Council of the European Union

Brussels, 18 November 2020
(OR. en)

12462/20

**Interinstitutional File: 2020/0248(NLE)**

PARLNAT 106

**NOTE**

| | |
|---|---|
| From: | General Secretariat of the Council |
| To: | National Parliaments |
| Subject: | Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2019 evaluation of Slovakia on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of police cooperation |

In accordance with Article 15(3) of Council Regulation 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 Schengen, the Council hereby transmits to national Parliaments the Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2019 evaluation of Slovakia on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of police cooperation[1].

[1] Available in all official languages of the European Union on the Council public register, doc. 12174/20

Council Implementing Decision setting out a

**RECOMMENDATION**

**on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2019 evaluation of Slovakia 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 Schengen[1], 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 Slovakia remedial actions to address the deficiencies identified during the Schengen evaluation in the field of the police cooperation carried out in 2019. 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(2020) 4100.

(2) In light of the importance of the necessary improvements to the application of police cooperation priority should be given to implementing recommendations 1, 4 and 8 in this Decision.

[1] OJ L 295, 6.11.2013, p. 27.

(3) This Decision should be transmitted to the European Parliament and to the national parliaments of the Member States. Within six months of its adoption, Slovakia should, pursuant to Article 16(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013, provide the Commission with an assessment of the improvements and with a description of required actions,

RECOMMENDS:

that Slovakia should:

1. Swiftly develop a risk analysis strategy taking into account cross border threats and incorporating threats identified by police units at all levels and build up a national single threat assessment system for the police;

2. Develop guidelines (including practical examples) for the choice of channels for international police cooperation and make them accessible at all levels of the police;

3. Enhance the collection and analysis by the International Police Cooperation Office of data regarding the implementation of the relevant articles of the Schengen Convention (i.a.. articles 39 to 41) in order to improve the evaluation and management of cross border operations;

4. Make all relevant international databases and channels, including Europol's Secure Information Exchange Network Application , directly available 24/7 to all divisions of the IPCO;

5. Grant access to Europol's Secure Information Exchange Network Application to relevant police units outside the International Police Cooperation Office at best notice (in line with the current plans), as well as to other law enforcement agencies (e.g. the Asset Recovery Office and the Financial Administration especially the Financial Administration Criminal Office) and consider granting access to Police (and customs) cooperation centres;

6. Extend the access to and increase the use of the Europol Information System within the police and other law enforcement agencies, for instance in the context of the deployment of the Querying Europol's Systems (QUEST) IT tool;

7. Ensure the automated crosschecking of data from incoming requests against the International Police Cooperation Office case management system and the national databases;

8. Improve the technical functionalities and increase the number of mobile equipment enabling access to relevant national and international databases;

9. Raise awareness about the benefits and increase the use of the Council Framework Decision 2006/960/JHA of 18 December 2006 on simplifying the exchange of information and intelligence between law enforcement authorities of the Member States of the European Union ;

10. Raise awareness on the proper use of the Council Decision 2008/633/JHA of 23 June 2008 concerning access for consultation of the Visa Information System 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;

11. Develop and promote a user-friendly e-learning platform available to all police officers covering the international police cooperation issues and any other topics of professional interest;

12. Promote and enhance the availability of language training to police staff, especially in the context of continuous training;

13. Develop and update basic and continuous training of police officers on the Schengen *acquis* and on the use of national and international tools such as the Schengen Information System, Europol's Secure Information Exchange Network Application, Europol Information System and Interpol databases. Dedicated training for the International Police Cooperation Office staff should be given priority;

14. Evaluate the interest of more presence of the Financial Administration at the Police (and Customs) Cooperation Centres and at Europol liaison bureau for enhanced law enforcement cooperation;

15. Consider solutions for extending radio communications coverage within the neighbouring countries for the purpose of cross border operations.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council*
*The President*