Council of the European Union

Brussels, 11 November 2019
(OR. en)

13899/19

Interinstitutional File: 2019/0176(NLE)

SCH-EVAL 190
SIRIS 167
COMIX 519

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	8 November 2019
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	13181/19 R-UE
Subject:	Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2018 evaluation of **Lithuania** on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of **Schengen Information System**

Delegations will find in the annex the Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2018 evaluation of Lithuania on the application of the Schengen *acquis* in the field of the Schengen Information System, adopted by the Council at its meeting held on 8 November 2019.

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.

ANNEX

Council Implementing Decision setting out a

RECOMMENDATION

on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2018 evaluation of Lithuania on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of Schengen Information System

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 Lithuania remedial actions to address deficiencies identified during the Schengen evaluation in the field of the Schengen Information System (SIS) carried out in 2018. 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(2019)3020.

(2) The online tool 'Moodle' for SIS related matters, available to all users and using various methods of learning, the legislative novelties about SIS and SIRENE made available on the police intranet, the booklets distributed to end-users, and the publishing of booklets about the data protection in the Schengen Information System, are considered as best practices.

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

(3) In light of the importance to comply with the Schengen acquis, in particular the obligation to attach fingerprints to SIS alerts whenever available, display clearly all information included in the alerts, to ensure full compliance with the security requirements, Lithuania should prioritise the implementation of recommendations(1), (2), (3), (4), (5) and (10).

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

1. introduce the possibility for the competent Lithuanian authorities to enter alerts on invalidated travel documents in the SIS;

2. further develop the Register of Foreigners and the IDIS application to allow the generation of links amongst alerts for refusal of entry or stay and alerts on documents in the SIS;

3. ensure that the Register of Foreigners allows the user to see the availability of binaries in the alert;

4. ensure the indication of the type of offence *"terrorism related activity"* in the VSATIS application;

5. enhance the searching capabilities of the POLIS II application;

6. update the transliteration tables in the end-user application POLIS II;

7. improve further the Automatic number-plate recognition (ANPR) applications, enabling them to query the SIS;

8. automate the processes related to the detection of duplicate or incompatible alerts when creating alerts;

9. enhance REGITRA's existent SIS alert hit reporting procedures and consider automating relevant processes;

10. ensure that alerts on Missing Persons are entered without delay once all relevant information is available;

11. implement at the Migration Department level procedures and tools so that end-users can upload systematically fingerprints or photos related to alerts for refusal of entry and stay in the SIS;

12. ensure that the Migration Office uses the latest version of the SIRENE Manual;

13. ensure that binaries kept at national level by Migration department in hard copy only, are available to SIRENE after working hours;

14. improve the training on SIRENE and SIS matters for the Migration Department officers;

15. implement the *'any name'* search functionality in the national applications;

16. implement the SIS Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) feature as soon as possible;

17. consider testing the SIS back-up solution including a complete switchover of the national SIS regularly;

18. improve the security in the workstations used for processing SIS data by preventing end users from copying content using a removable media;

19. ensure that end-users entering alerts on issued documents insert also the nationality of document, gender, first name and family name whenever available;

20. further improve the display of the POLIS application taking into account end–user needs (e.g., the layout, typography, colour, imagery and sequencing related to the part of the action to be taken requiring users to contact the national SIRENE Bureau immediately, the personal related remarks, the category of identity, the type of offence and linked alerts);

21. align the *reason for request* for alerts on discreet checks and for alerts on specific checks in POLIS and ILO IS with the relevant annex of the SIRENE Manual;

22. facilitate the way the POLIS system searches licence plates by enabling searches without the country of registration;

23. consider adapting POLIS to permit the end-users to see the pictures in PDF format immediately, without downloading them;

24. render the display of SIS alert data in VSATIS more user-friendly and coherent for first-line border management;

25. allow VSATIS users to access links on SIS alerts directly;

26. prioritise the SIS alert data in the VSATIS application;

27. enhance the display of the VSATIS application for it to show the details of a *misused identity victim extension* in person alerts clearly;

28. highlight the SIS warning markers in the VSATIS application;

29. dedicate more time to SIS and SIRENE matters in general training and train-the-trainers programmes (include therein the topics on the linking of alerts, the action to be taken in case of flagged alerts, alerts requiring users to immediately inform the SIRENE office, misused identity victim extensions and the various alerts on objects);

30. develop SIS and SIRENE training modules for the Military Police and Customs;

31. organise awareness training for end-users regarding the use of links between alerts, the action to be taken in the case of flagged alerts and alerts requiring immediate action, data displayed for misused identity extensions and the new categories of objects;

32. facilitate the access to relevant literature on the SIS and SIRENE matters for all categories of end-users;

33. enhance the national SIS Business Continuity Plan by including therein concrete practical measures in respect of SIS business continuity, such as the switching over to a back-up site or switching to an electricity generator.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President