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NOTE

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From:	Austrian delegation				
To:	Working Party for Schengen Matters (Schengen Evaluation) - Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Norway/Switzerland/Liechtenstein)				
No. prev. doc.:	15533/15				
Subject:	Schengen evaluation of AUSTRIA - Action Plan to remedy any deficiencies identified in the 2015 evaluation report in the field of police cooperation				

Delegations will find annexed the Action Plan to remedy any deficiencies identified in the 2015 evaluation report in the field of police cooperation provided by Austria on 22 February 2016.

In conformity with Article 16 (2) of Council Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 of 7 October 2013,

Member States are invited to send comments, if any, by Monday 14 March (cob) to

schengen.evaluation@consilium.europa.eu.

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ACTION PLAN to remedy any deficiencies identified in the evaluation report concerning the 2015 evaluation of Austria

(Article 16 of Regulation 1053/2013)

I. Police Cooperation

- doc C(2015) 6340 (evaluation report)

- doc 15533/15 (Council doc; Recommendation)

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITIZE D RECOM YES/NO	PLANNED ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY AUSTRIA	FORESEEN TIME- FRAME
1. consider, in line with reflections currently taking place, measures suited to improve data sharing with Europol, in particular setting up an automated data loader to the Europol Information System (EIS) and further enhancing the use of SIENA as facilitator of data sharing with Europol;		 Currently preparations are made to create an interface SIENA – IKDA for the automated transfer messages from SIENA to IKDA. A "data loader light" will be integrated in IKDA with the support of EUROPOL. An interface with PAD-NG will be created subsequently as well. 	2017
2. amend national instructions in the light of the EU SPOC guidelines adopted in June 2014 on when to use which communication channel for cross-border requests;		 After the improved implementation of the SIENA channel in the national workflow-system, an improved communication via the SIENA channel is foreseen. Increased use of PCC is foreseen via the IP and SIENA channel, since there are no separated PCC channels available. To implement these measures, national regulations have to be adopted or amended first. 	on-going

3. consider the use of secure communication channels by Police Cooperation Centres (PCCs), if required, in agreement with the respective cooperation partners;	3.1. 3.2. 3.3.	 SIENA as secure communication channel already in use in the PCC Thörl-Maglern, Dolga vas and Passau will be evaluated. The extended use in other PCC with Austrian participation will be promoted amongst relevant cooperation partners. Meanwhile s-Testa will continue to be used as secure communication channel in the PCC Nickelsdorf, Kittsee and Drasenhofen. 	On-going
4. consider organizing, in the light of the newly signed bilateral and multilateral police cooperation agreements, joint training/exercises with neighbouring countries on the modalities of cooperation offered by the new legal instruments in agreement with the respective cooperation partners;	4.1. 4.2.	The current on-going joint training/exercise programmes with neighbouring countries on the modalities of cooperation offered by the new legal instruments are already continuously evaluated and applied in close consultation with the respective cooperation partners. The Landespolizeidirektionen already organize and hold common trainings if required and feasible in close consultation with the Federal Ministry of the Interior.	On-going
5. consider, with a view to the different case management systems used within the Austrian police forces, the development of interoperable case management systems without any media breaks within the police forces, while maintaining different functionalities where appropriate, and taking into account the universal message format (UMF), which is being developed at Union level in order to facilitate the future interoperability with European partners;	5.1. 5.2	A new case management system (PAD-NG) is currently being implemented in the subordinate departments. Since PDA-NG is a future-oriented workflow system, the requirements of the database models to be implemented have already been designed in the conceptual phase of the project. All other workflow systems will be integrated by additional interface-programming, whereby the link-up to the UMF database-based systems is assured as well.	2017



6. implement, in the light of the on- going Austrian project to evaluate the processes and coordination between the different 24/7 services for international cooperation and determine pros and cons of an 'integrated office', the results of this project, taking into account the EU SPOC guidelines adopted in June 2014.	6.1	With regard to the evaluation process, the data exchange process between the Single Point of Contact of the Bundeskriminalamt (SPOC) and the SIRENE office was evaluated. As a result of this evaluation, a read-only-access has been established to ensure an optimal information exchange. With this measure all information of the SIRENE office is available also for the SPOC.	completed
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