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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	20 February 2020
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	5788/20
Subject:	Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2019 evaluation of the **Czech Republic** 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 2019 evaluation of the Czech Republic on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of police cooperation, adopted by the Council at its meeting held on 20 February 2020.

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 2019 evaluation of the Czech Republic 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 the Czech Republic remedial actions to address deficiencies identified during the Schengen evaluation in the field of 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) 31.

(2) This Decision should be transmitted to the European Parliament and to the parliaments of the Member States. Within six months of its adoption, the Czech Republic 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,

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

RECOMMENDS:

that the Czech Republic should:

1. expedite the necessary steps to provide access to Europol SIENA[1] to the 24/7 Single Point of Contact (SPOC) personnel;

2. swiftly step up its contribution to and its use of the Europol Information System. Consider the use of a data loader;

3. swiftly reach out to Poland with a view to address regular denials of cross-border surveillance requests;

4. swiftly reach out to Poland and Slovakia with a view to step up the cross-border police cooperation with these two countries based on the good practices recently developed with Germany and Austria;

5. reach out to neighbouring countries to ensure both efficient real-time communication during operations and the geolocation of police cars;

6. develop a genuine national criminal intelligence model, with the full involvement of all competent law enforcement agencies, in view of more proactive law enforcement action;

7. develop a thorough training scheme on Schengen police cooperation matters also covering knowledge tests, certification upon successful completion and flanked with a user-friendly e-learning platform;

[1] Secure Information Exchange Network Application.

8. raise awareness on the use of the so-called Swedish Framework Decision[1] for instance through the training of end-users;

9. develop tailored English language training for SPOC staff.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

[1] 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.