



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 7 July 2023  
(OR. en)

11648/23

LIMITE

SCH-EVAL 147  
SIRIS 55  
COMIX 335

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**Interinstitutional File:  
2022/0261(NLE)**

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**NOTE**

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From: European Commission

To: Working Party for Schengen Matters / Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Norway/Switzerland/Liechtenstein)

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No. prev. doc.: 6575/23

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Subject: Schengen evaluation of Greece- Review of the adequacy of the action plan of **Greece** to remedy the deficiencies identified in the 2021 evaluation on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the **Schengen Information System**

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**DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (12.10.2023)**

Delegations will find annexed the review of the adequacy of the action plan of Greece to remedy the deficiencies identified in the 2021 evaluation on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the Schengen Information System, provided by the Commission in accordance with Article 21(2) of Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922.

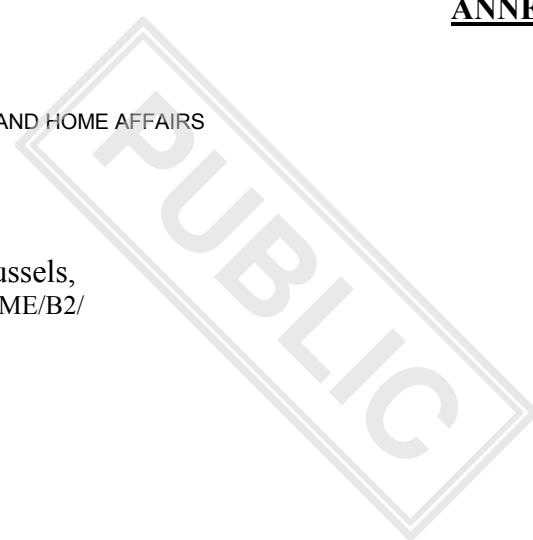
The review of the action plan was provided to Greece by Commission letter of 7 July 2023 (Ref. Ares (2023) 4735899), as set out in the annex.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

The Director-General

Brussels,  
HOME/B2/



*Ambassador Ioannis Vrailas*

*Permanent Representative of Greece to the EU*

**Subject: Review of the adequacy of the action plan of Greece to remedy the deficiencies identified in the 2021 evaluation on the application of the Schengen *acquis* in the field of the Schengen Information System**

Your Excellency,

We thank you for the action plan of Greece to remedy the deficiencies identified in the 2021 evaluation on the application of the Schengen *acquis* in the field of the Schengen Information System, which was submitted to the Commission and the Council on 14 February 2023. Please find attached, pursuant to Article 21(2), first subparagraph of Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922, the review of the adequacy of the action plan.

Please note that in accordance with Article 21(3), first subparagraph of Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922, Greece is to report to the Commission and the Council on the implementation of the action plan every 6 months from the date of notice of receipt of the attached review.

The Commission Services are at the disposal of Greece to facilitate the implementation of the action plan.

Yours faithfully,

Monique Pariat

Contact: **DELETED**

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*Annexes: Review of the adequacy of the action plan of Greece to remedy the deficiencies identified in the 2021 evaluation on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the Schengen Information System*

*Action plan submitted by Greece*

**Review of the adequacy of the action plan submitted by Greece to remedy the deficiencies identified in the 2021 evaluation on the application of the Schengen *acquis* in the field of the Schengen Information System**

(Article 21(2) of Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922)

**1. Introduction**

Council Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013<sup>1</sup> established an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify Member States' application of the Schengen *acquis*.

In accordance with the multiannual<sup>2</sup> and annual<sup>3</sup> evaluation programmes implementing the Regulation, a team consisting of Commission and Member State experts carried out a visit from 7 to 12 November 2021 to verify Greece's application of the Schengen *acquis* in the field of the Schengen Information System.

A report listing the findings and assessments identified during the evaluation was adopted by Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 4300 of 6 September 2022.

In the meantime, Council Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 was replaced by Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922<sup>4</sup>, which entered into application on 1 October 2022. According to the transitional provisions set out in Article 31 of the new Regulation, for evaluations carried out before 1 February 2023 (like the evaluation of Greece), the adoption of evaluation reports and recommendations shall be carried out in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013. The follow-up and monitoring activities, starting with the submission of the action plans, shall be carried out in accordance with the new Regulation (2022/922).

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 295, 6.11.2013, p. 27.

<sup>2</sup> Commission implementing Decision C(2019) 3692 of 17.5.2019 amended by Commission implementing Decision C(2019) 7278 of 15.10.2019 establishing the multi-annual evaluation programme 2020-2024 in accordance with Article 5 of Council Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 of 7 October 2013.

<sup>3</sup> Commission implementing Decision C(2020) 8046 of 14.12.2020 establishing the first section of the annual evaluation programme for 2021 in accordance with Article 6 of the Council Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 of 7 October 2013 establishing an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen *acquis*.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 160, 15.6.2022, p. 1.

Accordingly, the Council adopted on 23 November 2022 an Implementing Decision<sup>5</sup> setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the evaluation report (Article 15(3) of Council Regulation (EU) 1053/2013). Following and pursuant to Article 21(1) of Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922, Greece submitted to the Commission and the Council an action plan<sup>6</sup> to remedy the deficiencies on 14 February 2023.

After consulting the members of the team that has carried out the evaluation and in accordance with Article 21(2), first subparagraph of Regulation (EU) 2022/922, a review of the adequacy of the action plan is provided.

## 2. General assessment

The Greek action plan provides pertinent information on the actions that Greece has taken or will take to remedy the deficiencies observed.

## 3. Detailed assessment

The Commission has specific comments and requests on the following items and invites Greece to respond to them in the follow-up reports.

- **Action 3.1 implementing recommendation 3:** Greece is requested to provide data, in the follow-up reports, on the creations of alerts referred to in that recommendation, in order to follow the implementation through the statistics.
- **Action 4.1 implementing recommendation 4:** The Commission services invite Greece to provide details, in the follow-up reports, on which measures will be taken to streamline and optimize the processes.
- **Action 5.1 implementing recommendation 5:** The Commission services invite Greece to provide information, in the follow-up reports, on the inclusion of warning markers in the alerts after the entry into operation of SIS recast.
- **Action 6.1 implementing recommendation 6:** Greece is requested to provide information, in the follow-up reports, on the envisaged procedure and its establishment.
- **Actions 14.1a, 15.1 and 17.1 implementing recommendations 14, 15 and 17:** The Commission services invite Greece to provide information, in the follow-up reports, on the implementations.

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<sup>5</sup> Council document 15012/22.

<sup>6</sup> Published on the Delegates Portal of the Council (6575/23).

#### 4. Conclusion

The action plan in the field of the Schengen Information System provided by Greece is considered adequate, but that additional information is needed on a series of actions listed above to illustrate and/or confirm the implementation of particular actions.

In accordance with Article 21(3), first subparagraph of Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922 Greece is invited to submit the requested information in the next follow-up report.