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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	18 September 2018
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	11835/18
Subject:	Council implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of Norway on the application of the Schengen <i>acquis</i> in the field of police cooperation

Delegations will find in the annex the Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of Norway on the application of the Schengen *acquis* in the field of police cooperation, adopted by the Council at its meeting held on 18 September 2018.

In line with Article 15(3) of Council Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 of 7 October 2013, this Recommendation will be forwarded to the European Parliament and national Parliaments.

Council Implementing Decision setting out a

RECOMMENDATION

on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of the Kingdom of Norway on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of police cooperation

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 of 7 October 2013 establishing an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis and repealing the Decision of the Executive Committee of 16 September 1998 setting up a Standing Committee on the evaluation and implementation of Schengen¹, and in particular Article 15 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The purpose of this Decision is to recommend to Norway remedial actions to address deficiencies identified during the Schengen evaluation in the field of police cooperation carried out in 2017. Following the evaluation, a report covering the findings and assessments, listing best practices and deficiencies identified during the evaluation was adopted by Commission Implementing Decision C(2018) 125.
- (2) Strong points of the Norway's police cooperation system are the Nordic Cooperation framework, in particular the liaison officers' network, and the well-established Single Point of Contact (SPOC) and its working routines for international information exchange. Norway has also developed good practice models developing a new IT architecture and workflow solutions.

¹ OJ L 295, 6.11.2013, p. 27.

- (3) In light of the importance to comply with the Schengen acquis, in particular the requirements for both swift information retrieval and exchange and a level playing field as regarding the cross-border operational framework, priority should be given to implement recommendations 1, 2 and 3 below,
- (4) This Decision should be transmitted to the European Parliament and to the parliaments of the Member States. Within three months of its adoption, the evaluated State should, pursuant to Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013, establish an action plan listing all recommendations to remedy any deficiencies identified in the evaluation report and provide that action plan to the Commission and the Council,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

that Norway should:

1. swiftly implement Council Decision 2008/633/JHA of 23 June 2008 concerning access for consultation of the Visa Information System (VIS) by designated authorities of Member States and by Europol for the purposes of the prevention, detection and investigation of terrorist offences and of other serious criminal offences;
2. provide more in-depth basic and continuous training to the police officers on international police cooperation and the use of international databases (including user-friendly e-learning platforms);
3. raise awareness about the potential of the Council Framework Decision 2006/960/JHA by for instance providing training to police officers;
4. consider interconnecting the new case management system (Palantir Gotham) of the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) with the existing SIRENE case management system;

5. consider extending access to the Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) throughout the law enforcement community;
6. in the context of enhancing information exchange provided for under Title III of the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement, make better use of the Europol Information System (EIS) and contribute information to the system with the assistance of Europol;
7. improve the tracking of deadlines for the replies to incoming international requests by the SPOC;
8. develop clear written guidelines for the SPOC staff regarding the choice of international communication channels;
9. develop specific training for SPOC staff and liaison officers;
10. establish a registration system for cross-border operations that allows for compiling a reliable national statistics for those operations;
11. continue the implementation of a cross-border radio communication solutions (ISI project) with Finland;
12. consider speeding up the implementation of the appropriate legal provisions to allow for joint cross-border operations with the neighbouring Schengen countries.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council
The President*
