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**NOTE**

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From: Presidency

To: Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security  
(COSI)

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No. prev. doc.: DS 1249/16

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Subject: Draft Roadmap to enhance information exchange and information  
management including interoperability solutions in the Justice and Home  
Affairs area

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Delegations will find attached the draft Roadmap to be discussed at COSI on 17 May 2016.

The recent terrorist attacks in Paris and Brussels, continuous terrorist incidents outside the EU and the ongoing migration crisis have shown the importance of investing in swift, effective and qualitative information management, information exchange and accompanying follow-up of information to tackle migratory, terrorist and criminal challenges. This was in the recent past confirmed by the Council on 20 November 2015, the European Council on 17 and 18 December 2015, the Justice and Home Affairs Ministers and representatives of EU Institutions in their statement on 24 March as well as the Council on 21 April 2016.

The security and migratory challenges are complex and interconnected. Efforts to tackle them are already undertaken between the various JHA domains – for example an effective border-management as an integrated part of the EU’s security architecture to address illegal immigration, terrorism and crime.

The Presidency has taken the ambitious initiative to set up a Roadmap with necessary actions to improve information management and the cross-border exchange of information, including interoperability of systems. The purpose is to support operational investigations and to swiftly provide front-line practitioners such as police officers, border guards, public prosecutors, immigration officers and others with comprehensive, topical and high quality information to cooperate and act effectively.

The Presidency started discussing the terrorist related actions during the informal JHA Council on 25 January 2016 and has also discussed the issue during the JHA Council on 21 April. Based upon the outcomes and the new developments within the EU, the result of this combined effort is laid down in the annex to this Presidency note. It provides a Roadmap that consists of a policy framework and specific, practical short and medium-term- actions as well as long-term orientations to enhance information management and information exchange in the Justice and Home Affairs area. It builds on the ongoing good work over the past years.

As tangible actions are necessary to ensure that information is shared efficiently and in real-time, the Presidency asks Ministers to:

- agree the policy framework, actions and timelines in the annex, with progress to be monitored by COSI in coordination with other relevant preparatory bodies of the Council, the Commission and the EU CTC.
- agree to ensure that EU- and international databases are properly filled and used by national authorities competent on counter-terrorism, law enforcement, migration and border management. The quality of information being shared is of equal importance as the quantity. Monitoring will be done by COSI, taking into account the Schengen evaluations, in close cooperation with the Commission and the EU CTC. COSI will report to the JHA Council.

The Presidency offers the following considerations for further political discussion and political guidance:

- Privacy and data protection are a core value, fundamental right and norm in the EU. The principles of privacy and data protection should however be balanced against the interests of combating terrorism and serious and organised crime. In striking the right balance new methods to safeguard information and enabling various degrees of access rights in one system, should be taken fully into account. This should be preceded by a thorough analysis of information needs considering law-enforcement, counter-terrorism, migration and border management processes.
- Interoperability, though a complex issue, is primarily about a single-search interface and automated consultation of one system by another system. As a matter of priority it should be implemented through one-stop-shop information solutions at national and European level which provide single interfaces for Member States for feeding and searching national and international information systems. A single search interface provides important progress for border guards, police conducting checks and for operational investigations, taking into account the need of information of the specific organisation.

- Possible short term and long term solutions to bridge the gap between Schengen and non-Schengen Member States in terms of provision and access to EU databases should be further identified.
- On a specific technical level, it is important to note the marker ‘terrorism related activity’ is added by default to alerts issued on persons related to terrorism activity in the Schengen Information System. Not adding this marker for operational or other due considerations remains at the discretion of the issuing Member State.
- There is a clear need for progress on the proactive and systematic sharing of criminal records data for people convicted of offences relating to terrorism and serious and organised crime. This needs to happen on a routine basis and be available at Member States’ borders.

The result of this discussion in the Council will also be input for the High level Expert Group of the Commission on Information Systems and Interoperability.

Finally, the Presidency is seeking political commitment to feed and use the information systems to the maximum extent as a *conditio sine qua non* to achieve an efficient sharing of information. It even would like to discuss options for compulsory exchange of information. Without political commitment to feed and use the existing data systems and acting accordingly, information exchange will not be significantly improved in practice.

## **DRAFT ROADMAP**

The recent terrorist events in Paris, Brussels and outside the EU and the ongoing migration crisis, have shown the importance of a solid EU information architecture in the Justice and Home Affairs area. The Schengen evaluations undertaken so far, as well as the increasing digitalisation and mobility of persons and goods point in(to) the same direction.

The Council on 20 November 2015, the European Council on 17 and 18 December 2015, the Justice and Home Affairs Ministers and representatives of EU Institutions in their statement on 24 March as well as the Council on 21 April 2016, stressed the importance of investing in swift, effective and qualitative information management, information exchange and accompanying follow-up action to tackle migratory, terrorist and criminal challenges.

The Council also highlighted the complexity and interconnectedness of the challenges. Efforts to mitigate them are undertaken in the various JHA domains – for example an effective border management as an integrated part of the EU's security architecture to address illegal immigration, terrorism and crime.

This document from the Presidency provides **a Roadmap with specific, practical short- and medium-term actions and long-term orientations to enhance information management and information exchange in the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) area.**

It builds on the ongoing good work over the past years and months, taking into account the outcome of recent discussions in the Council (the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 21 April<sup>1</sup>, the joint COSI/SCIFA on 17 April, COSI on 3 and 4 March<sup>2</sup> and DAPIX on 26 January and 15 March 2016<sup>3</sup>) as well as the recent Commission *Communication Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security* of 6 April 2016<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 7711/16 JAI 264 COSI 54, 7726/16 JAI 266 COSI 55

<sup>2</sup> DS1129/16

<sup>3</sup> 5180/16 JAI 20 DAPIX 5

<sup>4</sup> 7665/16 JAI 258 ASIM 50 RELEX 239

Developing the Roadmap, putting it into practice and monitoring the results and adjusting actions requires **a common approach from the Council, the Commission, the EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator (CTC) and EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies. It aims to support practitioners - working on the street, at border crossing points, conducting investigations, assisting migrants, and assessing visa applications - in effectively and efficiently performing their day-to-day work.**

This Roadmap provides a **coherent framework for a more integrated EU information architecture<sup>5</sup> in the JHA area**, and includes an analysis of key JHA broad challenges, principles and strategic orientations and a way forward to monitor and follow-up on the actions in the Roadmap (**Chapter 1**). It also includes dedicated information exchange and information management actions in the following domains:

- **law enforcement including judicial cooperation in criminal matters (Chapter 2),**
- **detection of travel movements in the area of counter-terrorism (Chapter 3),**
- **border management and migration (Chapter 4);**

Although these three chapters (Chapters 2, 3 and 4) focus on different areas, it is important to highlight the interlinkages between them in this Roadmap. This will contribute to ensuring the cooperation between the authorities and agencies active in the three policy areas and the interoperability between information systems.

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<sup>5</sup> Acquiring an integrated information architecture is an ever evolving process which requires a joint-up effort and time, bearing in mind differences between Member States, policy areas, legal conditions, technical and financial requirements and the human factor.

## CHAPTER 1. FRAMEWORK FOR A MORE INTEGRATED EU INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE

### 1. Challenges

Front line officers are addressing a range of challenges and they need access to information to take effective action. They often need similar or even the same information, which may include detailed information on persons, the goods they are carrying or transporting, financial means and more in-depth information on the background of persons and possible networks. In order to effectively carry out their duties, officers must apply all agreed safeguards in particular on fundamental rights, collect, check and connect the right information at the right time in the right place to undertake effective action.<sup>6</sup>

For those purposes, legal, policy, operational and technical instruments have been put at their disposal at national, EU and international level. However, they are confronted with a plethora of data-sharing mechanisms and a complex landscape which is suboptimal. Moreover, the risks of vital information gaps among (categories of) practitioners is ever present, for example due to a) limited availability (e.g. on specific types of travellers), b) limited access to information (e.g. due to a complex legal base or technical obstacles), c) Member States and their authorities are not connected to systems, or d) a suboptimal sharing of information based on a overly strict approach of the need-to-know principle.

Underpinning elements of this situation are:

1. The **human factor**: information will be effectively exchanged only if there is trust among the practitioners at national and international level. Also, the complexity of available tools and procedures as well as varying expertise among practitioners may cause errors.

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<sup>6</sup> Inspired by the Council conclusions on the EU Information Management Strategy of 2009

2. **(Constitutional) legal conditions**, such as criminal procedural law, data protection requirements, purpose limitations etc. Information systems and information exchange procedures have been developed in various institutional, legal and policy contexts. These conditions are binding, in substance important and well substantiated by the legislative process on the basis of commonly determined needs. However, they have an effect on what is and should be feasible regarding the exchange of information and the follow-up actions to be taken, for example due to the inconsistent set up of databases, divergent access to data of relevant authorities and lack of hit/not hit possibilities.
3. **Limited resources** (personnel, financial means and time) at national and European level. Consequently practitioners and their authorities may struggle to address all the challenges they face.
4. **Technical/system requirements** for swift and effective information management and information exchange actions do not exist and there are shortcomings in the functionalities of existing information systems.
5. **Existing legislation<sup>7</sup>, policies<sup>8</sup> and procedures<sup>9</sup> on EU information management and exchange in the JHA area have not been implemented (systematically).**

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<sup>7</sup> e.g. the Prüm decisions, the Swedish Framework decision

<sup>8</sup> e.g. Council conclusions following the Commission Communication on the European Information Exchange Model (EIXM) of 6 and 7 June 2013 (9811/13), Conclusions of the Council of the EU and of the Member States meeting within the Council on Counter-Terrorism, 20 November 2015

<sup>9</sup> The Manual on Law Enforcement Information Exchange, the SIRENE Manual



## 2. Principles

To address the obstacles and challenges and to pursue a coherent interconnected approach to improve information management, information exchange and intelligence led follow-up actions the following principles are applicable to future steps:

### A. An information centred approach

A prerequisite is: the continuous pursuit of the principle of availability including accompanying conditions<sup>10</sup> and quality of information at national, European and international level. Requirements are: availability of information to all relevant competent authorities with due attention to data protection concerns; and in order to support decision making and prioritise actions, more focus on data quality providing clarity on what type of information to share and for what purpose, which criteria this information needs to meet and how to follow up on it as well as comprehensive, topical and understandable data.

### B. A practitioner centred approach building upon trust and operational needs

Requirements are: a continuous investment in mutual trust at all levels; bottom-up design with focus on user-friendliness of information processes and accompanying instruments in which day-to-day practices on the ground are the clear starting point; emphasis on training in effectively fulfilling roles in (international) information processes; a reflection on the effectiveness of existing practices should be continuous and the root causes of deficiencies should be assessed comprehensively.

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<sup>10</sup> a) the exchange may only take place in order to perform legal tasks; b) the integrity of the data to be exchanged must be guaranteed; c) the need to protect sources of information and to secure the confidentiality of the data at all stages of the exchange; d) supervision of respect for data protection, and appropriate control prior to and after the exchange must be ensured; e) individuals must be protected from abuse of data and have the right to seek correction of incorrect data.

### **C. Full respect of fundamental rights and data protection rules**

Requirements are: continuously assessing the necessity of a measure, applying requirements of subsidiarity and proportionality and an accurate risk management. It will require embedding personal data protection in the technological basis of a proposed instrument (privacy by design), limiting data processing to what is necessary for a specified purpose while not missing information which is operationally relevant, and operationally and legally substantiating the need for (a degree of) access to information for (category of) practitioners.

### **D. Full implementation and use of existing information management and information exchange instruments and taking informed decisions on new initiatives**

A prerequisite is: Sufficient experiences with the full potential of existing instruments and assessing their effectiveness; coherence in implementation and application of instruments. Requirements are: continuous monitoring at all levels. At European level the Commission using the powers conferred to it, notifying Member States, the Schengen evaluation and Monitoring mechanism as well as the monitoring possibilities within the Council and impact assessments setting out operational, financial, technical, legal and privacy consequences. Regarding the implementation of new initiatives, a level playing field could be ensured by setting up working groups to ensure implementation in a similar fashion. These efforts should inform authorities when developing new initiatives addressing evolving operational needs.

### **E. Effectively ensuring interconnectivity of European initiatives with national processes**

A prerequisite is: the existence of coherent integrated national information architectures.

Requirements are: pursuing standardisation of requirements, such as on quality, supply and searching of data, and enabling (national) tailor-made solutions to integrate international systems in a national information environment, while bilateral and international information exchange processes are taken into account when developing those solutions; Member States themselves are primarily responsible for guaranteeing coherence in all these processes and responsiveness to operational needs; tailor-made solutions are required for an effective and cost-efficient implementation in Member States, considering legal, procedural, operational, technological differences as well as differences in governance.

**F. Pursue the systematic sharing of information with other Member States and EU agencies and bodies**

Prerequisites are: systematic sharing of information to enable real time analysis and cross-border operational actions to avoid information gaps, duplicating activities and to prevent risks in the JHA area; fully fledged information exchange between EU agencies where their mandates and legal provisions provide such possibilities. A requirement is: fully taking into account the respective mandates, valid operational and legal reasons (exemptions<sup>11</sup>) for not sharing information, continuously being critical on the application of such exemptions considering rapidly evolving circumstances and limited windows of opportunity for the timely sharing of relevant information.

**G. Information management and information exchange remains a means to an end<sup>12</sup>**

Requirements are: priorities set for information management and exchange must correspond to operational needs and priorities; the most simple and cost-effective solutions with a clear allocation of responsibilities should be pursued including at national level effective support and monitoring of international information exchange.<sup>13</sup>

**3. Strategic orientations**

Apart from the above-mentioned principles and the actions set out in the dedicated action plans, several longer term strategic orientations should be pursued focussing primarily on the first two matters.

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<sup>11</sup> Article 4 TEU and Articles 72 and 73 TFEU and source protection, protecting an ongoing investigation, avoiding a life threatening situation, no authorisation to share information provided by a third party.

<sup>12</sup> 16637/09 + COR 1

<sup>13</sup> In the area of police cooperation Single Point of Contact – SPOC - in each Member State as a ‘one-stop shop’ for international police cooperation, operating 24/7

- Pursue interoperability solutions, including implementation of a single search interface following the development of (a) solution(s). As a prerequisite such “privacy by design” efforts should fully take into account and enable data protection requirements, mutual legal assistance provisions and the full application of the information owner principle.**

This pursuit should be supported through legally sound initiatives based on technologies and methodologies enabling cross matching of information and depersonalisation of information through masking out or anonymising information. The solutions can provide efficiency gains in providing and searching/requesting information but should ensure that EU agencies can fulfil their mandate and support Member States.<sup>14</sup> Single search solutions should be brought forward by building on already existing good practices available at national and international level. For the first step in the implementation action 6 in Chapter 2 is applicable.
- Exploring the added value and requirements of a shared biometric matching service for all relevant information systems.**<sup>15</sup> The interoperability of biometric identifiers - enables the use of a shared biometric matching service for several information systems and will enhance the ability of authorities to verify accurately the identity of a person. The service should respect personal data protection rules. Such a shared service requires a framework of quality and technical specifications for their collection and processing, as well as harmonized formats for their transmission, adequate financial and technical means and supporting control mechanisms (e.g. to avoid false positive hits) but could generate serious financial, maintenance and operational benefits. The High Level Expert Group on information systems and interoperability, which the Commission will set up, is invited to explore the question and to the Council of its findings.

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<sup>14</sup> Examples of technologies can be found in relation to FIU.net (using the Ma3tch technology) or the ADEP project within the framework of the current IMS action list

<sup>15</sup> 7665/16 JAI 258 ASIM 50 RELEX 239

- **Following an explicit request from the Council explore, the legal, technical, operational and financial implications of:**

a) **interconnectivity solutions whereby systems can automatically consult one other;**

b) **common repository of data at decentralised (national) level in Member States and complementary to those repositories and where of added value at central EU level.** The repository would allow for the recognition of connections and provide an overall picture by combining individual data elements stored in different information systems and thereby fill in information gaps.

If the Council issues above mentioned request the High Level Expert Group on information systems and interoperability, which the Commission will set up, is invited to undertake activities to determine the implications and to inform the Council of its findings.

- **Creating synergy between the risk management of customs<sup>16</sup> and information held by JHA agencies.** This will lead to increased interagency cooperation and information-sharing between customs and JHA authorities at Member States and EU level where it concerns the fight against terrorism and serious and organised crime linked to commercial trade. The risk management strategy of the Customs Union stipulates the exchange of information, the analysis of fraud trends, the expertise in the field of customs cooperation with police and border guards are pre-conditions for an efficient customs contribution to security.

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<sup>16</sup> EU Strategy and the Action Plan to improve customs risk management COM(2014) 527

The Action Plan accompanying the customs risk management strategy includes a specific action covering the development of cross-sectoral co-operation arrangements, the improvement of sharing and accessibility of (risk) information, and the involvement of customs in risk and threat assessments. JHA and customs authorities need to cooperate in order to achieve the deliverables of this specific action in the timeframe stipulated.

**Start an initiative - primarily by assessing the needs of Member States and EU agencies - to develop a coherent approach on the sharing of information with third countries and organisations,** taking fully into account fundamental rights and the provisions of the EU data protection package and dedicated data protection regimes for example at EU agencies. Collecting, sharing and connecting such information exceeds the EU capabilities and should be reinforced with third countries and international organisations considering the challenges in the JHA area. However standards between the EU and third countries and international organisations inter alia in the area of data protection as well as regarding rule of law (may) differ. The initiative should help overcome this potential obstacle.

The EU JHA Heads of agencies are invited to look together into these elements on the basis of which this initiative can be executed and inform COSI on their proposal.

#### **4. Way forward**

The Roadmap and accompanying action plans will be centrally and strategically monitored by the Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI), while the dedicated actions will be monitored by the respective dedicated Council fora (e.g. SCIFA, the Terrorism Working Party, the Working Party on Information Exchange and Data Protection, the Frontiers Working Party, the Working Party on Cooperation in Criminal Matters and the Customs Cooperation Working Party), the Commission fora as well as governing bodies of EU agencies as set out in the action plans.

The High Level Expert Group on information systems and interoperability, which the Commission will set up, is invited to determine the legal, technical, financial, proportionality and operational requirements to pursue interoperability solutions of information systems. This Group is invited to provide advice to the Council on ways forward which would also support the implementation, review and adaptation of the Roadmap.

Each year COSI will comprehensively determine the progress in implementing the Roadmap and the accompanying action plans, identify key obstacles and propose a way forward and where appropriate, seek political guidance from Council. The other fora will undertake these steps and inform COSI in view of fulfilling its monitoring role.

## **CHAPTER 2. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND EXCHANGE IN THE AREA OF LAW ENFORCEMENT INCLUDING JUDICIAL COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS**

Much progress has been made concerning the improvement of information management and information exchange in law enforcement. However, apart from the generic challenges for the JHA area mentioned in the general section of the Roadmap (chapter 1, paragraph 2) - specific law enforcement challenges remain:

- i) divergent national legislation affecting the roles and powers of various authorities and consequently the possibilities to collect, share and follow-up information;
- ii) different law enforcement traditions (e.g. less or more public private partnerships, less or more experience in intelligence led law enforcement) among Member States affecting which information in what way in cooperation with whom is collected, shared and followed up.
- iii) suboptimal mutual legal assistance between Member States versus increasingly complex international security challenges;
- iv) the dilemma of the need to know versus the need to share, affecting, in particular ongoing investigations;
- v) suboptimal positioning of Europol and Eurojust to support Member States due to limited information flows between Member States and those agencies;

The actions mentioned hereafter aim to address the challenges in line with the principles and strategic objectives stated in chapter 1.



## ACTIONS

### *Theme 1 Information centred approach Law Enforcement*

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
1	Solve operational and legal obstacles in order to improve the <b>availability</b> of information	<p>Undertake a gap and needs analysis among Member States law enforcement authorities and including EU JHA agencies from a legal, operational, behavioural and (IT) system/technical point of view on the availability of information in existing and pursued EU information instruments to identify redundancies and blind spots.</p> <p>This should include test environments in which practitioners including EU agencies share expertise, practices to optimise access to information on the basis of existing legal possibilities,</p> <p>This should also include analysis of need for broader access to VIS and Eurodac for law enforcement and CT purposes and interoperability of different databases such as Eurodac and SIS</p> <p><i>Following this analysis specific actions should be undertaken including in the area of awareness raising.</i></p>	Commission	Member States Europol Eurojust Frontex eu-LISA	2017	COSI	EU Budget

Additional remarks: The complexity of current law enforcement challenges and consequently of multiple and evolving tasks for practitioners has an impact on the need to obtain and analyse/check information. Consequently, this can possibly lead to a need for broader direct access to data in the migration domain or in having more efficiency in the processes of sharing information between the migration and law enforcement domain. In addition extending access rights to a particular system could limit the need for storing information in other systems avoiding redundancies and consequently having data protection benefits.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
2	Solve operational and legal obstacles in order to improve the <b>follow-up</b> of information	Undertake an in-depth evaluation of the factual operational and legal obstacles and challenges in order to improve the follow-up to information exchange in law enforcement systems and to look at possible bridges with border management systems.	Commission	Member States Europol Eurojust Frontex eu-LISA	2016/2017	COSI	Commission financed study

Additional remarks: The collection, check and connection of information should lead to follow-up operational actions such as post hit actions, investigative steps, control actions, identification of persons or financial flows, and other actions. These phases cannot be distinguished easily. However, the prerequisite for all those phases is sufficient clear-cut information (including supplementary information) in order to determine which action to undertake. This is vital to ensure proper use of limited resources and avoid misguided or ineffective actions.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
3	Enhance data / information quality	<p>A) Agree on a common set of standards (inserting and querying data) regarding the quality of data / information</p> <p>B) eu-LISA to develop a central monitoring capacity for data quality and extend this capacity to other EU agencies</p> <p>C) Disseminate best practices and expertise among Member States</p>	Member States Europol, Eurojust, Frontex, eu-LISA	Commission	<p>A&amp;C) 2017</p> <p>B) 2018 or earlier depending on need for legal changes to the mandate of eu-LISA</p>	DAPIX WP Governing Bodies EU agencies	<p>A &amp; C) ISF</p> <p>B) eu-LISA budget – through extra financial support EU budget</p>

Additional remarks: See Chapter 1.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
4	Full compliance with data protection and data security requirements	Share experiences, practices and insights in view of implementing the EU data protection package	Member States Europol, Eurojust, Frontex, eu-LISA	Commission	2017	DAPIX WP	ISF

Additional remarks: Full respect of fundamental rights and data protection rules is a precondition to manage and share information for law enforcement. On 28 April 2016, the EU data protection package was formally adopted by the co-legislators. It now has to be implemented and will require measures to ensure clarity, guidance and workable solutions for the day-to-day work of practitioners. Sharing expertise, experiences and practices internationally will assist a practical more uniform support of practitioners when implementing and applying data protection requirements.

***Theme 2 Practitioner centred approach to information management and information exchange***

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders All relevant practitioners	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
5	Increase the focus on the end-user and end-user friendliness of systems and procedures	<p>A) Systematic pro-active consultation of front line practitioners at national and European level in political and policy making processes when developing new information instruments and processes. This could be done for example with the help of involving user groups in which various categories of practitioners are consulted.</p> <p>B) Exchange of best practices between the Member States in which European information exchange instruments and processes are made user-friendly for end-user and collect best practices in an online catalogue</p>	Commission Member States eu-LISA	Europol Eurojust Frontex	continuous	COSI – operational bottlenecks DAPIX WP	n.a. using existing fora including at agencies and procedures for legislative proposals

Additional remarks: When developing new information management and information sharing related measures and procedures, systematic pro-active consultation of front line practitioners from various categories at national and European level is essential and should be well organised. Thereby user-friendliness should be ensured and multidisciplinary synergies can be pursued from the start. Similarly, they should be fully involved in assessments of the effectiveness of initiatives. Member States and EU agencies can share ideas on enhancing user-friendliness. This can be a starting point for Member States and agencies to increase the user-friendliness of their information processes and adapt national procedures where appropriate. The dissemination of such initiatives could be promoted through an online catalogue.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
6	Create one-stop-shop information solutions at national and European level through single interface solutions for Member States in view of feeding and searching national, European (e.g. SIS) and international (e.g. Interpol) information systems	Provide standardised operational requirements (such as minimum requirements for a user-friendly interface providing efficiency and operational gains) enabling tailor-made national solutions and respecting access rights; and provide best practices of solutions (e.g. Interpol's FIND and MIND <sup>17</sup> solutions and the Europol supported pilot project QUEST <sup>18</sup> )	eu-LISA Member States Commission	Europol Eurojust Frontex Interpol	2016/2017	DAPIX WP Expert Group on Information Systems and Interoperability	ISF

Additional remarks: An easy supply of information and feeding of databases as well as an easy simultaneous access to various systems via one interface – a one-stop-information-shop approach - is vital to increase information sharing and follow-up to information shared. In that context, it is important to note the need for compatibility with / adaptability of such an interface in relation to not only international and European systems but also to national systems. Moreover, existing initiatives in this respect should be taken into account, such as the development of the Universal Messaging Format (UMF).

<sup>17</sup> Fixed Interpol Networked Database (FIND) and the Mobile Interpol Networked Database (MIND), aim to facilitate simultaneous searches in the Interpol systems and in national systems (including NSIS)

<sup>18</sup> A web service to automatically search the EIS together with national databases.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
7	Implement the Universal Messaging Format (UMF) within the JHA area	<p>Introduce the Universal Messaging Format in national and European information exchange systems. The use of the standard needs to be accompanied by a governance model to ensure further development and maintenance.</p> <p>It is beneficial when the further introduction of the format takes into account structures and developments of existing information systems such as SIS, while further development of those systems should take into account the UMF.</p>	Member States Europol Frontex eu-LISA	Commission Interpol	2016 - onward (pilots started in 2016 in several MS - UMF3 project)	DAPIX WP	ISF financed UMF 3 project

Additional remarks: The UMF Interoperability Coordination Programme aims at producing a commonly recognised standard specification for the exchange of information between national law enforcement authorities. It will ensure semantic interoperability whereby data quality will be strengthened. The programme is to be realised in three phases and two phases have already shown results: 1) Definition of a comprehensive European Police Information Model (EU-PIM) which will integrate the current police information models in European Member States and central institutions; 2) based on the EU-PIM, development of the technical specifications for a Universal Message Format (. A common technical standard ready for implementation in IT-systems is available. In 2016, the third phase (UMF3) has started and aims at providing the concept and proposal for a management entity and a governance process for the maintenance and development of the new standard. All relevant actors, including law enforcement authorities, should be encouraged to consistently use the UMF standard in order to facilitate cross-border communication.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
8	Increase the trust among and expertise of practitioners including understanding of each others practices and backgrounds.	<p>A) Develop national training and awareness raising programmes, in cooperation with relevant EU agencies, taking into account all existing channels and tools with their purposes, conditions and benefits.</p> <p>B) Develop cross-border exchange programmes with various categories of practitioners.</p> <p>The primary focus should lie on the integrated use of those tools while national legal, operational and technical differences should be fully taken into account. An important starting point is the Manual on Law Enforcement Information Exchange as a tool for SPOC personnel<sup>19</sup>. The manual was adopted in 2015 and is regularly updated.<sup>20</sup> Practitioners including from SPOCs, PCCC's and other should be involved in developing and applying the mentioned programmes.</p>	Member States Cepol EJN Eu-LISA	Europol Eurojust Commission Interpol	2017 onwards	DAPIX WP Law Enforcement WP	ISF central budget and national programmes

Additional remarks: Cepol already provides various training courses related to the matter which could provide a basis while in relation to a training approach for European law enforcement cooperation, elements can be found in the Commission Communication establishing a European Law Enforcement Training Scheme (COM(2013) 172). Cepol and the European Judicial Network provide exchange programmes which could be a basis for intensified and/or enlarged initiatives or inspire bilateral /trilateral exchange programmes.

<sup>19</sup> see action 12

<sup>20</sup> 6704/16

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
9	International police cooperation - strengthen mutual legal assistance	<p>A) Fully introduce Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) for cross-border law enforcement information exchange in all Member States based on the guidelines 10492/14</p> <p>B) In accordance with the Information Management Strategy action develop training and exchange programmes for SPOC personnel.</p> <p>C) Develop/introduce effective case management and workflow solutions for SPOCs in view of mutual legal assistance cooperation. Such solutions require tailor-made elements to fulfil national demands and this initiative should only provide assistance. Hence using (specific) solutions cannot be binding.</p>	Member States Cepol eu-LISA	Europol Eurojust	2016 - 2018	DAPIX WP COPEN	<p>a) n.a.</p> <p>b) ISF central funding</p> <p>c) EU funding</p>

Additional remarks: The Council confirmed in its conclusions following the Commission Communication on the European Information Exchange Model (EIXM) of 6 and 7 June 2013 (9811/13) the need to establish Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) for cross-border law enforcement information exchange in all Member States. To that end guidelines were established in document 10492/14. The implementation of SPOCs in Member States should be further pursued taking into account mentioned guidelines bearing in mind legal, operational, procedural and other differences between Member States. Thereby rapidity, more coherence and oversight in view of sharing information for mutual legal assistance can be ensured. This will be supported through the implementation of effective case management and workflow solutions. Such solutions require tailor-made elements to fulfil national demands and this initiative should only provide assistance. Hence using (specific) solutions cannot be binding.



No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
10	Enhance bilateral law enforcement information exchange	Strengthen Police and Customs Cooperation Centres (PCCCs) and their cooperation with SPOCs	Member States	Europol Frontex	2016-2017	DAPIX WP	ISF funded project

Additional remarks: More than forty Police and Customs Cooperation Centres (PCCCs) exist in the EU. They are important instruments for criminal investigation and prevention in border regions and aim primarily at swift and easy cross-border information exchange. They should be strengthened to ensure they are well equipped and up to the task considering quickly evolving security risks.

**Theme 3 Optimal use of European information systems**

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
11	Strengthen the information potential of EU agencies	Increase the data supply to Europol and Eurojust (e.g. through the use of automatic data loaders nationally) as well as systematic sharing of cases	Member States	Europol Eurojust	permanent	MB Europol College of Eurojust	n.a.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
12	Europol to fully use SIS, VIS and EURODAC	A) Europol fully use legally possible access to SIS, VIS and EURODAC including by establishing technical effective connections; and B) after undertaking these steps identifying possible obstacles for batch cross-matching on these systems, and keep statistics and provide analysis of use of the mentioned databases in similar way as Member States are obliged to do.	Europol Commission eu LISA	Member States	2016 -2017	MB Europol MB eu-LISA WG on Information Systems and Interoperability	Europol budget

Additional remarks: The EU has granted Europol access to the main central databases, but the Agency has not yet made full use of this opportunity. Europol has the right to access and search directly data entered into SIS for arrests, for discreet and specific check and for objects for seizure. So far, Europol has carried out only a relatively limited number of searches in SIS. Access to VIS for consultation has been legally possible for Europol since September 2013. Since July 2015 the legal basis of EURODAC allows access by Europol. The Agency should accelerate the on-going work to establish the connection to VIS and EURODAC.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
13	Enhance the effectiveness of using the Schengen Information System (SIS)	<p>A) Include identifiers in alerts (copy passport, digital photo, biometrics, DNA-profiles to be considered) on the basis of existing legal provisions, when available; enable searches on fingerprints and provision of facial image feedback in case of a hit.</p> <p>B) Implement an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) functionality in the SIS within the central as well as national system in view of its full use.</p>	Member States Commission eu-LISA	Europol Eurojust Frontex	a) 2016 -2017 b) 2017 (central level) / 2018 possibly longer (national level)	a) SIS/SIRENE WP b) MB eu-LISA SIS/VIS Committee	a) n.a. b) Introduction in central system - EU budget Introduction nationally – national budget with possibly ISF funding

Additional remarks: Better identification of persons upon a hit will be possible by upload of additional information with the alert when it is available. These can be various indicators such as biometric data, warning markers or (digital) photographs. Also searching on fingerprints by means of an AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) to be implemented in the SIS will enhance rapid more trustworthy identification. These identifiers should be added into the accompanying form, but especially with the alert to ensure end-users will see them upon opening the alert. The absence of identifiers should, however, not make it impossible to insert an alert. Member States will improve national processes to enforce the addition of such identifiers with an alert. Member States agree to systematically check fingerprints of all persons crossing external borders against the SIS II as soon this has been made possible.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
14	Enhance the effectiveness of using the Schengen Information System (SIS)	Revise the legal basis of the Schengen Information System (including new functionalities, extend the access of EU agencies, facilitating access to hit information).	Council European Parliament Commission	eu-LISA Europol Eurojust Frontex	Proposal end 2016 Adoption co-legislators 2017	Schengen Working Party (SIS/SIRENE) configuration	EU funding in view of implementation

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
15	Full use of Prüm possibilities to exchange fingerprints, dna and vehicle registration data	A) Undertake EU pilots and if required follow-up steps to enforce connections of EU Member States to the Prüm network. B) Identify key obstacles for: i: the connection to the Prüm network ii: the full use of Prüm possibilities iii: solve the obstacles	a) Commission b) Member States	Europol Eurojust Frontex eu-LISA	2016	Commission DAPIX WP	Not applicable for parts a&b (i and ii) Part b (iii): ISF funding national programmes

Additional remarks: DNA, fingerprints and vehicle registration data are key identifiers in criminal investigations and possibly provide evidence for criminal proceedings. In view of the ever increasing international dimension of organised crime, terrorism and other security risks, it is vital that all Member States are as soon as possible fully connected to the Prüm automated data exchange. Moreover, Member States should prioritise operationally connecting with other Member States. Implementation obstacles should be addressed as soon as possible.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
16	Increase the use of ECRIS	Facilitate access to ECRIS for all relevant authorities	Member States Eurojust	Europol Frontex OLAF	continuous	COPEN	n.a.

Additional remarks: Member States should invest in facilitating the access to ECRIS at national level to ensure the increase of use of ECRIS. In urgent cases, Member States should reach out to Eurojust to facilitate the obtaining of criminal records. After the adoption of the legislative proposal on the complementation of ECRIS with an index system to enable national authorities to determine which Member State holds criminal records of a third-country national, Member States are invited to make full use of this possibility.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
17	Enhance the coordination and monitoring capabilities of Eurojust Members	Enable the setting up and connection of the members of the Eurojust National Coordination System (ENCS) to the Eurojust's Case Management System (CMS)	Member States Eurojust	Europol Frontex OLAF	2017/2018	College of Eurojust	EU funding

Additional remarks: The Case Management System (CMS) is designed to store and process case-related data referred to Eurojust for assistance. To improve its functionality and operational performance, two upgraded versions of the CMS were released in 2015 to support implementing the connection of members of the ENCS from each Member State to the CMS, as envisaged by Article 12 of the Eurojust Council Decision. Secure network connections have been set up with a number of Member States, ensuring the secure exchange of information between Eurojust and the Member States. The added value of well-functioning Eurojust National Coordination Systems (ENCS) has become particularly evident in the field of counter-terrorism.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
18	Streamlining and speeding up international information exchange by automation of manual procedures	Implement the Automation of Data Exchange Process (ADEP) project	Member States	Europol	2016-2018	DAPIX WP	ISF funded project

Additional remarks: Rapid and efficient information exchange is essential to ensure fast follow-up actions in investigations, control actions and other activities. Hence it is important to determine swiftly where vital information is present and to address oneself to the right party. The Automation of Data Exchange Process (ADEP) aims at addressing this need and thereby providing a contribution to the goals of Council Framework Decision 2006/960/JHA (SFD). The technical development of ADEP is taking into account Annex A on categories of offences of Decision 2009/316/JHA (ECRIS).

**CHAPTER 3. STRENGTHEN THE COLLECTION, CHECKING AND CONNECTION OF INFORMATION FOR THE DETECTION OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN TERRORISM AND TERRORISM RELATED ACTIVITY AND THEIR TRAVEL MOVEMENTS**

**ACTIONS**

*Theme 1 Improving existing instruments – quantity, quality and timeliness*

**1.1 SIS**

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
1	Create a joint understanding of when a person should be entered in the SIS regarding terrorism and terrorism related activity	Agree on indicative criteria for inserting terrorism related SIS alerts	Member States, TWP, SIS VIS Committee	MS, SIRENE Bureau	2016	COSI	n/a

There are currently no common criteria to define whether a person is involved in terrorism or terrorism related in the Member States This is of particular concern regarding the upload of alerts in the SIS and action by end users on a hit. Differences in national procedures for adding ‘terrorism related activity’ as a type of offence make it difficult to establish any clear typology for these individuals. The definition of terrorism in the revised Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA provides guidance for further efforts to come to more harmonised applications. In order to provide clear expectations of actions to be taken and necessary response with regards to SIS alerts and information sharing, indicative criteria are set regarding the exchange and sharing of information on individuals attracted to areas of conflict, whether to fight or to support terrorist groups.

The Group of Most Affected Member States previously agreed on a list of criteria in an Annex to the Milan conclusions of July 7<sup>th</sup> 2014 (see annex).<sup>21</sup> Indicative criteria will be agreed upon on the basis of this list as well as up-to-date information and other indicators such as the common risk indicators for the performance of border checks (as developed by Frontex and the Dumas Working Group).

These criteria can also be taken into consideration for the sharing of information with Europol, for example with the Europol Information System and the Focal Point Travellers. This action holds a strong relation to action 1.1.2 with regard to the (quality) of information given with an alert via the M-form.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
2	Ensure structural information to SIRENE Bureaus and SIS end users of persons involved of terrorism or terrorism related activity	Create alerts once criteria are met	Member States	SIRENE Bureau	2016	COSI	n/a

Alerts on persons are made on the basis of the indicative criteria developed under action 1.1.1a. Member States need to use the criteria to determine whether an alert should be entered. While these criteria are not legally binding and non limitative, meeting just only one of the criteria listed should lead to the insertion of an alert unless a Member State determines that an exception must be made. Any transmission and sharing of information about the persons referred to, remains of course submitted to safeguards provided in national and European law. Member States will ensure due consideration is given when an alert after meeting the criteria is not inserted. Member States will share insights into interpretations of legal standards or national operational practices to strengthen mutual understandings and possible good practices.

<sup>21</sup> In addition to the Milan Conclusions, see UN Resolution 2178, Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA, Council Framework Decision 2008/919/JHA and SIS code tables (ST 028 terrorism related activity).



No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
3	Ensure clear indication to SIRENE Bureaus and SIS end users that an alert concerns a person involved of terrorism or terrorism related activity	Use of marker 'terrorism related activity' as a rule	Member States	SIS VIS Committee, SIRENE Bureau	2016	COSI	n/a

The marker 'terrorism related activity' is added with an alert issued on persons to whom this marker is applicable, as a rule. The default setting will be that when an article 36 alert is entered on a person involved in terrorism or terrorism related activity the marker 'terrorism related activity' is always added to the alert. By using the marker as a default, clarity and consistency in practice can be ensured. In addition to issuing an alert on a person based on the criteria, the use of the marker will provide SIRENE Bureau and end-users even more insight and assurance as to what is expected of the actions based on the alert. Member States will ensure due (operational) consideration is given when this maker is not added to the alert. Any transmission and sharing of information about the persons referred to, remains of course submitted to safeguards provided in national and European law.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
4	Ensure sufficient quality of data in SIS, so that informed follow up actions can be taken	Minimum standards for data quality required by SIS should be respected by Member States	Member States, SIS/SIRENE, EC, SIS-VIS Committee	eu-LISA	2017	COSI, eu-LISA	n/a

Member State authorities need insight into the validity/reliability of information which is shared in order to follow up effectively after a hit. Absence of common standards between Member States diminishes the impact of information sharing and follow-up actions. This is valid for information uploaded in the Schengen Information System (SIS) and in the Europol Information System (EIS) as well as for information shared with Europol's Focal Point Travellers and Hydra. Member States commit to respect the commonly agreed operational and technical requirements on data quality. Regular discussions will be held, detailing for example, the importance and the exact purpose of provided and received data, data transfer in a commonly agreed language, and enabling prioritising actions. Technical solutions in the SIS to support compliance are explored and implemented by eu-LISA with a view to provide regular feedback to Member States on data quality. High level abstract reports will be sent to the Commission. A special SIRENE form should be developed for the exchange of supplementary information including predefined multiple choice fields. In the meantime Member States should provide in the M-form at least minimum information on the reasons and circumstances for which information is shared. Simply sending an almost empty form does not match the operational needs. This will be added to the existing predefined fields and free text areas and they should be filled-in to be able to finalise the M-form. Regarding the systems under the competence of eu-LISA, these actions are covered by the action plan on information management and exchange in the area of law enforcement.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
5	Ensure additional information on criminal records is available to SIRENE Bureaus and SIS end users	Insert additional information based on criminal records (national databases and ECRIS) with an alert	Member States, SIS VIS Committee	Eurojust, SIRENE Bureau, EC	2016	COSI	n/a

Information pertaining to the criminal records of a person for whom an alert is entered into the SIS is uploaded with the alert, when available. The use of information from the ECRIS when issuing SIS alerts, especially also in cases of ‘terrorism related activity’, can provide valuable background information to the SIRENE Bureau and the end users.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
6	Create a joint understanding on immediate reporting upon a hit in the SIS	Commonly define when ‘immediate reporting’ is required upon a hit as well as what action should be taken	TWP, SIS/SIRENE WG	SIRENE Bureau	2016	COSI	n/a

The nature of some articles such as Articles 24, 36 and 38 leave room for differences in action taken upon a hit. For example, persons subject to a nationally imposed travel ban will perhaps not be stopped based on an Article 36 alert even though they are in violation of their travel ban. The confiscation of documents pursuant to article 38 alerts is not always automatic but may depend upon national legislation.

Next to this, the national procedures for adding the requirement for immediate reporting to an alert vary greatly. Time is a crucial element; therefore authorities need clarity on why immediate reporting is required, and what the actions look like. To ensure harmonised use and understanding, the criteria for using the new ‘immediate reporting’ option will be harmonised and it will be made clear in which cases this option should be used. The M-form should contain further information that can be immediately given to the officer in the field. Contact with the competent SIRENE Bureau should be made without delay, for example via telephone. The SIRENE Manual will be amended to set commonly agreed desired interventions and to support compliance. To act properly, training of the end users is essential. Further specifications to strengthen the practice for specific articles will be taken up where appropriate for that article.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
7	Make possible that SIS alerts can call for preliminary and temporary holding or detention, where sufficient national legal grounds exist	Create a new type of action for article 36 alerts	Commission (EC), SIS/SIRENE WG	Member States	2017	COSI	n/a

The current possibilities for action after a hit on an alerts based on articles pursuant the SIS II Regulation and Decision, do not fully meet the operational needs. For example, the nature of Article 36 allows for no other types of action than discreet check or specific checks. Often times there is no European Arrest Warrant yet for a person being subject of an alert for terrorism related activities under article 36, but more action is needed after a hit other than the performance of a discreet or specific check. An example would be persons subject to a national travel ban. Therefore, whilst maintaining the possibilities provided by the existing alerts within the SIS legal framework, a new type of action should provide the possibility of preliminary and temporary holding or detention, where sufficient national legal grounds are available.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
8	Ensure that end users are equipped to conduct discreet and specific checks	Strengthen effective discreet and specific checks including through training	EC, Member States, CEPOL		2016 (start)	COSI	n/a

Carrying out a discreet without bringing this to the attention of the suspected person is also a matter of proper information and training. Specifically, when it comes to alert with the marker 'terrorism related activity'. To support end-users the M-form must be filled in with specific information, such as warning markers. Training activities for end-users including with the support of CEPOL and technical support should facilitate Member States in carrying out a discreet or specific check.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
9	Systematic feedback on positive hits or requests for immediate action to national SIRENE Bureau and the issuer of an alert	Enable systematic reporting of a positive hit in SIS to the national SIRENE Bureau of the Member State where the hit occurs as well as the Member State that issued the alert	SIS VIS Committee, EC, Europol, Member States	SIRENE Bureau	2017	COSI	n/a

Real time notifications of the SIRENE Bureau if a terrorism related alert is consulted does not always take place; this is particularly necessary for alerts for which immediate reporting is required and alerts concerning 'terrorism-related activity'. This also applies to any supplementary information obtained during the exchange of information.

Specifically after major incidents, the diffusion of information to other Member States is vital. The occurrence of a hit should therefore be immediately and automatically reported to the national SIRENE Bureau having issued the alert.

Member State good practices and technical support enabling information to become directly available to the end-user and the SIRENE Bureau, should be explored as a solution for this action. Member States will consider the possibility of automated transmission of hits – and accompanying information - to Europol, for example to the Focal Point Travellers. Automated diffusion of hit information to Europol may necessitate legal amendments. See also the good practices in the annex.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
10	Ensure that information of extremist speakers, who are deemed to pose a threat to public order, is shared between Member States	Make recording of alerts under Article 24.3 mandatory and adopt national legislation allowing the issuance of an alert under Article 24.2 for third country nationals who are not present on the territory of MS	EC, co-legislators, follow-up Member States	Member States	2017	COSI	n/a

Member States agree to flag all extremist speakers with or without visa obligations, who are deemed to pose a threat to public order and who intend to visit the EU, in SIS under article 24 refusal of entry. This allows Member States to take notice of the extremist speakers that other Member States have identified, and take the necessary measures. An alert in SIS is necessary to ensure that an assessment is performed every time an extremist speaker, who is deemed to pose a threat to public order by a Member State, intends to visit the EU. Member states will flag extremist speakers for a maximum of two years and alerts will be removed or continued if deemed appropriate, based on a continuous assessment. Legislative changes will be considered to change the mandatory character of alerts under article 24 to enable Member States to insert alerts on persons who are a potential threat to public order, to enable other Member States to make their own assessment of the individual. This would enable Member States to notify one another and make a national threat assessment without the mandatory refusal.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
11	Ensure that security services can quickly enter alerts into the SIS	Where necessary, change national practice to ensure that security services can insert alerts in the SIS directly without interference of judicial authorities	Member States		2016	COSI	n/a

Member States will ensure that security services have the possibility of entering alerts into the SIS without interference of judicial authorities. Amendments of legal or policy frameworks allowing security services to enter alerts will be made. Good practices which facilitate the involvement of security services in making use of SIS (including secondment to the SIRENE Bureau) and removal of legal/administrative obstacles at the national level will be shared.

## 1.2 Stolen and Lost Travel Documents database

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
12	Allow checks against travel documents that have not yet been declared stolen, lost or invalidated	Insert documents associated to alerts on persons into the Interpol TDAWN	Member States, third countries	Interpol	2016	COSI	n/a

Member States face challenges inserting alerts on travel documents into the SIS or the SLTD, when these document haven not yet been declared stolen, lost or invalidated for travel purposes. Therefore, Member States will enter alerts on the travel documents associated with persons they have signalled with diffusions into the TDAWN. They will consider entering travel documents associated with person they have signalled in the SIS into TDAWN and Interpol diffusions as well. Further support for these actions can be found in the action plan the Commission will present on preventing and detecting document fraud for EU and non-EU passport and travel documents as soon as possible.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
13	Full connectivity to SLTD at external border crossings	Make the SLTD nationally available for automated and systematic checks	Member States	Interpol	2017	COSI	

Member States should establish electronic connections to SLTD at their external border crossings. Further support for these actions can be found in the action plan the Commission will present on preventing and detecting document fraud for EU and non-EU passport and travel documents as soon as possible.



### 1.3 Europol

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
15	Ensure that information on FTF is consistently uploaded to European systems and platforms, and synchronised where possible	Implement a consistent three-tier information sharing approach regarding FTF by making optimal and consistent use of SIS, the Europol Information System (EIS) and the relevant Focal Points at Europol	Member States, Europol	SIRENE Bureau	2016	COSI	n/a

The EIS is used as a database to consistently store information on Foreign Terrorist Fighters and complementary information which is not available via the SIS. Terrorism related information in the SIS and EIS should be synchronised wherever possible in order to ensure consistent data quality. Since this is not an automated process, the responsibility lies with the data owner. Member States commit to share SIS hits on foreign terrorist fighters via EIS following the ‘Three-tier approach’. The EIS in this case (as a ‘memory of hit’) would enable to move away from bilateral cooperation to multilateral cooperation contributing to filling up intelligence gaps. Several Member States have already put this approach in practice by e.g. indicating in EIS that based on SIS hit Person A subject of discreet check crossed the border between Member State A and Country B on 10.04.2016, in vehicle reg. number XXXXX, registered in Member State C. in the vehicle was also Person B. A technical (automated) solution at the European level could be explored to support this process. See also best practice on the three tier approach in the annex.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
16	Ensure that Member States upload information on FTF in the Europol Information System	Automatically upload information on FTF to the Europol Information System (EIS)	Member States, Europol		2017	COSI	n/a

The EIS should be available to all competent counterterrorism authorities of the EU and its Member States and be fully used by them; a data loader will be beneficial. If a data loader is not yet implemented, there is another way of uploading a large amount of data using so called batch upload. If applicable, reference to SIS II alerts should be made when entering data in the EIS.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
17	Ensure a preferred channel for secure exchange of information regarding terrorism and terrorism related activity	Make best use of SIENA as a preferred channel for the secure exchange of law enforcement information regarding terrorism and terrorism related activity	Member States, Europol		2016	COSI	n/a

Europol continues to promote the further roll-out of SIENA to law enforcement authorities in Member States. End 2015, Europol has created the possibility for counter terrorism units to communicate bilaterally via SIENA. Currently, Europol is working on the upgrade of SIENA to CONFIDENTIAL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL – this features is expected to be available in the course of 2016. In 2016 and 2017 the functionality of the SIENA web service will be extended, offering better possibilities for integration with national systems.

## 1.4 Eurojust

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
18	Ensure that Member States are informed on all prosecutions and convictions on terrorist offences in the EU	Transmit to Eurojust information on all prosecutions and convictions on terrorist offences	Member States, Eurojust		2016	COSI	n/a

As required by Council Decision 2005/671/JHA, Member States should transmit to Eurojust information on all ongoing prosecutions and convictions for terrorist offences, as well as information on the specific circumstances surrounding those offences, links to other relevant cases, Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) requests and information on the execution of such requests. This allows Member States to benefit from Eurojust's capabilities to detect links between cases, as well as from Eurojust's continuing efforts to centralise and analyse challenges and best practice related to prosecutions for terrorist offences shared with the Member States, in particular via the regular Eurojust Terrorism Convictions Monitors (TCM), Eurojust's FTF Reports and Eurojust's contributions to the annual EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT). In this regard, Member States are also called to exchange with Eurojust information on cases of illicit trafficking in firearms, on drug trafficking, illegal immigrant smuggling, cybercrime, and other serious crimes. This will allow Eurojust to systematic cross-match existing information and establish possible links between terrorism and other serious crimes.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
19	Ensure connection of Eurojust to the Focal Point Hydra at Europol	Connect Eurojust to the Focal Point Hydra at Europol	Member States, Eurojust, Europol		2016	COSI	n/a

Eurojust is already successfully connected to the Focal Point Travellers. Member States will support and facilitate the association of Eurojust to Focal Point Hydra to ensure that Eurojust can provide timely and efficient support to the investigations and prosecutions in the Member States.

## *Theme 2 Organise to protect: connect silos and expertise*

### **2.1 Cooperation**

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
20	Nationally connect counterterrorism experts and other services involved in the detection of travel movements of persons involved in terrorism and terrorism related activity	At national level, create multidisciplinary platforms on the detection of travel movements of persons involved in terrorism and terrorism related activity	Member States		2016	COSI	n/a

Within the Member States, a large number of actors is involved in the detection of travel movements of persons involved in terrorism and terrorism related activity. These actors should be connected, for instance through multidisciplinary platforms for the exchange of expertise, discussions on an improvements of national processes.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
21	Ensure that national good practices regarding cooperation with third countries on counterterrorism are shared between Member States	Share good practices on cooperation with third partners in relation to counterterrorism among MS and third country partners	Member States, TWP	EC	2017	COSI	

Operational practices can benefit from a clear understanding of current information exchange on terrorists between EU Member States and third countries. This action could include ways information received from third countries is entered into the SIS upon request, the use of Interpol diffusions and sharing of watch lists.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
22	Ensure common understanding between end users, regarding the detection of travel movements of persons involved in terrorism and terrorism related activity	Create joint and multidisciplinary training for CT, border and law enforcement experts in cooperation with existing expert groups such as SIS/SIRENE, regarding the detection of travel movements of persons involved in terrorism and terrorism related activity	Member States, CEPOL, Frontex	SIS/SIRENE, TWP	2017	COSI	

A common understanding of the different roles and practices amongst CT, border and law enforcement experts is a necessary condition for improved information exchange, in particular in terms of quality of information. Therefore joint and multidisciplinary trainings should be created.

**Theme 3 National detection capabilities by PIUs**

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
23	Ensure compatible national implementation of the PNR-directive in the Member States	Initiate operational PNR working group	Presidency and Member States	PIUs in Member States, Europol	2016	n/a	Member States

To ensure consistency in the implementation of the PNR-directive and compatibility of national passenger information units (PIUs), Member States are invited to join in an operational PNR-working group, initiated by the current Presidency. The group must include the heads of the national PIUs and experts. This group will discuss development of the (future) operational practices of PIUs, within the EU framework, and with Europol and third countries. Shared principles for information exchange will support a harmonised and optimal operational practice of cooperation between the PIUs. Through the group, operational, technical support and facilitation of good practice exchanges could take place.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
24	Use national practice of Member States in the construction of new PIUs	Offer technical assistance in construction of PIUs	Member States		2016	n/a	Member States

Within the operational PNR working group, Member States who have already set up their national technical facilities for the PIUs will share, where appropriate, their technology, experiences and expertise to support Member States who have not yet done so. Those Member States which have not set up PIUs yet are encouraged to mobilise their national part of the ISF to do so.



No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
25	Agreement on how information is shared between PIUs and with third countries where possible	Ensure interoperability and share information on suspects and anomalous travel patterns and targeting rules	Member States /Europol		2018	n/a	n/a

Member State PIUs will agree on the way to share information on suspects and anomalous travel patterns and targeting rules, between the PIUs and with third countries where possible. Interoperability and information exchange between PIUs is key to ensure an effective use of PNR. The future PIUs need to be interoperable. Lessons learnt from projects such as the FIU.net embedment should be taken into account when developing information exchange infrastructure and practices for the future PIUs to ensure a shared perspective is integrated from the beginning. Member States are encouraged to participate to a maximum extent in the Commission ISF projects on interoperability and other multilateral and international initiatives on this important issue. Europol could facilitate and/or support the EU level discussions on targeting rules used on national level, and the development of supra-national targeting rules. See also the good practice on PNR in the annex.

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring	Financial support
26	Make full use of Europol databases to support PIUs	Define Europol support of PIU practices, cooperation, and activities	Member States, Europol	EC	2017	n/a	n/a

Following article 10 of the PNR-directive , Europol plays a role in supporting national PIUs. Europol databases can bring added value to PIUs as a source of additional intelligence (to verify, cross-check, and ensure informed decisions). As a fundamental principle it should be recognised that operational cooperation and layering of travel information with other sources of intelligence are beneficial to identify new/additional links/suspects/lines of inquiry. Europol could facilitate ensuring a supra national perspective on travel patterns and targeting rules. See also the good practice on PNR in the annex.

## **CHAPTER 4. BORDER MANAGEMENT AND MIGRATION**

The absence of internal borders in the Schengen area requires strong and reliable management of the movement of persons across the external borders. Securing external borders and managing them more efficiently implies making better use of the opportunities offered by IT systems and technologies. In this context adequate border checks of and identification of persons is of utmost importance. Furthermore, the full 100% identification and registration of all irregular entries of third country nationals , to fully implement the relocation process.

There are a number of information systems and databases at EU level that provide border and migration authorities with relevant information on persons, in accordance with their respective purposes. The most relevant systems in the field of border management and migration are the SIS, EU VIS and EURODAC. Additional databases are SLTD, API and FADO. These systems have their own objectives, purposes, legal bases, user groups and institutional context. Due to this fragmentation of information in the different systems it may be difficult to recognise connections between these data. For that reason, there is a need to address the shortcomings in the functionalities of the existing systems and in the procedures in order to optimise the performance of the systems and the further development of the procedures in the field of border management and migration in full compliance with fundamental rights.

## Challenges

There are different technical, legal and operational challenges in organising an efficient border management system and system of security checks of irregular migrants. The main challenges are the timeframe to perform at the borders identity and security check of persons, in particular of irregular third country nationals.

Other challenges are the interoperability of the systems, different user groups and the retention of personal and biometric data in these systems. In this context, the main objective of this exercise entails the following challenges: trying to make the process of border control and security checks of the third country nationals more efficient by consulting multiple databases with one single search interface.

The Actions on Border Management and Migration aims addressing these challenges in line with the principles and strategic objectives stated in the Roadmap to enhance information exchange and information management in the JHA area.

## ACTIONS

### *Theme 1*

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring-mechanism	Financial support
1	Registering entry and exit of the Schengen area of Persons enjoying free movement.	Examine the need and added value of registering travel movements of persons enjoying Free Movement of Persons, including an assessment of impact, costs, proportionality of the different possible solutions (including broadening the scope of EES)	COM, High Level Expert Group	Commission, Member States, eu LISA, EDPS	June 2016	SCIFA/COSI	ISF,

It is necessary, especially in response to the security challenges that were highlighted once again by the Paris and Brussels attacks, to equip the EU with rapidly effective and safe tools in order to improve our external border control. In this context, it is necessary to, in light of the “smart borders” package that the Commission assess the need added value of a entry and exit registration system for persons enjoying Free Movement of Persons and if necessary present a legal proposal before the end of this year, in order to register the entry and exit of persons at external borders, including for people with the right to circulate freely, making use of modern technology in order to ensure smooth flows.

References to EU legal or policy documents where applicable: Communication “Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security”

## Theme 2

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring-mechanism	
2	Registering entry and exit of the Schengen area of third country nationals.	Negotiations on the legal proposals on Smart Borders (EU Entry and Exit and amendment of the SBC in the Frontiers Working Party	Member States, Commission and EP	eu LISA	December 2016	SCIFA/COSI	ISF,

In addition to the existing ICT systems the Commission proposes to establish another centralised IT system to enhance border management to address illegal immigration and to provide access for law enforcement authorities regarding terrorism and serious crime, the Entry and Exit system (EES). This system should be implemented by 2020. There is also the aspect of facilitation of border crossings of third country nationals who are exempted from short-stay conditions and who will not be covered by the scope of the EES. The introduction of EES will allow third country national short-stay visitors to benefit from automated border crossing solutions such as eGates, but this possibility will not exist for third country nationals with long term right of stay. To address this lacuna it would be useful to establish a central system at borders to establish whether a third country national is in the possession of a valid residence card, residence permit or long-term visa, and – if confirmed – to grant this person access to the Schengen area under the same condition as an EU national.

See Theme 1.

References to EU legal or policy documents where applicable: Legislative proposals “Smart Borders” doc 7675/16 and doc 7676/16

### Theme 3

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring-mechanism	Financial support
3		Feasibility Study of an EU Travel Information and Authorisation System	Commission	Comission, Member States, eu LISA, EDPS	October 2016	SCIFA	ISF,

While law enforcement authorities can obtain (pre) information on visa holders from the VIS of necessary for combating of serious crime and terrorism, no comparable data is available on visa-exempt persons. Ongoing visa liberalization processes are likely to lead to a considerable increase of visa-exempt travellers in the near future. In this context the possibilities of an EU electronic system for travel authorization should be further examined. Such an “EU ESTA system” would ensure that all third country nationals intending to travel to the EU – and not only those who are submitted to a visa requirement – could be subject to some form of pre-screening in advance of travelling and could be pre-authorized before arriving at an external border crossing point. This system would allow collecting and checking information about third-country nationals intending to travel to Europe on an individual basis, with a view to grant them authorisation to travel to the EU’s external borders. Similar systems have already been set up in Australia and the United States (U.S.). Based on experiences in the U.S. and Australia and taking into account pre arrival informationsystems (Maritime Single Window, PNR and API), an ESTA could be defined as a system for the purpose of:

- a) collecting applications for authorisation to travel to their territory for short-term tourism or business stays, directly from foreign nationals and through electronic channels;
- b) determining the eligibility of foreign nationals to travel to their territory for short stays without having to go through a full visa application process;
- c) determining whether such travel poses any law enforcement or security risk;
- d) having a possibility to prevent a foreign national from travelling to their territory if such travel does pose a law enforcement or security risk, while also retaining the possibility to deny a traveller entry at the border even in case he/she has been granted a travel authorisation.

References to EU legal or policy documents where applicable: Communication “Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security”

#### **Theme 4**

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring-mechanism	Financial support
4	Enhancing of the security check in hotspots	The timing and execution of each security check should be clearly defined in the SOPs of the hotspot and relocation workflow.	EU agencies & host NMS (EL & IT)	Member States, Commission	Immediate	SCIFA/COSI	ISF,

The hotspot workflow starts at the moment of arrival/apprehension, up to the point of onwards movement from the registration centre, or open or closed reception centre. Procedures carried out at the hotspots should have only three possible outcomes: relocation, national asylum, or (voluntary) return / readmission to a third-country. Both the hotspot workflow and the relocation process have to be designed in such a way that the security checks are integrated and take place systematically, without creating new bottlenecks. Next to deciding on asylum, relocation or return, these checks also serve to ensure that the person does not represent a threat to internal/EU security.

References to EU legal or policy documents where applicable: EU Conclusions of December 2016

### **Theme 5**

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring-mechanism	Financial support
5	Enhancing of the security check in hotspots	Provide access to the relevant databases SIS, EU VIS, Eurodac, Interpol databases & Europol databases.	EU agencies & host NMS (EL & IT)	Member States, Commission	Immediate	SCIFA/COSI	AMF

With support of the EU Agencies e.g. eu-LISA and Europol access needs to be organized without delay to the relevant databases SIS, VIS, Eurodac, Interpol and Europol to perform appropriate security checks in a given situation.



## Theme 6

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring-mechanism	Financial Support
6	Enhancing of the security check in hotspots	Establish a clear Roadmap with realistic deadlines in the situation that access to the relevant databases is not yet available.	eu LISA, host MS (EL en IT)	Commission, Member States, Europol, Interpol, Frontex	2016	SCIFA/COSI	AMF, ISF,

Idem theme 4 & 5

## Theme7

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring-mechanism	Financial support
7	Enhancing of the security check in hotspots	Launching of a questionnaire to establish when a relocation file meets the right standards	Commission	Member States	2016	SCIFA	n/a

The Presidency has formulated the recommendations on security checks in the hotspots and during the relocation process, which were discussed and supported by a large number of Member States during COSI-SCIFA on 18 April 2016. Part of the outcome was a suggestion by the COM to launch a questionnaire, on the basis of which MS could indicate what constitutes a “quality” relocation file, including “sufficient” information on security aspects. The idea would be that this could help in setting a clearer standard of what information should be included in the relocation file, so MS would have fewer reasons to require additional checks, thus delaying the process. The suggestion has been taken up with the COM, who is in favour of doing so and is discussing the option internally.

### **Theme 8**

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring-mechanism	Financial support
8	Enhancing of the security check in hotspots	Share of information on security concerns in relocation cases	Member States		Immediate	SCIFA/COSI	n/a

In case of a rejection, the Member State of relocation should motivate the decision to refuse a relocation request based on the grounds foreseen under the Council Decision. Security concerns about relocation cases need to be shared as soon as possible with the benefitting Member States.

### **Theme 9**

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring-mechanism	Financial support
9	Enhance operational cooperation of EU MS on migrant smuggling through their activities in the hotspots.	All agencies need to continue to make the necessary resources available, including for translation and interpretation	Frontex, Europol, Eurojust and EASO	Member States	Immediate	SCIFA/COSI	n/a

All agencies (Frontex, Europol, Eurojust and EASO) need to continue to make the necessary resources available, including for translation and interpretation, to enhance operational cooperation of EU Member States on migrant smuggling through their activities in the hotspots. Whenever possible, also transport to the registration area should take place from centralized disembarkation points on the islands or on the mainland, also with a view on informing migrants as early as possible about relocation, asylum and (voluntary) return, and the risks of onwards irregular migration. Coordinating arrivals in this way results in more control over the hotspot workflow and the relocation process, and counters smuggling activities.

### Theme 10

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring-mechanism	Financial support
10	Increase of the use of API data for border management (and combating terrorism and organised crime)	Establish automated cross-checking of API data against SIS and Interpol SLTD database	Member States	Comission, eu-LISA and agencies	2016-2017	COSI	ISF

Technological developments allow in principle to consult relevant databases without delaying the process of crossing the border, as the controls on documents and persons can be carried out in parallel. The use of passenger information received in accordance with Council Directive 2004/82/EC<sup>7a</sup> can also contribute to speeding up the process of required controls during the border crossing process. In this context automated cross-checking of API data against SIS and Interpol SLTD database should be established.

References to EU legal or policy documents where applicable: Communication “Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security” and Evaluation of the COM on the API directive

### Theme 11

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring-mechanism	Financial support
11	Strengthen the information position of EU MS on border management (and combating terrorism and organised crime)	Assessment of the need to revise the legal basis of processing of API data	Commission	Member States	2016-2017	SCIFA	N/a

To ensure a wider implementation and to include an obligation for MS to require and use API data for all inbound and outbound flights and assessment of the current API legislation is necessary. This is particularly relevant in the context of the implementation of the PNR directive as a combined use of PNR and API data further enhances the effectiveness of PNR data in the combating of terrorism and serious crime.

References to EU legal or policy documents where applicable: Communication “Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security” and Evaluation of the COM on the API directive

## Theme 12

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring-mechanism	Financial support
12	Enhancing the functionalities of the VIS.	Examination further improvement's of the VIS	Commission	eu-LISA Member States, Europol	before end 2016;	SCIFA	n/a

To further Improving data quality of data entered into the VIS, including improving the quality of facial images to enable biometric matching. To facilitate the checking of Interpol's SLTD database during a visa application and to achieve interoperability with the SIS to search with VISA applicants fingerprints in the future Automated Fingerprint Identification System to be developed for the SIS e.g. to allow search by travel document, as proposed in the EES,.

References to EU legal or policy documents where applicable: Communication “Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security”

### Theme 13

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring-mechanism	Financial support
13	Revision of the EURODAC regulation	Negotiations on the legal proposal on Eurodac	Member States, Commission and EP	eu LISA	2016-2017	SCIFA	n/a

References to other actions in the Roadmap: actions related to the hotspots and actions related to organise easier access of LEA to IT systems in the field of migration.

References to EU legal or policy documents where applicable: Legislative proposals “Smart Borders” doc 7675/16 and doc 7676/16

## Theme 14

No.	Objective	Action	Primary Responsible Party/Parties	Stakeholders	Timetable	Monitoring-mechanism	Financial support
14	To address the existing information gap on the (travel) documents of third-country nationals.	Assessment of the need of central Residence Permits Repository whether such new EU tool is necessary, feasible and proportional to address the existing information gap on these categories of third-country nationals.	COM	Member States, eu LISA	2016	SCIFA/COSI	ISF, eu LISA

### Residence Permits Repository

Residence permits, residence cards and long stay visa issuance are within the competence of the Member States. However, when holders of these residence permits, residence cards or long stay visa are crossing the Schengen area external borders, the decentralised management of these documents entails difficulties for border controls. Individuals bearing travel documents issued by third countries have to be checked at border in a specific way on the basis of documents which validity and authenticity cannot be verified against a common database. Even though it is possible to establish through a biometric verification that the traveller is the legitimate bearer of a residence permit, this is not the case for the residence cards and long term visa as no common format exists. This situation is constitutive of a security risk that should be addressed.

In addition to security considerations, there is also the aspect of facilitation of border crossings: third country nationals that are exempted from short-stay conditions will not be covered by the scope of the EES(in the current proposal). The introduction of EES will allow third country national short-stay visitors to benefit from automated border crossing solutions such as eGates, but this possibility will not exist for third country nationals with long term right of stay. To address this lacuna it would be useful to establish a central system at borders to establish whether a third country national is in the possession of a valid residence card, residence permit or long-term visa, and – if confirmed – to grant this person access to the Schengen area under the same condition as an EU national (including through the use of an eGate).

Beyond border management, there could be a third consideration for establishing a central information system on third country nationals holding notably a residence permit. Beneficiaries of European residence permits have to fulfil certain conditions. These may include limitations on the time they can spend outside the Member State that issued the permit, in order not to lose their right of residence and their access to certain social rights and services. Some Member States expressed a desire to monitor also travel movements of residence permit holders to assess the respect of these limitations.

Against this background it should be considered to put in place a central repository of residence permits, residence cards and long-term visas issued by Member States, to store information on these documents (including on expiry dates and on their possible withdrawal). The Commission should assess whether such new EU tool is necessary, feasible and proportional to address the existing information gap on these categories of third-country nationals.

References to other actions in the Roadmap: actions related to register of EU citizens and the EES for third country nationals

References to EU legal or policy documents where applicable: Legislative proposals “ Smart Borders” doc 7675/16 and doc 7676/16 and Communication “Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security”