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General Secretariat

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COMIX**

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MEETING DOCUMENT

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| From: | General Secretariat of the Council |
| To: | Working Party on Frontiers |
| Subject: | 2024 STATE OF SCHENGEN PACKAGE |

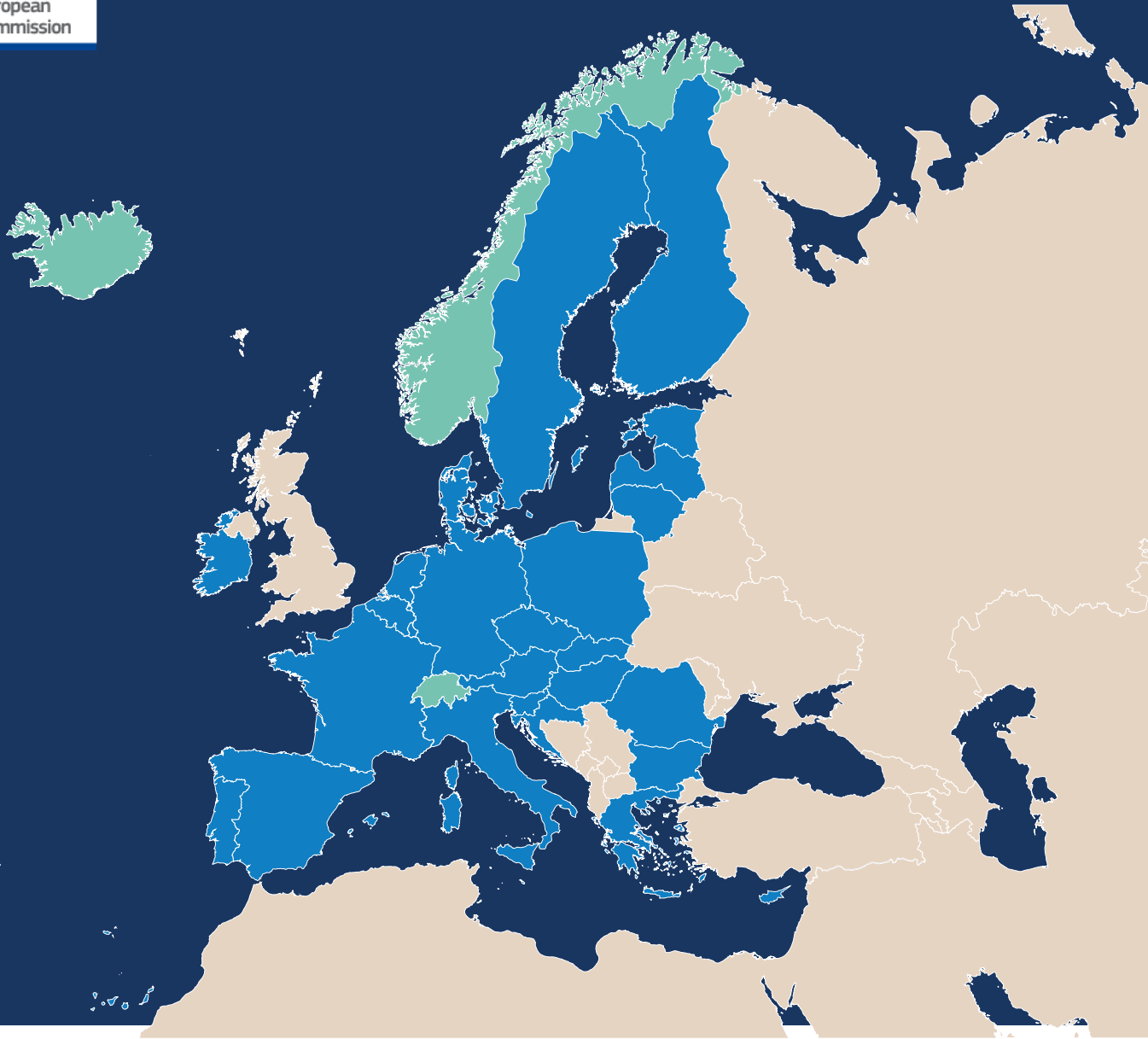
Delegations will find attached the presentation made by the Commission at the meeting of the Working Party on Frontiers of 02 May 2024 on the above-mentioned subject.



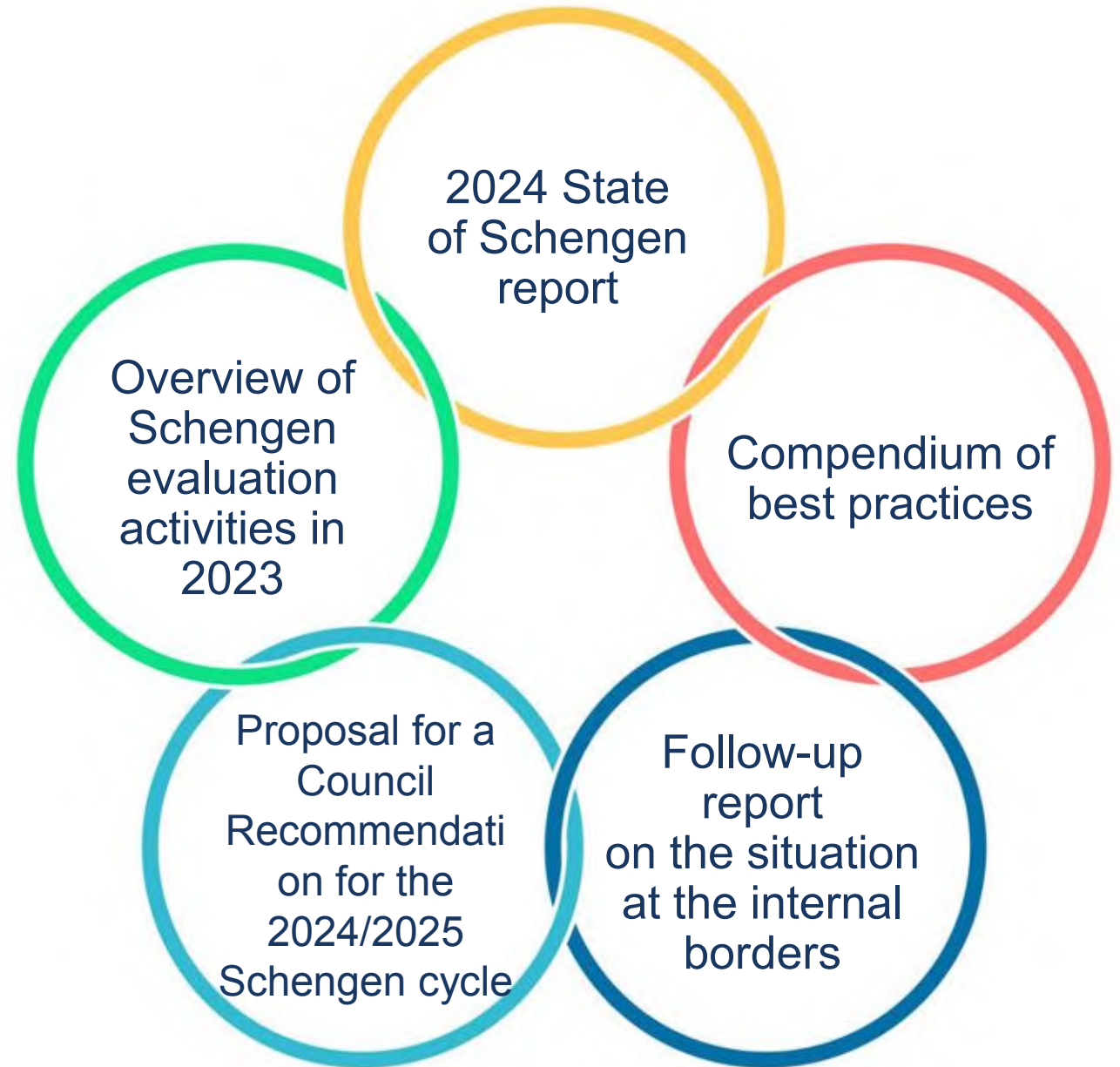
2024 STATE OF SCHENGEN PACKAGE

Frontiers Working Party

2 May 2024

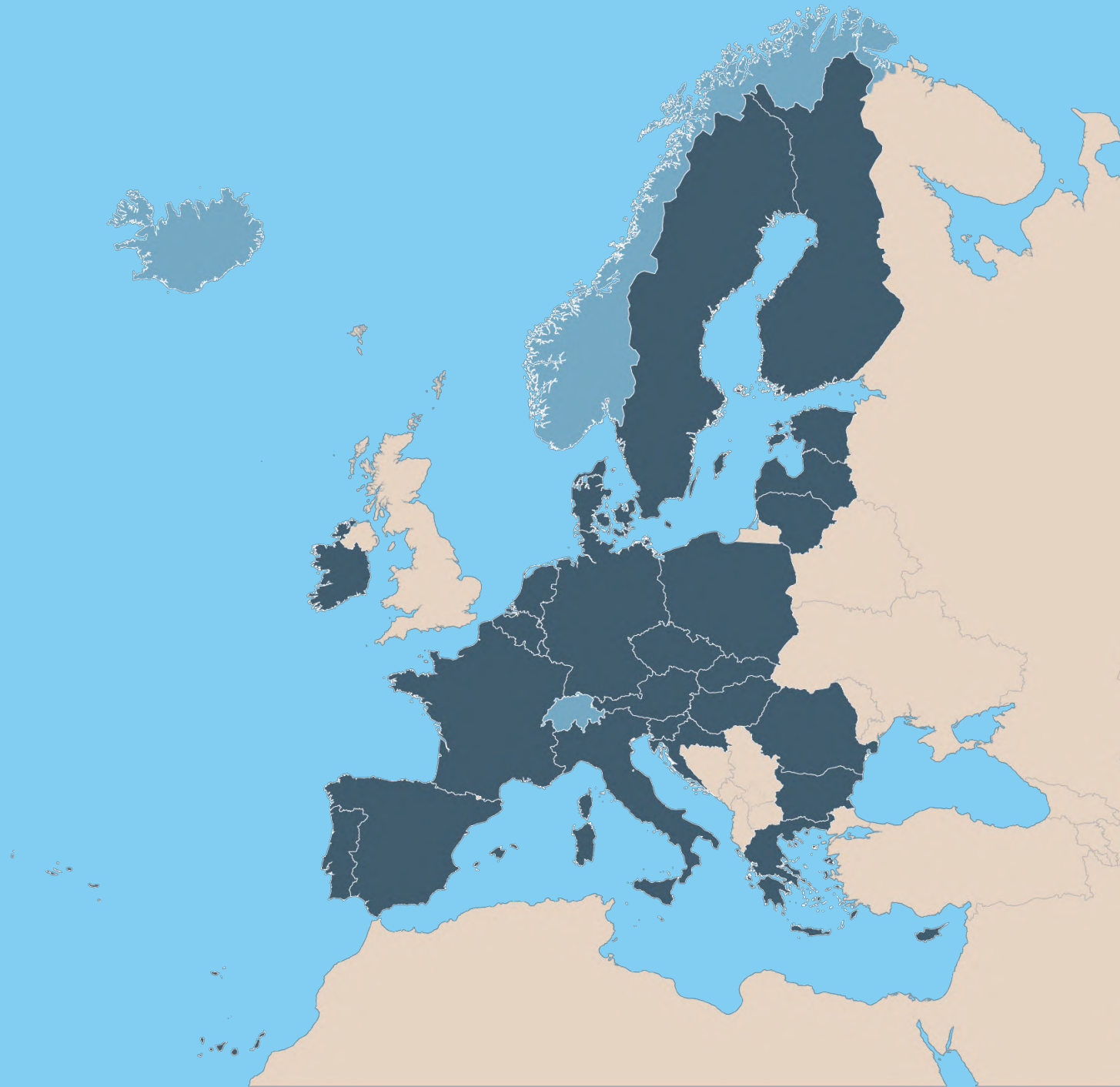


STATE OF SCHENGEN PACKAGE 2024



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2024 STATE OF
SCHENGEN
REPORT



Key milestones



Reinforced legislative framework



Enhanced Schengen governance framework



Completing the Schengen area

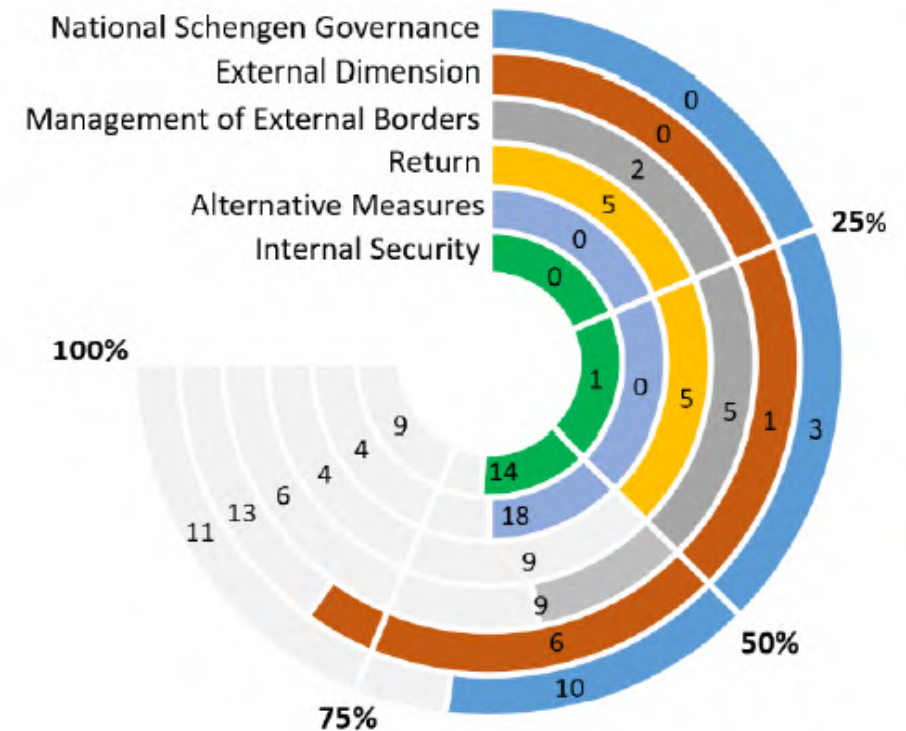


Enhanced cross-border cooperation

Persisting challenges

- Incomplete **situational awareness** limit coordinated response
- Fragmentation in deployments and information sharing by **liaison officers** in third countries
- Vulnerabilities in **border checks**
- Limited capacities for **return**
- Obstacles to the cross-border exchange of information, particularly linked to ineffective and non-automated **Single Points of Contact**

Overall State of Implementation



Main takeaways for border management



Strategic processes: EIBM, Capability Roadmap and Contingency planning.



Border surveillance: integrated surveillance systems, coordination and cooperation, risk analysis and situational awareness.



Strong divergencies in the quality of **border checks** at the EU external borders, highlighting particularly low levels in some Member States.



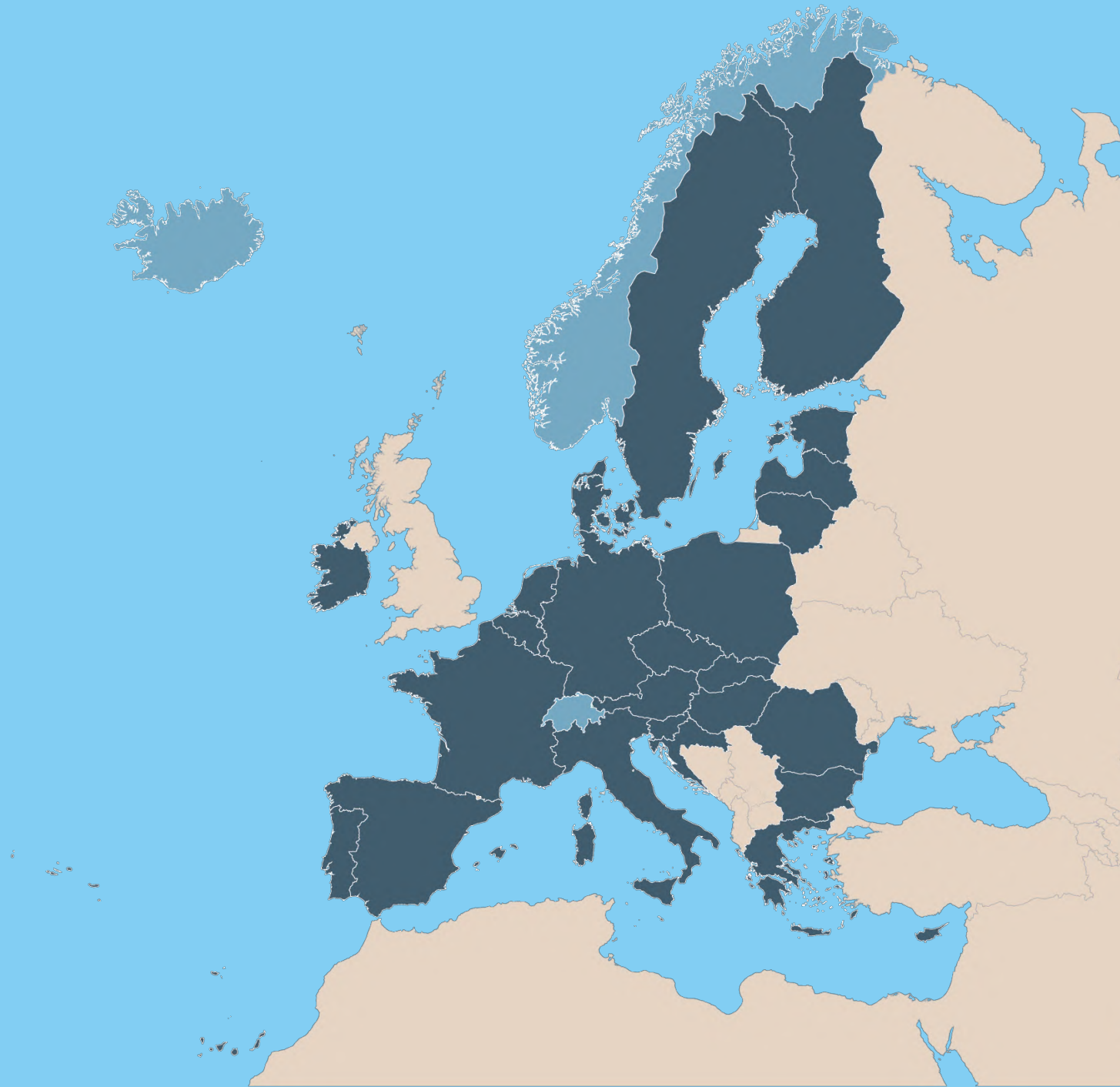
EUROSUR: increased quality and volume of the information exchange. However, operational results and risk analyses are not fully integrated; need for further processing and analysis of information on cross-border crime.



Frontex: 22 operational activities ongoing. Need to take the current dynamic environment into account to provide for specialised profiles to address existing gaps. Follow-up to the EBCG evaluation.

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Annex 3: Follow-up report



Follow-up Report

- **Recommendation** (EU) 2024/268 on cooperation between the Member States with regard to serious threats to internal security and public policy in the
- Report on the **consultation** by the Schengen Coordinator of the Member States concerned by the reintroduction of internal border controls between May and November 2023
- Ongoing **dialogue** on internal border controls, building on best practices from the consultation
- Based on the information contained in the **notifications** and additional information received in the framework of the **dialogue**

Follow-up Report

- The Report covers the period **October 2023 – March 2024**
- **Update** of the situation at border sections that were subject to the consultation process: AUT, DE, DK, FR, SE, NO
- **Overview** of the situation at border sections subject to a reintroduction of internal border controls since 2023: AUT, IT, DE, PL, CZ, SK, SI
- **Inventory** of bilateral and regional cooperation initiatives developed by Member States

Main observations



- Checks are often **non-systematic**, based on **risk assessment** and accompanied by **mitigating measures** to ensure the fluidity of cross-border traffic



- **Bilateral law enforcement cooperation** has increased, with Member States developing joint activities such as joint police patrols in common border areas



- **Day-to-day contacts and information exchange** at joint service centres and Police and Customs Cooperation Centres (PCCCs) ensure situational awareness and help to address cross-border crime, including human smuggling in border areas



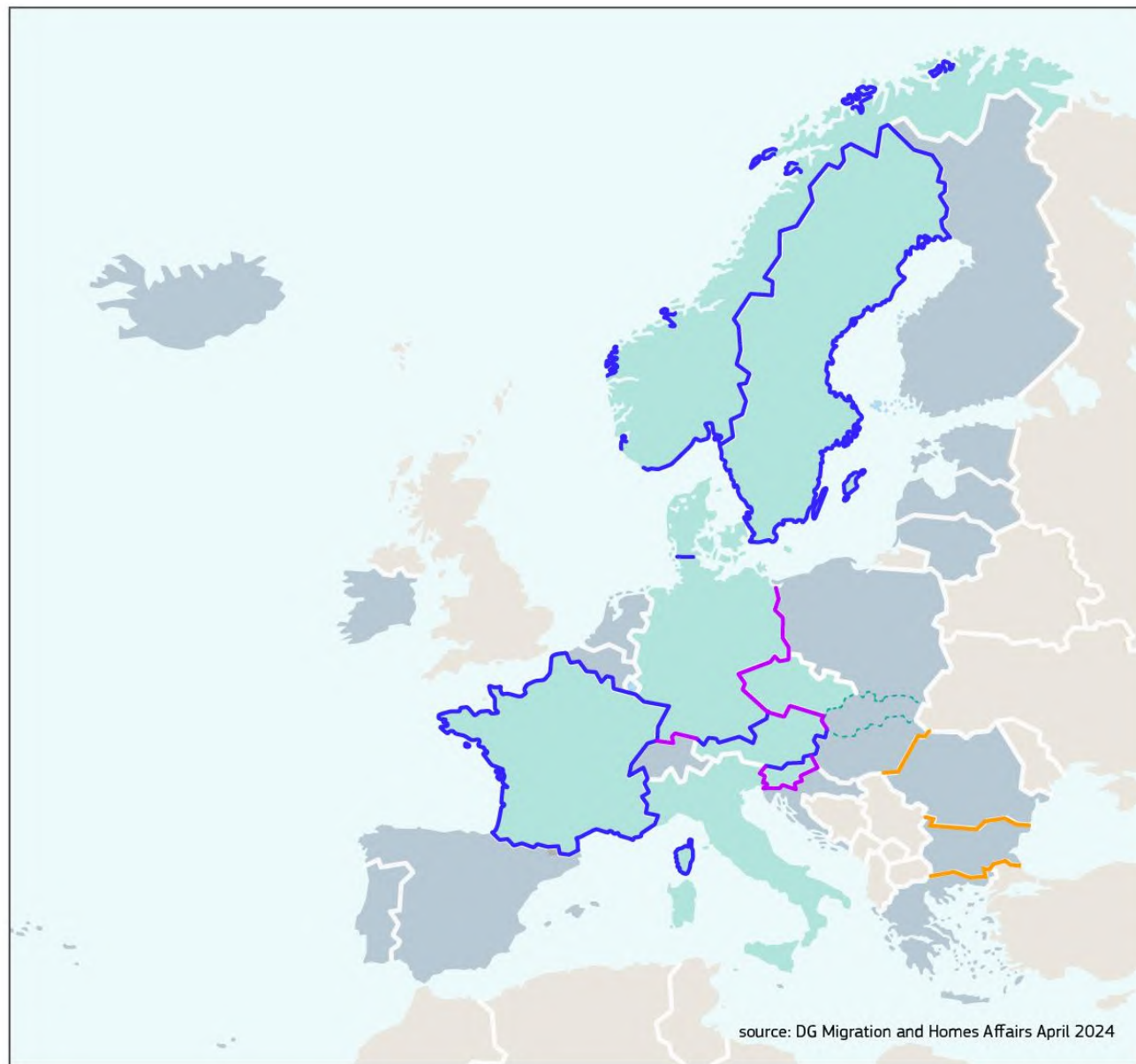
- Member States have **bilateral readmission** agreements in place, but diverging practices following case law of the CJEU

Main observations

- Increase in **regional forms of cooperation**, both at operational and political level
- Often involving neighbouring third countries under a '**whole-of-route**-approach'
- Often within the framework of **existing structures** for cooperation: Visegrad+, Salzburg Forum, Brdo-process, Joint Coordination Platform
- **New initiatives**: joint trilateral cooperation (HR/IT/SI), Border Security Taskforce (AUT/HU/RS), OTF Vistula (CZ/DE/HU/LT/UA), OTF Zebra (DE/HR/IT/SI/BA)



Main observations



Way Forward

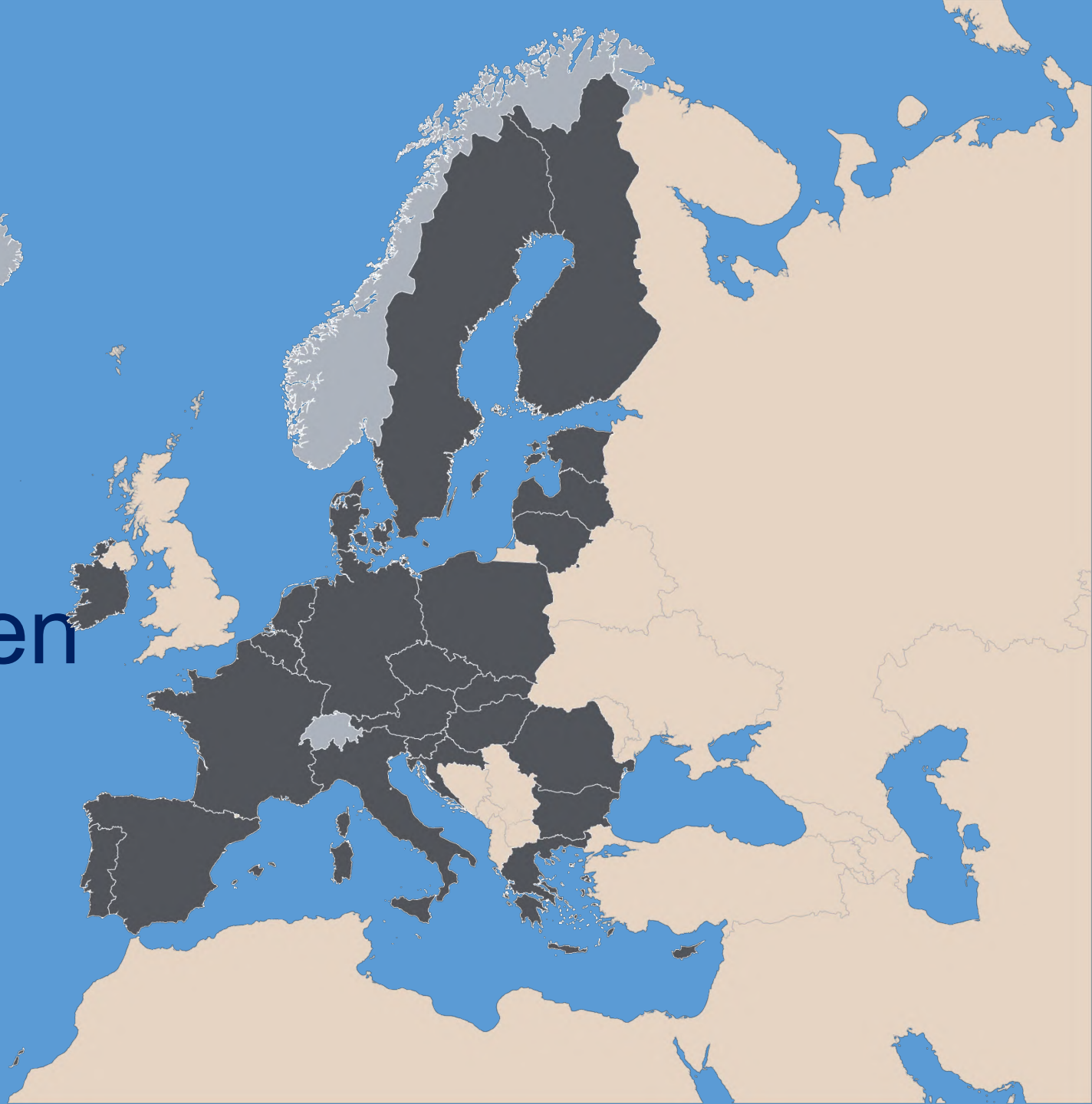
- The revised Schengen Borders Code – once adopted - will provide a **reinforced framework for the use of cross-border police cooperation** in border regions as an alternative to internal border controls
- Member States are encouraged **consolidate and further develop bilateral and multilateral cross-border cooperation**, making full use of available alternative measures, in line with Recommendation (EU) 2024/268
- The new **transfer procedure** under the revised Schengen Borders Code will facilitate readmissions at the internal borders

Way Forward

- The Schengen Coordinator will continue the **active dialogue** with Member States, including on readmission at the internal border and – once adopted – the entry into force of the revised Schengen Borders Code
- The Commission will continue to assist Member States in their efforts to step up **regional cooperation**
- The Commission calls on all Member States to continue to work towards **phasing out** remaining internal borders controls and a sustainable joint management of common challenges
- The Schengen Coordinator will **report regularly** in the Schengen Council on the state of play and progress made.

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2024/2025 Schengen
cycle



Delivering on Schengen governance



Reinforce the role of the Schengen Council by providing a structured follow-up framework for common priorities and increased political dialogue, common ownership and collective responsibility of all Member States



Stepping up the implementation of the Schengen rules through unity of action, thereby reinforcing the governance of the Schengen area



Based on the **results of the Schengen evaluations** and the persistent challenges raised by Member States during the Schengen Council

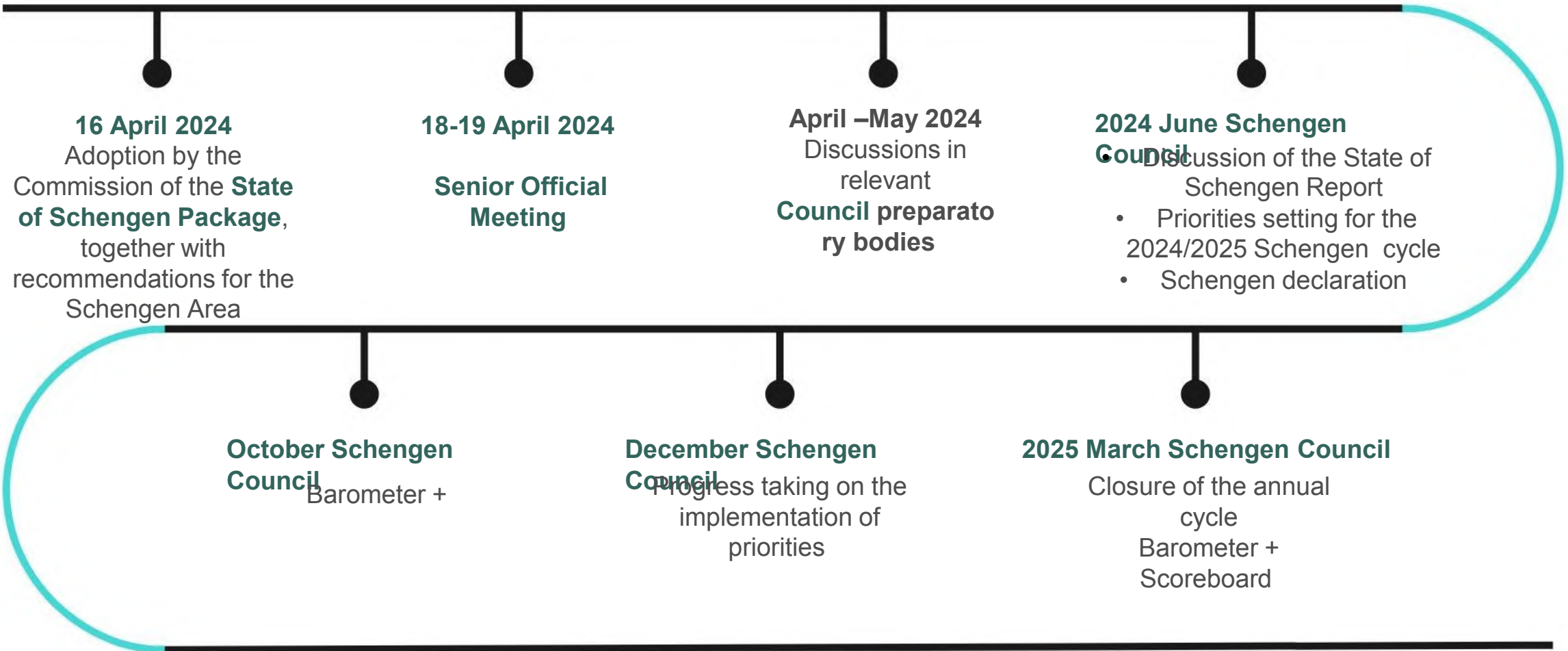


Concrete issues where individual actions of Member States and **collective action of the Schengen Council** would bring added value, in line with existing policy initiatives on Schengen matters

Priority areas for the 2024/2025 Schengen cycle



The Annual 2024-2025 Schengen Cycle



Thank you

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