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NOTE

From:	Hellenic delegation
To:	Working Party for Schengen Matters (Schengen Evaluation) - Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Norway/Switzerland/Liechtenstein)
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Subject:	Schengen evaluation of Greece - 3rd Follow-up report on the implementation of the Action Plan on addressing the "serious" deficiencies identified in the 2015 evaluation on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of management of the external borders

Delegations will find enclosed the "3rd Follow-up report on the implementation of the Action plan on addressing the "serious" deficiencies identified in the 2015 evaluation on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of management of the external borders by Greece" as provided for in article 16(3) of the SEM Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013.

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide a “3rd Follow-up Report on the implementation of the Action plan on addressing deficiencies identified in the unannounced 2015 evaluation on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of management of the external borders by Greece”, in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of SEM Reg. (EU) 1053/2013¹. This report is submitted three months after the second report.

In sum, since the evaluation of November 2015, Greece has made every possible effort to implement all the fifty (50) recommendations identified in its external borders in the best possible way and to provide additional information and clarifications to the Commission and other Member States.

As it was discussed during the Working Party for Schengen Matters (Evaluation) on the 28th of November 2016, twelve (12) out of fifty (50) recommendations are considered by the Commission still not to be fully implemented. The above recommendations concern long term actions, including the new national integrated maritime surveillance system, risk analysis, training, reinforcement of personnel and IT infrastructure.

¹ In the framework of the SEM Regulation 1053/2013 an unannounced evaluation visit took place at land and sea external borders of Greece, 10-13 November 2015. The evaluation Report, adopted by the Commission on 2 February 2016, concluded that there were “serious deficiencies” in the carrying out of external border control by Greece. Recommendations for remedial action were adopted by the Council on 12 February 2016. As the Evaluation Report found serious deficiencies, the Commission in addition adopted on 24 February 2016 an implementing decision setting out a Recommendation on specific measures to be taken by Greece.

Following the Action Plan presented by the Greek authorities on 12 March 2016 to remedy deficiencies identified in the 2015 evaluation of the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of management of the external borders¹ and the additional elements and clarifications provided to the Commission's assessment of the adequacy of the Action Plan on 12 April 2016, Greece presented its final Report on the implementation of its Action Plan, in accordance with the provisions of article 16(4) of the SEM Regulation 1053/2013 on the 29 April 2016.

Since 12 March 2016, Greece, firmly committed to contributing to the strengthening of the internal security of the EU, provides monthly reports on the Commission's Recommendation Article 19b (1) SBC on specific measures to be taken by the Hellenic Republic following the evaluation report and Council Recommendation related to Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 1053/2013, of 2 February 2016. Any new issue raised by the Commission during this process, is addressed by Greece as a matter of priority.

Having in mind that

- a) regardless of the evaluation procedure, the above issues remain a top priority for the Greek law enforcement authorities;
- b) in the framework of the three-months Action Plan, Greece has worked to speed up the process, delivered results for all the recommendations and ensured an adequate monitoring framework ²;
- c) there is an overlap of the twelve (12) still open recommendations with the recommendations of the 2016 evaluation, which will be adopted by the Council on the 17th of February 2017;
- d) Only two (2) out of twelve (12) recommendations concern findings assessed as non-compliant (procurement of CCTV cameras and Integrated Sea Border Surveillance system). The procurement procedures are launched. The remedial actions are in progress and will be delivered according to the timetable provided in this report;
- e) It would be an administrative burden to continue reporting twice on the same recommendations.

Greece transmits all the latest developments on the still open recommendations and invites the Commission and the Council to take all necessary steps to close the November 2015 evaluation.

² Recommendations consider registration procedure 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 40, 41 and 42; sea border surveillance 12, 13 and 14, risk analyses 15, 16 and 17, international cooperation 18; border checks procedures 22, 23, 25, 26, 27 and 28; human resources and training 19 and 43; and infrastructure and equipment 34, 47 and 48. EL should take appropriate measures to ensure that at all external borders of Greece, external border control is carried out and brought in line with the Schengen Acquis in order not to jeopardise the functioning of the Schengen area according to recommendation 50.

3rd Follow-up report on the implementation of the Action plan on addressing the “serious” deficiencies identified in the 2015 evaluation on the application of the Schengen Acquis in the field of management of the external borders by Greece

(STATE OF PLAY 13.02.2017)

	<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Actions taken by EL</u>	<u>Time-frame</u>	<u>Res. Authority</u>
<u>Risk analysis</u>	<p>Rec. 15: Risk analysis system at local level</p> <p><i>(Assessment: Compliant but improvement necessary)</i></p>	<p><u>Update 13.02.2017:</u></p> <p>15. HP: Risk Analysis in central level is being finalized by NCC incorporating data from other authorities (HGC, Armed Forces, Customs, Civil Protection etc.). Risk Analysis at local level exists only in Evros region. After the suggestion of the Commission to finalize the Risk Analysis based on CIRAM 2.0. at local level earlier than by the end of 2017, Greek authorities are accelerating the procedures. Currently, HP is focusing on the training of local officers, and their capacity building on Risk Analysis. The aim is to have HP local Risk Analysis set up <u>by October 2017</u>.</p> <p>Since the beginning of 2016 the HCG has appointed intelligence officers at local level with experience in carrying out risk analysis. Risk analysis reports are already produced at local level on a monthly basis. They are used for the purposes of enhancing situational awareness locally, shared and submitted to the central level which monitors the performance of the local intelligence officers and guides their systematic efforts. <u>The above action on behalf of the HCG is considered to be already completed.</u></p> <p>Greek authorities will continue to work systematically to fully implement this Recommendation in the framework of the Action Plan following the evaluation of April 2016.</p>	<p>In progress/Long term action</p> <p>(local R.A. by Oct. 2017)</p>	<p>HP/HCG/NCC</p> <p>Commission, 19 December 2016:</p> <p><i>COM welcomes the results and efforts made so far and invites the Greek authorities to <u>explain which steps are still to be made in order to set up risk analyses at local level</u> and invites HP to accelerate the implementation of the action and <u>finalise it earlier than by the end of 2017.</u></i></p>

<p>Rec. 16: nominate and train the necessary personnel at local level for carrying out risk analysis activities;</p> <p><i>(Assessment: Compliant but improvement necessary)</i></p>	<p><u>Update 13.02.2017:</u></p> <p>16. HP: During the course on “Risk Analysis- Strategic Analysis” of October 2016, 26 police officers were trained. For the academic period of 2016-2017 starting February 2017 in total 30 borderguards will be trained on “Risk Assessment – Strategic Analysis”. The main target group of this action is the officers placed at the islands and North Greece. Training courses on Risk Analysis are ensured until 2022.</p> <p>HCG: Frontex launched a procedure for the elaboration of a CIRAM training tool. HCG experts have been selected by Frontex and are actively involved in the respective working group. Upon the conclusion of this task, HCG will systematically nominate its candidates for their participation to all respective training courses to be initiated by Frontex.</p> <p>HCG HQs RA unit is continuously monitoring the local risk analysis activities. By the completion of CIRAM training development by FRONTEX, HCG will take all necessary actions to make best use of it.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>(Training courses on Risk Analysis are ensured until 2022)</p>	<p>HCG/ IMSB, HP/Borders Protection Division</p> <p>FRONTEX</p> <p><i>COM welcomes the efforts made and invites the Greek authorities to <u>provide the state of play by 12 January 2017*</u>.</i></p> <p>* It was agreed with the Commission that the 3rd follow-up report would be delivered three months after the 2nd follow-up report.</p>
<p>Rec. 17: familiarise the first line border guards with the common foreign terrorist fighters risk indicators</p> <p><i>(Assessment: Compliant but improvement necessary)</i></p>	<p><u>Update 13.02.2017:</u></p> <p>17. In April and May 2016, a total of <u>421 borderguards from 13 land, sea and air BCPs</u> have been trained on foreign terrorist fighters risk indicators and COPPRA II manual by the Special Violation Crime Division (Counter-Terrorism Unit) (attached table).</p> <p><u>In 2017, in the framework of the national evaluation mechanism and through regular reports of the BCPs, the HP HQ will continue to monitor the implementation of the instructions regarding the issue.</u></p> <p>HCG: Additionally to the points mentioned in Rec 16, the common</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>HCG/ IMSB, HP/Borders Protection Division</p> <p><i>Commission welcomes the efforts made so far and invites Greece to <u>further clarify how many first line officers and from which BCP's have been trained and what further efforts are planned.</u></i></p>

		risk analysis indicators issued by the Commission in respect of foreign fighters as well as relevant Handbooks issued by Frontex, are transmitted by way of a circular order to all the Port Authorities of the country for appropriate use, when conducting checks.		
<u>Human resources and training</u>	<p>Rec. 19: increase training at the local level especially on forged and falsified documents, risk analysis and updated legislation;</p> <p><i>(Assessment: Compliant but improvement necessary)</i></p>	<p><u>Update 13.02.2017:</u></p> <p>19. HP: In 2016, totally 86 HP officers have attended training courses entitled “Checks of forgery/falsification of travel and other documents”. For the academic season of 2016-2017 starting February 2017, a total of 213 borderguards will be trained on “Checks of forgery/falsification of travel and other documents”. It is programmed that each year 241 police officers will be trained, among others, on forged and falsified documents.</p> <p>HCG: In 2016, 24 HCG officers were trained on detection of falsified documents, SBC, SIS-SIRENE etc. Frontex training program “Training on advanced skills for detection of falsified documents”, was cancelled in 2016. Frontex has set Greece as a priority for roadshows training in detecting forged & falsified documents in 2017. Respective training courses have been scheduled for 2017. Moreover, in 2017, 101 Harbour Guards will graduate from the relevant Academy where they have been trained, among others, on forged / falsified documents, SBC, SIS – SIRENE etc)</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>(Training courses on forgery/ falsification of travel & other documents are ensured until 2022)</p>	<p>HP/Criminal Investigations Division</p> <p>HP/Borders Protection Division</p> <p>HCG</p> <p><i>COM welcomes the fact that Greece has started with the additional trainings and invites Greece to provide <u>the state of play on 12 January 2017 and further clarify the plans for 2017 in this regard.</u></i></p>
	<p>Rec. 20: provide language training</p> <p><i>(Assessment: Compliant but improvement necessary)</i></p>	<p><u>Update 13.02.2017:</u></p> <p>20. Training on linguistic skills in English and Turkish language of the police personnel (in the framework of ISF), for the academic season of 2016-2017 is starting in March 2017. In total 16 border guards, (8) for each language, will be trained, coming from the Police Directorates of east Aegean Sea and Evros region. Linguistic</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>(linguistic training ensured until 2022)</p>	<p>HP/Borders Protection Division HCG</p> <p><i>COM invites Greece to provide <u>the state of play on 12 January 2017 and further clarify the plans for 2017 in this regard.</u></i></p>

		<p>training is ensured until 2022 from the ISF programme.</p> <p>It should be noted that English language (B2 level) is a necessary skill to enter to the HCG Academies. In addition, one (01) HCG officer will receive language training in Arabic from Nov 2016 until Jul 2017 at the Foreign Language Training Center of Hellenic Army.</p> <p>Further ways to enhance the linguistic skills are explored both by the HP and HCG.</p>		
<p>Rec. 21: train more border guards on second line check</p> <p><i>(Assessment: Compliant but improvement necessary)</i></p>	<p><u>Update 13.02.2017:</u></p> <p>21. Regarding training in SBC, including second-line checks, risk indicators etc, a total of 506 border guards have been trained in 2016, while in 2017 a total of 150 border-guards will be trained.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>(training ensured until 2022, additional courses are organized in cooperation with other MS)</p>	<p>HP/Borders Protection Division</p> <p><i>According to the information provided, the trainings organized under recommendation 19 were not related to the 2nd line activities. <u>COM invites Greece to organise training for 2nd line officers related to the 2nd line activities.</u></i></p>	
<p>Rec. 35: Observation of the passenger flow e.g. by installing a video surveillance system (CCTV) (port of Chios)</p> <p><i>(Assessment: Compliant but improvement necessary)</i></p>	<p><u>Update 13.02.2017:</u></p> <p>35. Technical requirements are ready, the proposal has been submitted and approved. CCTV camera system will be delivered in May 2017, at the latest. Open tender is still in progress.</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>(deliv. May 2017)</p>	<p>HP/Borders Protection Division</p> <p>Port Authority-Chios</p> <p><i>COM welcomes the efforts made so far and invites Greece to <u>provide the state of play by 12 January 2017.</u></i></p>	

	<p>Rec. 36: ensure that the recommendations 31 to 35 are taken into account when building the new passenger terminal in Samos.</p> <p>(Assessment: Compliant but improvement necessary)</p>	<p><u>Update 13.02.2017:</u></p> <p>36. The new passenger terminal has been completed and the relocation of the Schengen related services is expected to be finalised by the 1st of April 2017 at the latest. The internal layout of the passport checking sector was designed under the guidance of the Hellenic Police and in accordance with the Schengen border code</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>HCG/Division for Ports and Port Policy</p> <p><i>COM invites Greece to <u>provide the state of play by 12 January 2017.</u></i></p>
<p><u>Border check procedures</u></p>	<p><u>Police directorate Orestiada</u></p> <p>Rec. 37: situational awareness, role of Regional Coordination Centre, integrating functions currently covered by the Regional Control Centre and Nea Vyssa centre;</p> <p>(Assessment: Compliant but improvement necessary)</p>	<p>37. Two new local operation centers will be established one in Nea Vyssa and one in Didimotyho. Their situational picture will be shared with the Regional Coordination Center in Orestiada.</p> <p>A request for the funding of the “Extension of the automated surveillance system of the riverside part of the GRC-TUR borders at Evros region and the interconnection of the Regional IBMMCs” activity, has been submitted to the European and Development Programs Division, which foresees the establishment of: a. four Regional IBMMCs (Didymoteicho, Tycheron, Feres, Soufli), b. a new regional center in Alexandroupolis and c. redevelopment of Regional IBMMC Orestiada. The collection of operational picture coming from the surveillance system will take place in these IBMMCs.</p> <p>The IBMMC of Nea Vyssa will remain fully operational, managing the necessary procedures required for the implementation of the above-mentioned top funding priority with a total budget of € 15.000.000, approximately, have already begun since 15th of July 2016.</p>	<p>In progress (Operational end 2018)</p>	<p>HP/Borders Protection Division</p> <p><i>COM invites Greece to <u>provide the state of play by 12 January 2017.</u></i></p>

		<p><u>Update 13.02.2017:</u></p> <p>The tender procedure has been published on 16th of December 2016. The 2nd of March 2017 has been set to be the deadline for any proposal submission.</p>		
<p>Rec 38: finalise the installation of GPS transmitters to the patrolling vehicles or units to enable the surveillance centre to monitor their location;</p> <p><i>(Assessment: Compliant but improvement necessary)</i></p>	<p><u>Update 13.02.2017:</u></p> <p>38. This action has not been included in the ISF national programme. This action will be reassessed during the mid-term review in 2017. It will be examined GPS transmitters to be a component of the four IBMMCs.</p>	In progress	<p>HP/Borders Protection Division</p> <p><i>COM invites HP to <u>accelerate the implementation of the action and finalise it earlier than 2018</u>. COM reminds Greece that this recommendation was also made after the evaluation in 2013.</i></p>	
<p>Rec. 48: improve traffic management and surveillance at the BCP</p> <p><i>(Assessment: Non compliant)</i></p>	<p><u>Update 13.02.2017:</u></p> <p>48. ISF funding request for the establishment of CCTVs at the premises of specified BCPs. The budget of the action regarding the procurement of seven (7) CCTV has already been earmarked at the National Investment Program on 22nd of December 2016. The tender procedure for the procurement of seven (7) CCTV camera systems is estimated to be published within the next months.</p> <p>In the meanwhile more personnel has been deployed to increase the surveillance capacity.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>State of Play (CCTV end May 2017)</p>	<p>HP/Border Protection Division</p> <p><i>COM invites Greece to provide the <u>state of play by 12 January 2017</u>.</i></p>	

<p><u>General</u> <u>issues</u></p>	<p><u>Sea Border surveillance</u></p> <p>Rec. 12: coastal surveillance system covering the whole sea border between Greece and Turkey</p> <p>(Assessment: Non compliant)</p>	<p><u>Update 13.02.2017:</u></p> <p>12. <u>National Integrated Maritime Surveillance System (NIMSS) :</u></p> <p>The Request for Information (RFI) has been launched on 03/11/2016 for 60 days during which official consultation with the Industry will take place. <u>Due to the massive participation of economic operators and the complexity of the project, a 47 days extension has been granted (till 17/02/2017). The technical specifications will be drafted till the end of April 2017 and uploaded for comments on the e-procurement website. The technical specifications are expected to be finalized by mid-2017.</u> The tender should be then published in the third quarter of 2017. According to the national legislation and the expected recourses from the bidders, the tendering procedure will last about 1,5 year, and the contract is planned to be signed by the end of 2018. The installation of the surveillance stations should then <u>start progressively from the North-eastern Aegean region early 2019.</u> At the same time, work to adapt HCG Operations' Center will start within the HCG's HQs. The Command and Control of the system will be centrally based and as soon as each surveillance station is completed, it will be connected and transmit information to the HCG HQs (modular design).</p> <p>Concerning the <u>procurement of patrol boats</u>, under the ISF National Programme (NP), 4 patrol boats were planned to be delivered in 2016 as a continuation of the relevant multiannual project under EBF 2012 and 2013 aiming at the procurement of 6 Coastal Patrol Boats. However, the contractor has bankrupted and is not able to fulfill its obligations under the contract signed. Alternative solutions are being explored in order to acquire as many equivalent</p>	<p>Completed in the framework of this Action Plan. It's long term action.</p> <p>State of Play</p>	<p>HCG</p> <p><i>COM invites Greece to provide the <u>state of play by 12 January 2017.</u></i></p>
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		<p>boats as possible within the available budget. In any case, the reaction capability is already at a good level in the Eastern Aegean islands since boats from other HCG authorities are seconded on a rotating basis. Please note that in order to enhance significantly the reaction capacity with viable utilization of the operational assets a procurement of 10 new boats of over 20m would be needed which requires a budget of about 35 to 40 M €.</p> <p>Finally, regarding the procurement of 2 Coastal Patrol Vessels over 30m and 1 TVV under ISF NP Specific Actions, the technical specifications have already been completed. The competent Delegated Authority issued the relevant Calls on 27/04/2016 and 08/07/2016 respectively. <u>The foreseen procedures have been completed and the tenders are to be published in February 2017 once the re-adaptation of the technical specifications according to the new legal framework (Law 4412/2016 adapting EU Directive 2014/24 and 25) is completed. Deliveries are expected by mid-2020 and end of 2018 respectively. It is pointed out that the real operational need is for 2 additional CPVs (4 CPVs in total).</u></p>		
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Training on foreign terrorist fighters risk indicators and COPPRA II manual (Rec 17)

BCP	NUMBER OF TRAINED OFFICERS
ATHENS AIRPORT	151
THESSALONIKI AIRPORT	31
KRISTALLOPIGI	45
HERAKLIO AIRPORT	14
MITLINI PORT	11
PITHAGORIO AIRPORT	6
KAKAVIA	41
MERTZANI	13
RODOS AIRPORT	13
RODOS PORT	8
KIPI	36
EVZONOI	43
CHIOS	9
TOTAL	421