Council of the European Union

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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 2021 evaluation of **Cyprus** on fulfilling the conditions necessary for 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 2021 evaluation of Cyprus on fulfilling the conditions necessary for 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. 12638/21

Council Implementing Decision setting out a

RECOMMENDATION

on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2021 evaluation of Cyprus on fulfilling the conditions necessary for 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 Cyprus in February 2021. 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) 3500.

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

(2) Cyprus demonstrated its capability to transform strategic findings into organisational improvements by the changes triggered by its national risk assessment on money laundering and financing of terrorism. Cyprus has put in place an appropriate legal framework allowing the four administrations with law enforcement responsibilities to actively work together and exchange information. The memorandum of understanding between the police and the department of customs is an excellent example allowing for significant synergies between both administrations. These practices are considered as points of particular interest.

(3) Recommendations should be made on remedial actions to be taken by Cyprus 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, Cyprus 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 Cyprus should

Single Point of Contact

1. further integrate the different sections of the Single Point of Contact so that all international channels can be managed properly and continuously 24/7;

Case management systems

2. continue to automate information processing at the Single Point of Contact including the integration of Europol's Secure Information Exchange Network Application with the Case Management System;

Information management and international databases

3. 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.

4. integrate relevant international databases (such as Interpol's Automated Search Facility and Europol's Information System) in the single search interface of the Cyprus Police Computerisation Systems and provide access to their liaison officers;

5. develop a widely accessible automated data loader into Europol's Information System;

6. develop a technical solution in order to provide police officers with computerised access to hotel registers, should the need arise;

Strategy

7. develop a more robust threat assessment strategy as the basis for priority setting, participation in international projects and the evaluation of bi- and multilateral agreements;

Ethics

8. continue the efforts to put in place the legislation for the protection of whistle blowers;

Human resources and training

9. develop a dedicated training curriculum on the use of international police cooperation tools tailored to the different task descriptions. Staff members of the Single Point of Contact should be given priority.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President