

Possible pilot project - related questions

24. In case a pilot project is launched, at what types of borders should the pilot project be implemented?

- a. all types
- b. other

All types.

25. How long should the pilot project last?

We consider that the pilot project should last for 6 months.

26. Which data should be collected in the pilot project?

- a. alphanumeric and biometric
- b. alphanumeric

Alphanumeric.

27. Which persons should be targeted in the pilot project?

- a. third country nationals without visa requirements
- b. third country nationals who require a visa
- c. all third country nationals
- d. others

All third country nationals regardless of whether they are subject to the visa requirement or not, and Community citizens and their family members where they are subject to border checks on entry/exit in accordance with Article 7(2) of the Schengen Borders Code.