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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	7 March 2019
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	6395/19
Subject:	Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2018 evaluation of **Latvia** on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of **police cooperation**

Delegations will find in the annex the Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2018 evaluation of Latvia on the application of the Schengen *acquis* in the field of police cooperation, adopted by the Council at its meeting held on 7 March 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 Latvia 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 Latvia remedial actions to address deficiencies identified during the Schengen evaluation in the field of police cooperation 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) 300.

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

(2) This decision setting out a recommendation should be transmitted to the European Parliament and to the parliaments of the Member States. Within six months of its adoption, the evaluated Member State shall, pursuant to Article 16, paragraph 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013, provide the Commission its assessment on a possible implementation of the recommendations containing indications for possible further improvements and a description of actions where required,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

that Latvia should:

1. improve the Integrated Interior Information System (IIIS) in order to fully implement the fuzzy logic search;

2. establish a 24/7 operational capacity across the International Cooperation Department, including appropriate access rights, in order to receive and send SIENA messages in a timely fashion;

3. extend access to SIENA to designated competent authorities within all relevant law enforcement agencies outside the International Cooperation Department, for example to the criminal police, customs authorities, Security Police and State Border Guards;

4. In the context of enhancing information exchange provided for under Title III of the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement, make effective use of the Europol Information System by contributing relevant information in the system and providing a wide access to it;

5. develop a single case management system within the International Cooperation Department;

6. promote the use of and raise awareness on access to VIS for law enforcement purposes and implement practical possibility for law enforcement agencies to access EURODAC data;

7. evaluate existing agreements and corresponding procedures with a view to addressing the specificities of the twin towns of Valka/Valga;

8. improve the security of the application allowing access to IIIS on private mobile phones.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President