Council of the European Union

Brussels, 8 October 2021
(OR. en)

12634/21

Interinstitutional File: 2021/0231(NLE)

SCH-EVAL 118
ENFOPOL 351
COMIX 491

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	7 October 2021
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	12049/21
Subject:	Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2020 evaluation of **Liechtenstein** on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of **police cooperation**

Delegations will find enclosed the Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2020 evaluation of Liechtenstein on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of police cooperation, adopted by the Council at its meeting held on 7 October 2021.

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 2020 evaluation of Liechtenstein 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) A Schengen evaluation in the field of police cooperation was carried out for Liechtenstein in November 2020. 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(2021) 4100.

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

(2) Liechtenstein has concluded bilateral agreements with its immediate neighbors, which go significantly further than the Schengen *acquis* in granting operational possibilities to foreign police officers. Austrian and Swiss crime statistics are integrated into national crime reports, disseminated to all police officers. Liechtenstein has invested in smart solutions such as Interpol's web service and automated crosscheck functionalities of their case management system. These practices are considered as point of particular interest.

(3) Recommendations should be made on remedial actions to be taken by Liechtenstein in order to address deficiencies identified as part of the evaluation. In light of the importance of complying with the Schengen *acquis*, priority should be given to implementing the recommendations 1 to 3.

(4) This Decision should be transmitted to the European Parliament and to the national Parliaments of the Member States. Within three months of its adoption, Liechtenstein 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.

RECOMMENDS:

that Liechtenstein should

Information exchange and international databases

1. develop a technical solution in order to provide police officers with mobile access to relevant national and international databases, while ensuring security of such access.

Case management systems

2. improve the electronic Case Management System to ensure that it integrates data from Europol's Secure Information Exchange Network Application.

3. implement 'fuzzy' logic and improve the user-friendliness of the single search interface (eneXs) for the national police database.

Single Point of Contact

4. consider to extend access to Europol's Secure Information Exchange Network Application to the Emergency Call and Dispatch Centre, including appropriate access rights, in order to receive and send messages in a timely fashion.

Cross-border operational cooperation

5. ensure, in partnership with Austria, the interoperability of cross-border radio telecommunication tools in accordance with Art 44 of the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement.

Human resources and training

6. 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 (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 (the VIS Decision).

7. provide compulsory training on a regular basis to all police officials on EU / international police cooperation and the use of international databases

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President