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- Report on the revisit of the Border Crossing Point Kapitan Andreevo and the

BPS Svilengrad (21 March – 23 March 2011)

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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REPORT

from : the Evaluation Committee

to: the Working Party for Schengen Matters (Schengen Evaluation)

Subject : Schengen evaluation of BULGARIA

- Report on the revisit of the Border Crossing Point Kapitan Andreevo and the BPS Svilengrad (21 March – 23 March 2011)
-

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1. INTRODUCTION

Following the decision taken in the meeting of the Working Party on Schengen Matters (Schengen Evaluation) on 14 February 2011, a team of experts carried out a revisit to Bulgaria from 21 to 23 March 2011 in accordance with the programme mentioned in doc. 5031/11 SCH-EVAL 1 COMIX 1.

The programme for the follow-up visit to the land borders of Bulgaria reflects the contents of the report on the revisit of the Border Crossing Point Kapitan Andreevo and the BPS Svilengrad (doc. 18110/10 SCHEVAL 157 COMIX 835), and the previous inspection of the Bulgarian Landborders (doc. 10115/10 SCHEVAL 56 COMIX 387).

As a basis for the revisit, the recommendations and conclusions of the Evaluation Committee, which carried out the revisit (1-3 December 2010) and also the original inspection of the Bulgarian land borders (22 - 26 March 2010), the follow-up provided by Bulgaria since then on the comments and recommendations (the last version having been provided for the meeting of the WP on Schengen Matters on 10 March 2011) and the additional information received in the course of the preparations of the revisit were used.

The report concentrates on the comments and recommendations mentioned in the report on the revisit of the Border Crossing Point Kapitan Andreevo and the BPS Svilengrad (doc. 18110/10 SCHEVAL 157 COMIX 835). Further recommendations and conclusions concerning more general issues were assessed only in the context of reflections on the relevant situation and operations of the BCPs.

The EvalCom would like to thank the Bulgarian Ministry of the Interior and the Bulgarian Border Police for the organisation of the visit, the presentations and the background material provided, their hospitality and the level of professionalism demonstrated as well as the willingness to get all open questions answered.

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2. MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The evaluation report on the revisit of Border Crossing Point Kapitan Andreevo and the BPS Svilengrad is based on the recommendations of the previous revisit, the first visit, the follow-up provided by Bulgaria regularly on those conclusions and recommendations, additional information submitted by the Bulgarian authorities prior to the visit and the findings of the EvalCom from the sites visited during the revisit.

EvalCom was overall appreciative of the openness of the Bulgarian authorities, the readiness to discuss the current state-of-play and the ability to provide additional material and written answers to a series of additional questions that came up during the visit. EvalCom had the possibility to attend all meetings and visit all sites as foreseen in the programme.

EvalCom came to the conclusion that Bulgaria has made good progress from the time of the last revisit in December 2010 and, as regards the field of border control at the external land border, now fulfils the Schengen-requirements.

Bearing in mind the short time elapsed since the time of the last visit EvalCom nevertheless feels the necessity to make the following comments:

EvalCom reiterates its concern that the area BG – TK - EL is, as regards illegal migration, one of the most sensitive areas at the EU and future Schengen external border. Besides timely finalizing all open issues EvalCom considers it necessary that Bulgaria further increases their efforts in strategy and to work even more proactively to better foresee upcoming changes in migration flows and its effects on all entities (border control, compensatory measures, detention-facilities and also voluntary and forced return). EvalCom is furthermore of the firm opinion that , although there are encouraging signs of improvement on operative level between BG and TK, there is still need for substantial basic improvement in international cooperation affecting the whole border area between TK, EL and BG (to be achieved possibly also with the assistance of different EU-channels). To further enhance the already undertaken measures and to adequately prepare for a possibly increasing migration-pressure after full accession EvalCom finally invites BG to prepare a “special package” of accompanying measures.

EvalCom recommends to the WP on Schengen Matters (Schengen Evaluation) to advise BG to continue to report regularly on the measures undertaken (with a special focus on the comments and recommendations expressed in this report).

The complete findings and results of the evaluation can be found in the general information and the comments on the visited sites, the table covering the previous recommendations, the follow-up as reported by the Bulgarian authorities and the state-of-play as it was seen by EvalCom during the visit and the „General Conclusions " at the end of the report.

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3. GENERAL INFORMATION

3.1. Border Checks

3.1.1. BCP Kapitan Andreevo

3.1.1.1. Infrastructure and equipment

In accordance with the programme agreed upon by the WP on Schengen Matters and following the recommendations of the Land Borders Evaluation Report of Bulgaria EvalCom visited the BCP Kapitan Andreevo. Prior to the visit EvalCom was informed that following improvements had been carried out (also checked during the visit):

General issues:

- Increase in the amount of fuel available at all sections of the EU-external border (RDBP Dragoman to Serbia: +7,4%; RDBP Kyustendil to FYROM: +10,2%, RDBP Elhovo to Turkey: + 81%)
- Implementation of the TETRA communication for direct communication between regional police station and the BP patrols
- Reintroduction of the full rotation-scheme in the 1st line (with the exception of the officers performing physical checks on the lorry-lanes, who are still – due to practical reasons – rotating according to their duty-roster)
- Plans to increase staff at the border to Serbia (RDBP Dragoman + 47) and at the border to Turkey (RDBP Elhovo + 107; officers appointed; training ongoing; extra staff for the summer peak-time at the BCPs Kalotina and Kapitan Andreevo)
- Plans for the relocation of technical equipment (internal to external border) after full accession to Schengen
- Relocation of forces and means for air surveillance to Bezmer airbase near the border to Turkey and start of the elaboration of Elhovo air base (now both air bases in Sofia and Bezmer are fully operative, personnel is in place and air-surveillance is an integral part of the border-surveillance concept and the number of flights is increasing)

Issues related to the BCP Kapitan Andreevo:

- Border control Stamps in compliance with the technical specifications of Schengen were put into operation
- The issuance of visa was adapted and is now in compliance with the Visa Code
- The fencing was repaired and further strengthened both at the road- and the railway-BCP.
- The halls for the inspections of the lorries (entry) were repaired
- The RALEN-system was found in full operation and procurement-procedures for a second system and additional mobile laboratories for the search for hidden persons have started
- The third weighbridge for lorries was put into operation and the workflow on entry-checks adapted (now clear structure of checks from 1st line check to the possibility of using heart-beat-detectors and unloading incl. frozen goods; improved cooperation with customs)
- Halls for second-line checking of cars and busses were built on entry and exit (properly integrated into the flow of traffic)
- The sheds and traffic lights (entry and exit) were improved throughout the border crossing point.

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- Premises for INADs and a premise for detained persons were equipped and the detention-centre in Ljubymets was opened.

In addition to the improvements listed above, which EvalCom could also inspect in practice, EvalCom was also informed that planning has now been completed and, as from October 2011 onwards, the “Second Trade and Transport Facilitation Project (TTFSE II) of the WORLD BANK on Rehabilitation, Repairs and Modernization of Kapitan Andreevo Border Crossing Point” is going to be implemented. The project (12 Mio €) is expected to have the following schedule:

- Preparation of technical designs – June 2011;
- Carrying out of International Competitive Bidding for works:
 - Preparation of Bidding Documents – May 2011;
 - Advertising of Bidding Procedure - July 2011;
 - Signing of Contract with awarded contractor – October 2011;
- Implementation of rehabilitation works:
 - Start of the Works implementation – October 2011;
 - Completion of Works – December 2012;

The project started with the construction of the connection of Maritsa Motorway to the border zone (was already seen in operation; is, from an operative point of view, deeply needed, as current traffic flow leads to severe queuing especially in the lorry-exit-area). The new road will lead to a new separation of lanes for heavy and light traffic at the barriers of the BCP and therefore also to a reorganization of the controls on the given BCP area, where, among others, the following measures are foreseen:

- Repairs and rehabilitation of the existing canopy constructions (placement of control booths for Customs Control)
- Repairs and rehabilitation of the existing buildings;
- Repairs and rehabilitation of existing and construction of new inspection facilities for Detailed Customs Inspection;
- Facilities for Fire fighting, medical post,
- installation of a separate lane for bulky transports

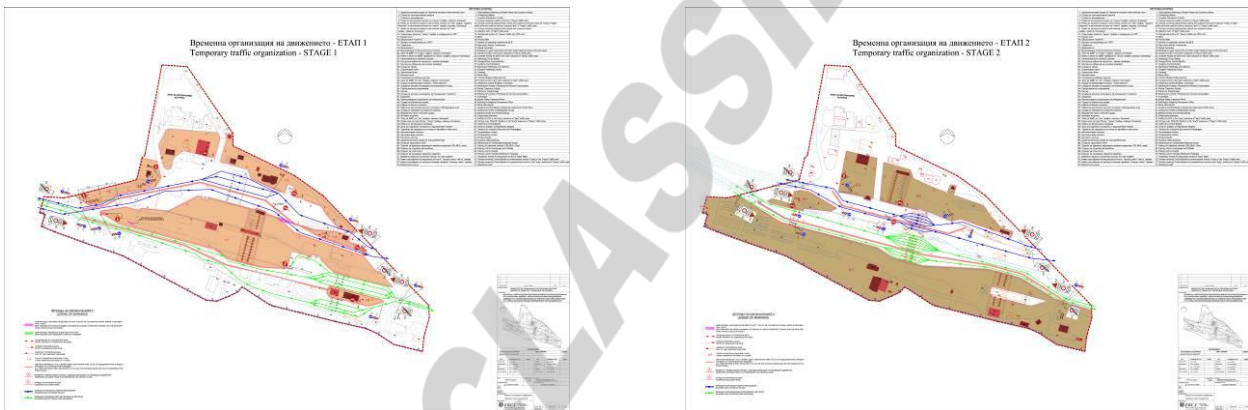
EvalCom was informed that all activities will be carried out on the condition of permanent work of Border Crossing Point and that a special Steering Working Group was initiated for implementation of activities planned. The group, chaired by Border Police, comprises responsible representatives of all headquarters and local border agencies and is responsible for elaboration of Plan for Security Measures during implementation of rehabilitation activities. Overall goal is that rehabilitation and repair-activities shall not affect the security of the border as they are to be carried out in coordination and under guidance and management of the Border Police (It is planned in stages to be realized out of active season, i.e. from October to April; before implementation of each stage of activities the Steering Group will define specific and detailed plan and time-table to observe security measures and each of the activities, planned for the particular border sub-zones, will start after securing of all measures for the placement of dividing fences in order to guarantee security of separate traffic lanes).

The following new layout of the BCP was introduced to EvalCom:

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This new layout, which will lead to additional lanes in entry and exit (vehicles and lorries), to additional lanes for busses and to one-stop controls being performed commonly by customs and BP, will be reached in the following two stages:



3.1.1.2. Staffing

EvalCom was informed that, as a basis for the future development and further improvement of border control at the future Schengen external borders, a “Strategy for the Development of border Police after the Accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Schengen area – 2011 – 2013” was published on 8 February 2011. Besides detailed elaborations on the current status, planned steps and foreseen changes at the different sections of BG borders (internal and external), the strategy also contains concrete proposals for changes in staffing. In addition to these elaborations Evalcom was informed as follows:

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- From the future internal border with RO a total of 125 persons will be redeployed (RDBP Dragoman + 31, RDBP Kyustendil + 30, RDBP Elhovo + 52, SASS (Specialized Air Service Squad) + 12)
- At the future internal border to Greece, which is expected to be, according to the BG authorities, still a very sensitive area (after full accession of BG to Schengen), it is foreseen to leave the personnel in the 1st year unchanged and just to monitor the situation (while fully respecting Schengen and changing former systematic border checks and border surveillance to compensatory checks along the main traffic routes and at the newly established hotspots). If the situation allows (and based on current planning) it is foreseen to move then from the RDBP Smolyan
 - in the 2nd year 223 persons (RDBP Dragoman + 60, RDBP Kyustendil + 25, RDBP Elhovo + 112, SASS + 26) and
 - in the 3rd year 268 persons (RDBP Dragoman + 60, RDBP Kyustendil + 47, RDBP Elhovo + 140, SASS + 21)
- Besides the steps mentioned above there has also been a factual increase in staffing. So far 107 persons have been appointed to RDBP Elhovo and 47 to RDBP Dragoman. They are, since 7 March, being trained and will then be posted at BCPs and in the field of border surveillance (to be expected as from the end of September 2011 onwards) as follows:

At Regional Directorate Border Police Dragoman (Bulgarian-Serbian border)– 47 officials:

- a. At BCP Kalotina – 21 officials (10 additionally opened positions and 11 vacancies);
- b. At BPS Kalotina – 19 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies);
- c. At BPS Bregovo - 4 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies);
- d. At BPS Chiprovtsi – 2 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies);
- e. At BPS Trun – 1 official in the field of border surveillance (vacancy).

At Regional Directorate Border Police Elhovo (Bulgarian-Turkish border) - 107 officials

- a. At BCP Kapitan Andreevo - 52 officials (48 additionally opened positions and 4 vacancies);
 - b. At BPS Svilengrad – 17 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies);
 - c. At BPS Malko Tarnovo – 12 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies);
 - d. At BCP Malko Tarnovo – 6 officials (vacancies);
 - e. At BPS Elhovo - 6 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancy);
 - f. At BCP Lesovo – 9 officials (4 additionally opened positions and 5 vacancies);
 - g. At BPS Bolyarovo – 4 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies);
 - h. At BPS Sredets – 1 official in the field of border surveillance (vacancy).
- To complete the picture, it is finally also foreseen to temporarily redeploy (during the summer of 2011) by an order further 58 seconded officers from the internal border to the BCP Kapitan Andreevo (+48) and the BCP Kalotina (+10).

3.1.1.3.

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Visa

Visa issuance at the BCP Kapitan Andreevo was found in compliance with the rules and regulations of the visacode. Visas are being issued electronically (incl. photo) on the common EU-visa-sticker (old version) and by means of the new AIS 'Border Control' and the VIS working stations at the BCPs with ability of taking biometric data (have been put into operation at all BCPs at the external border). The visa-fee charged was found to be in compliance with the provisions of the visacode and is calculated automatically as fixed part of the issuing-process. Consultation-procedures with the MFA on each visa-application, as previously found in place, have been abolished.

As regards the visasticker, the following additional information was made available to EvalCom: The responsible authority for printing the visasticker is the MoI under the request of the MFA.

Currently there is a project under implementation, under which 1 Mio new visa stickers following the relevant specifications (1683/95/EC and 856/2008/EC) are being printed (completion foreseen until 1 July 2011). The new format including the new technical specifications will therefore be available in time before the implementation of the VIS.

The appropriate training of the responsible Border Police officers (including processing of submitted visas applications, taking biometrics, entering data in National Visa Information System, issuing of visas and visa stickers printing, as well as settings in National Visa Information System) has been undertaken. In order to ensure access of the officials from the BCPs to the NVIS Organizational Technological Rules for Issuing Visas at Borders were approved.

3.2. Border Surveillance

3.2.1. National Coordination Centre

The EvalCom had the opportunity to visit the National Coordination Centre in Sofia, which was prepared to operate but still empty during the revisit of December 2010.

It has 6 working positions, out of which 3 are currently occupied by the Border Police (24/7) and 1 by Customs (8 hours per day). A place is foreseen for connection to the integrated border surveillance system at the land border (which will go into effect after the IBSS, 1st stage, is finished; currently foreseen date for the 1st stage incl. the LCC Svilengrad to go into operation is December 2011).

The staffing-level at the NCC is currently 15 persons.

The integrated surveillance system at the sea border has already been integrated. Other functions performed were said to be:

- following the positions of patrol cars of BP and National Police (at the border and mobile units) and helicopters by a secure line (direct communication with them is possible through TETRA radio system);
- receiving information about hits in the SIS throughout the country;
- receiving information about relevant facts occurred during border checks and surveillance, and storage of the relevant information on the different cases in a database and also in a geographic information system (making possible structured analysis by flow, occurrences, nationalities etc.),

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- receiving information from the peripheral security system of RBPD Dragoman,
- receiving information from other sources like i. a. public prosecutor's office, judicial police, open sources,
- coordination of special police operations and operations at national level,
- transmission of instructions nationwide,
- elaboration of daily reports,
- receiving weather information useful for organizing air and sea patrols,
- NPOC for Schengen stamps' security codes and minors.

There is an Analysis and Prognosis Unit, with 10 officers, which elaborates weekly and monthly risk analysis reports and participates in joint risk analysis with the Migration Directorate and the Customs agency. It also processes statistical data and is in charge of sending the bimonthly reports to FRONTEX.

3.2.2. *The Integrated System for Control and Surveillance at the Bulgarian-Turkish border*

During the visit EvalCom had the chance to obtain also updated information on the Integrated System for control and Surveillance at the Bulgarian-Turkish border. At the beginning the projected date for finalization of the first part was confirmed (Svilengrad → Lesovo; length of 58.201 m, will be ready by 30 November 2011 and handed over to the BP on 12 Dec. 2011).

As regards the current status the following information could be obtained from the BP and the company ERICSSON responsible for the implementation of the project:

- The whole project is the result of a tender procedure under Schengen Facility in 2009 (Contract Nr. 287/08.09.2010 with Ministry of Finance; Contractor - Consortium "Ericsson Slovakia-Bulgaria"; Beneficiary Ministry of Interior, Chief Directorate Border Police); the contract was signed on 8 September 2010, has an execution-period of 460 days and the system launch is foreseen for 12 December 2011
- The system comprises the following main parts:
 - Command and Control Centers
 - Regional Coordination Center – Elhovo
 - Local Coordination Center – Svilengrad
 - Peripheral Surveillance Systems
 - 6 x Stationary Post for Technical Surveillance (SPT)
 - 35 km Perimeter Signaling and Guarding System (PSGS)
 - 5 x Mobile Posts for Technical Surveillance (MPTS)
 - Communication Network
- The project is divided into a
 - Design and Acquisition Phase (→ 30.6.2011)
 - Civil works Phase (→ 30.9.2011) and
 - Installation & Integration Phase (→ 30.11.2011)
- The introduced project-plan shows that the execution of the project is currently along the foreseen timeline.

EvalCom was furthermore introduced to the technical specifications of the SPTS, PSGS and MPTS and found them, after crosschecking, up-to-date and sufficient to serve as a technical basis for surveillance.

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EvalCom could also visit the foreseen LCC at the BPS in Svilengrad, where currently the operations room with three operator workplaces, one additional workplace for the chief operator and the appropriate equipment for wall-display of the situational picture and the relevant communication-equipment are being installed (similar information was also given to EvalCom as regards the installation of the RCC at Elhovo);

3.2.3. *Air-Surveillance*

In December 2010 the concept for air surveillance of the state border of the Republic of Bulgaria was updated.

The main contents of the updated concept are the following:

- specific tasks of the air surveillance component (prevent illegal border crossing through early acquisition of information on the operational situation and provide for reliable interaction);
- operational area (area of operation; border zone, inland maritime waters, territorial waters, contiguous zone along the EU-external border);
- risk directions for air surveillance (detailed routes along the border to TK, the black Sea, FYROM, Serbia);
- current situation and concrete measures to enhance the capacity of air surveillance;
- organisational structure and the stages of realization of the concept with the specific measure for each stage (establishment of a specialized Air Service Squad – SASS and two bases in Sofia and Elhovo with the air base in Bezmer being installed as a temporary base until completion of Elhovo and identification of basic and tactical landing places; preparation and training of the necessary flying- and support-personnel; clarification of leadership and management).

The implementation of the updated concept is foreseen in two stages (upon and after full accession to Schengen).

On 24 January, 2011, two of the helicopters (one middle sized AGUSTA AW139 and a light type AGUSTA A109E) have been redeployed to Bezmer Airbase near the town of Elhovo (16 minutes flight time to Bulgarian-Turkish border), so currently there are available

- 2 helicopters in Bezmer base (one middle sized AGUSTA AW139 and one light AGUSTA A109E) and
- 2 helicopters in Sofia base (two light AGUSTA A109E).

Distances from Base Bezmer:

For the Bulgarian – Turkish border:

- to BPS Svilengrad 78 kilometers away and at a speed of 280 km/h – 16 minutes;
- to BPS Elhovo 35 kilometers away and at a speed of 240 km/h - 9 minutes
- to BPS Malko Tarnovo 115 kilometers away and at a speed of 240 km/h - 29 minutes.

For the sea border:

- to BPS Burgas 93 km away and at a speed of 240 km/h - 23 minutes
- to BPS Varna 150 km away and at a speed of 240km/h - 38 minutes.

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Distance from Base Sofia:

For the Bulgarian – Serbian border:

- to BPS Kalotina 56 km away and at a speed of 240km/h - 14 minutes
- to BPS Bregovo 174 km away and at a speed of 280km/h – 37 minutes.

For the Bulgarian – FYROM border:

to BPS Blagoevgrad 78 km away and at a speed of 240km/h - 20 minutes

- to BPS Gyueshevo 94 km away and at a speed of 240km/h - 23 minutes
- to BPS Zlatarevo 146 km away and at a speed of 240km/h - 36 minutes

Since then 24 officers of the Specialized Unit for air surveillance (flight and engineer staff) are available at the Bezmer Airbase and full operational coverage (planned and emergency flights) of the Bulgarian border with Turkey as well as air surveillance of the maritime border is ensured.

Currently it is possible to provide 24/7 coverage by using the already available staff of the CDBP and also – following a governmental agreement – the staff of the Government air squad (due to the agreement also operating under the competence of the CDBP). In parallel a competition procedure has been started to appoint officers for crew- and land staff and to fill the still existing 27 vacancies.

In December, due to the bad weather conditions, just two planned flights for air surveillance of the Bulgarian-Turkish and Bulgarian-FYROM border were carried out.

In January 2011 six flights for air surveillance of the external borders – two on Bulgarian-Turkish border, three on the sea border and one on the Bulgarian-Serbian border were carried out. Two from these flights (one on the Bulgarian-Turkish and one on the Bulgarian-Serbian borders) were carried out in relation with special police operations.

In February 2011 11 scheduled flights for air surveillance were performed - 6 on the Bulgarian-Turkish border, 1 on the Bulgarian-FYROM border, 3 on the Bulgarian-Serbian and 1 on the sea border.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

On 26 January 2011 the updated Joint risk analysis on Migration processes and forecasts of changes in the Migration Pressure Changes (joint analysis between CDBP and “Migration” Directorate) was approved. The document outlines the trends and potential threats to be addressed in order to guarantee overall security at the borders. The statistical data included in the analysis covers the period 2007-2010 according to the established “European “indicators for illegal migration. According to the analysis, an increase of migratory pressures on the Turkish-Bulgarian border can be expected after the accession of Bulgaria to the Schengen area.

On 8 February 2011 a Strategy for the development of the Border Police after the Bulgaria’s accession to the Schengen area was approved as well.

Both documents outline the strategic view for border control after Bulgaria’s accession to the Schengen area.

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On 26 January 2011 also the Risk analysis of migration processes and prognosis for changes in the migration pressure of the CDBP were approved. At the regional level (Elhovo) the Risk analysis on migration processes and prognoses for migratory pressure changes on the BG-TK border was adopted 3 March 2011.

On 23 February 2011 the National Strategy in the field of Migration, Asylum and Integration (2011-2020) has been adopted by the Council of Ministers. All main agencies/structures involved in or contributing to the preparation of the risk analysis are integrated to the regular meetings.

Furthermore the Joint risk analysis on Migration processes and forecasts of changes in the Migration Pressure Changes (between CDBP and Migration Directorate) and the Risk analysis of migration processes and prognosis for changes in the migration pressure of the CDBP are published at the internal site of the CDBP (<http://www.nsgp.mvr.bg>), section “Internal information”, “Internal news” and have been made available to the chief, regional and specialized MoI Directorates as well as to the State Agency for Refugees and the Council of Ministers

The EvalCom considers that situational awareness at the national as well as regional level was clearly presented in the new documentation. The presented documents are well structured and used methodology is clear. Presented conclusions and predictions are clearly based on analysed evidence. The BP is able to present well-grounded analysis related to foreseen situation at the external borders. However, there is no analysis related to possible weak points in the system or clear recommendations on how to cope with identified threats in the presented documents.

According to Bulgarian analyses the border situation will become more demanding, when Bulgaria starts to implement Schengen system. The illegal immigration pressure will become heavier and Bulgarian border security system will face more challenges, although the Bulgarian authorities do not expect an extremely big extra flow of irregular immigration. For the emergency situation there are tested action plans at the regional and national level. If need be, Bulgaria is also preparing plans on how to use FRONTEX resources.

5. DETENTION CENTRE OF LYUBIMETS

The EvalCom had the opportunity to visit the detention centre in Lyubimets, 30 Km from the border and inaugurated the previous week (15th March). It is completely fenced, with 4 watchtowers and 107 cameras.

It has a capacity of 300 places, plus 19 at the quarantine rooms. The only other existing detention centre is located in Sofia, with a capacity of 400 places. Additionally, there are centres in Sofia and Banya for asylum seekers with 500 and 80 places respectively, and a new one with 300 places will be opened in a short time in Pastrogor, near Lyubimets.

The Migration Directorate (Ministry of Interior) runs the centre, while the Police is in charge of security. The total staff is currently 74 people, but in 3 months time it will reach the final amount of 156.

All the necessary assistance and security facilities are available, including separate rooms for men, women and families, medical aid, interviewing and investigating offices, EURODAC terminal, etc.

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The maximum detention period according to Bulgarian law is 6 months, with the possibility to be extended up to 18 months; this latter has to be decided by court decision

At the moment of the visit, only 7 illegal migrants were held in the centre.

While asking the representatives of the Migration Directorate about the return procedures, the EvalCom learnt that removals sometimes have to be postponed due to ongoing pre-trial procedures for migrants apprehended illegally crossing the border.

Asked about a foreseeable increase in the number of illegal migrants entering Bulgaria after Schengen accession, the Migration Directorate authorities didn't seem to be worried and declared to have sufficient capacity. Nonetheless, there is a project to create another centre next year. Different military sites are being looked at in order to evaluate the possibility of adapting them for that purpose.

6. COOPERATION WITH FRONTEX

The cooperation between Bulgaria and FRONTEX is, according to the BG authorities, intensive and covering several different aspects.

- In 2011 BG is heavily engaged in the planning of and participation in the JO POSEIDON LAND, which is running between March and October in the BPS Svilengrad and at the BCP Kapitan Andreevo.
- In addition there will also be some Focal Point offices.
- BG is also heavily engaged in exercises in EL and at the border between EL and TK with staff and equipment (i. a. TVV and dog-units; it is foreseen to increase and further expand those activities).
- It is foreseen to continue to work strongly on this cooperation in order to be prepared and have measures already set up in case of a possible change in migration pressure after joining Schengen.

7. COOPERATION WITH GREECE AND TURKEY

In general, little progress could be observed resulting from the Bulgarian efforts to improve cooperation with Turkey, involving also Greece in some issues.

Concerning the draft trilateral agreement for establishing a common contact centre for police and customs cooperation between Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey that Bulgaria has elaborated; in the beginning of February 2011 the Greek side confirmed their readiness for participating.

BG reported that a place has already been reserved for this tripartite PCCC at the BCP Kapitan Andreevo.

Turkey has responded to the proposed agreements on joint patrols and the establishment of bilateral centres by proposing dates for negotiations from April onwards. The opportunity will probably be taken to discuss also the creation of the tripartite PCCC.

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Meetings of the bilateral committee with Turkey have continued to be organized, with an extraordinary one motivated by the rise of illegal migration in November and December. In the framework of this ad hoc meeting held in January 2011 the following topics were discussed:

- Joint specification of the routes of illegal migrants and the places for crossing the common border.
- Exchange of telephone numbers between the both duty units responsible for border security and specifying the way for mutually informing;
- Specifying the way for mutual coordinated activities when establishing group of persons near to the common border aiming to cross it illegally.

As EvalCom was informed, operative cooperation at BCPs is being practiced on a daily basis, although more information is going from BG to TK than vice versa.

More formalized cooperation in the field of border surveillance between BG and the Turkish Gendarmery and Army is often hampered by the lack of clearly defined competences and overlapping of responsibilities inside Turkey.

When warning the Turkish authorities about imminent illegal border crossings by groups of migrants, only sometimes does this end with an interception from the Turkish side.

BG however observed an increased presence of the army at the TK borderline.

8. OVERVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREVIOUS REVISIT – FOLLOW-UP – STATE-OF-PLAY

In the following part, comments by the experts have been - for the BCP Kapitan Andreevo and the BPS Svilengrad - added to the comments and recommendations of the previous revisit Evaluation Committee which formerly visited Bulgaria and the progress Bulgaria reported in the meantime in the follow-up-process (basis: follow-up provided by the Bulgarian authorities in March 2011).

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CONCLUSIONS March 2010	CHANGES INTRODUCED BY BULGARIA in the course of the follow-up	COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EVALCOM
BCP Kapitan Andreevo		
<p>Issuance of visas was carried out in compliance with the Schengen acquis. However, the fact that MFA has to give permission each time a visa is issued makes this procedure unnecessarily long. The Bulgarian authorities are invited to consider changing this procedure and only involving the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs in cases when consultation or thorough investigations are needed. The EvalCom notes that visa stickers were filled in manually and encourages the Bulgarian authorities to bring the new automated visa issuing system into full operation as soon as possible.</p> <p><i>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 21 and page 54.</i></p> <p>Legislative amendment will enter into force on 1 January 2011. Until then consultation-procedures remain the same. Automated visa-issuing-system is operative.</p>	<p>On 14th July 2010 the Council of Ministers approved the Draft-Law amending and supplementing the Law for the Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria which envisages the abolition of the consultation procedure with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding visa issuance at the border. It is submitted for discussion in the Parliament.</p> <p>The new AIS ‘Border Control’ and the VIS working stations at the BCPs with ability of taking biometric data will be put into operation in September 2010. The setting up of this system will replace the existing manual issuance of visas. Visas will be printed on spot and will be machine-readable.</p> <p>The new AIS ‘Border Control’ compatible with SIS has been put into real operation on 22 October 2010.</p> <p>The first group of Border Police officers had been trained in the National Visa Centre in July – training of the trainers for working on the terminals of the National Visa Information System at the BCPs.</p> <p>The working stations of VIS had been installed in all BCPs at external border. Currently the stations are operative at local level and the training of border police officers is carrying out. After identifying the security politics with the competent structures regarding the communications the gradual connection with CVIS of Bulgaria will start.</p> <p>The new VIS at the BCPs with ability of automated visa issuing will become fully operational on 15 November 2010.</p> <p>Since 16 November 2010 through the new AIS ‘Border Control’ automated checks/inquiries in NSIS and the National VIS could be done, and following additional information could be obtained:</p>	<p>At BCP Kapitan Andreevo visas were issued electronically. The standard EU-visa-sticker (10 stored; old version) was found in use. There were 2 visas issued in 2011.</p> <p>Visa-fees were found in line with the provisions of the visacode (were automatically assigned by the system).</p> <p>Staff of the BCP confirmed that no permission had to be asked from the MFA.</p>

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	<p>- for previous trips of the checked person/vehicle; - for the authenticity of the checked document.</p> <p>A special “training of the trainers” course was carried out in the period September – October 2010 for using the National Visa Information System. 21 officers were trained.</p> <p>The training includes processing of submitting applications, taking biometrics, entering data in National Visa Information System, issuing of visas and visa stickers printing, as well as settings in National Visa Information System.</p> <p>The new VIS at the BCPs with ability of automated visa issuing technically is being put into real exploitation on 30 November 2010. For the purposes of the system exploitation and in order to ensure the access of the officials from the BCPs to the NVIS an Organizational Technological Rules for Issuing Visas at Borders were approved.</p> <p>On 1 February 2011 the Law Amending the Law on the Foreigners at the Republic of Bulgaria came into force and as of that date the obligation for consulting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at issuing visas at the border was dropped.</p>	
<p>It is appreciated that the majority of the acting senior officers/duty officers/shift-leaders are well aware of the tactics applied also by neighbouring border police units. The Bulgarian Border Police Management is encouraged to raise this quantity of situational awareness on all levels.</p> <p><i>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 27</i></p> <p>Situational awareness as regards the neighbouring entities was found to be satisfactory.</p> <p>Direct communication between the BP and the Police patrols is not possible (it has to go via duty</p>	<p>Daily, during the instructions the officials from the shifts on duty (on the BCPs and on “green border”) are informed about the operational situation on the neighbouring BPSs, on the District Police Stations and the customs authorities, the location of the patrols and the tactics of the neighbouring structures.</p> <p>A better knowledge of the situational picture in real time is ensured by introducing of direct communication between the border police patrols and the police authorities through a common radio channel and code names.</p> <p>At the beginning of 2011 the conducting of a tactical course for updating the professional qualification will start with the topic “Mixed patrols” emphasizing on awareness of other police structures and customs tactics.</p> <p>Since 18 January 2011 a direct communication trough TETRA</p>	<p>EvalCom could observe during a field visit that direct communication between BP and Police was functioning properly. The officers also confirmed that communication is possible with a helicopter (they get the TETRA-number of the helicopter during the daily briefing).</p>

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<p>officer).</p>	<p>devices between the Border Police patrols and the patrols of the Regional Police Departments of MoI at the border areas of the external borders have been provided.</p> <p>Rules on the joint use of the technical means for direct communication (TETRA) between the Regional Police Departments of MoI and Border Police Stations in the border zones at the external land borders have been approved.</p> <p>TETRA devices are installed in the patrol cars of the Regional Police Departments of MoI.</p> <p>The TETRA contact numbers have been exchanged and the direct communication is currently taking place.</p>	
<p>The EvalCom invites Bulgaria to significantly improve the performance of the local leadership (BCP and BPS) in order to achieve better operational and tactical capacities and thereby improvements in the overall performance.</p> <p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 60</p> <p>EvalCom acknowledges the number of courses offered (and attended), but at the same time has noted considerable lacks in leadership and knowledge of tasks related to the managerial staff.</p> <p>EvalCom strongly invites the Bulgarian authorities to continue with the efforts to improve the leadership-performance (BCP and BPS).</p> <p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(.....)</p>	<p>Officers from different management levels pass courses for improvement of the professional qualification are arranged at Academy of MoI. Usually, their duration is 2 weeks and they are divided into two stages: basic and specialized.</p> <p>The courses give administrative knowledge and skills, management capacity and training on the specific competences according to the concrete position.</p> <p>For the first half of 2010, 49 officers at different management levels from CDBP have completed these courses. Till the end of the year 55 more officers will pass such courses.</p> <p>The training in police tactics for the inferior and middle managerial staff is carried out regularly. From the beginning of 2011 will start the conducting of a tactical course for updating of the professional qualification – the topic will be “Mixed patrols”.</p> <p>For the last quarter of 2010 within the “on the job” training for the inferior and middle managerial staff in the BPS and BCP courses on 5 specific topics on risk analysis, assessment of the situation, decision making and interaction are planned.</p> <p>The total number of Border Police officers of all management levels who will attend training courses for improvement of the</p>	<p>The following information was provided to EvalCom during presentations:</p> <p><u>Management courses:</u></p> <p>In March, 2011 a regular course for management skills and improvement of the middle and the high managerial staff was conducted with the participation of 12 border police officers from RDBP - Elhovo, of these - 2 from BPS-Svilengrad.</p> <p>Additionally in February and March 2011 2 one-week courses were conducted at the Police Academy of the Ministry of Interior with the participation of 16 officers from RDBP – Elhovo, of these - 6 officers from BPS Svilengrad.</p> <p>In addition, during the first six months of 2011, there will be conducted 10 courses with the participation of 62 officers from the RDBP-Elhovo conducted at the Police Academy of the Ministry of Interior.</p> <p><u>English language courses:</u></p> <p>From the beginning of 2011, in regularly planned language training of the senior and junior managerial staff of CDBP at the Police Academy of the Ministry of Interior English language course (beginners) are being conducted with the participation of 6 officers</p>

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<p><u>Conclusion March</u> Some acting senior officers/duty officers/shift-leaders show good leadership skills and tactical/operational flexibility. The Bulgarian Border Police Management is strongly encouraged to further increase the number of experienced officers at leadership level in order to enhance the overall performance in border surveillance.</p> <p><u>Comments and recommendation December</u> No progress was seen by EvalCom</p> <p><i>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 32</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(.....)</p> <p><u>Conclusion March</u> EvalCom recommends organizing managerial training courses for the managers of the BCP at the station and at the regional level.</p> <p><u>Comments and recommendation December</u> Managers are attending different training-courses.</p>	<p>professional qualification at the Police Academy of the Ministry of Interior in 2010 is 191.</p> <p>At present, the following number of officers has passed the courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 122 officers – commanders of sections; - 48 officers – head of department; head of sector; head of BCP; chief of group at BCP; chief of group – BPS and RDBP. <p>By the end of the year the training of 10 commanders of sections and 11 chiefs of shifts/groups/BCPs is envisaged. In 2011, the Border Police officers will continue participating management skills training courses. The number of trainees will be determined during the second half of November.</p> <p>From 191 officers planned for training during 2010, 190 have been trained. On 6 December 2010 the training of the last officer has started.</p> <p>For 2011 a course “Management for officers of CDBP” for training of 80 officers of management level is planned. The course will hold at Police Academy of the Ministry of Interior.</p> <p>In addition to the regular training for managerial staff of the MoI, new courses on "Management for officers of CDBP" have started at the Academy of MoI since the beginning of 2011.</p> <p>3 courses "Management for officers of CDBP" for 130 officers from the senior and middle management staff of Border Police will be held in the first half of 2011 for the following officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 23 officers from RDBP Dragoman; - 19 officers from RDBP Kyustendil; - 28 officers from RDBP Elhovo. <p>10 other courses for junior management staff, involving 240 officers, will be held in the same period for the following officers:</p>	<p>from the RDBP-Elhovo, of these – 3 from BPS-Svilengrad;</p> <p>Additional English courses had been organised at the Police Academy of the Ministry of Interior as follows: 12 weeks training in English B1 level, with the participation of 2 officers from the RDBP-Elhovo, of these - 1 from BPS-Svilengrad. 15 weeks training in English (beginners) with the participation of 7 officers from the RDBP-Elhovo, of these - 3 from BPS-Svilengrad.</p> <p>During the second half of 2011 two more courses in English language are planned, in which 28 officers from the Border Police will participate.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 52 officers from RDBP Dragoman; - 38 officers from RDBP Kyustendil; - 62 officers from RDBP Elhovo. <p><u>Update March 2011</u></p> <p>50 high-level and middle-management officials from the CDBP were trained within a management course held in February 2011. Among them 10 officials from Dragoman, 10 from Elhovo and 9 from Kyustendil were trained.</p>	
<p>The EvalCom came to the conclusion that the implementation of a stationary surveillance system in the area of responsibility of BPS Svilengrad would be outstandingly necessary and encourages Bulgaria to finalise this project as soon as possible.</p> <p><i>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 28</i></p> <p>The projected date for finalization of the first part (Svilengrad → Lesovo; length of 58km; total length of the border to TK is 271km) is foreseen for Dec. 2011.</p> <p>The deadline for the next stage along the border between BG and TR (from BCP Lesovo until Resovo) is foreseen for 2013.</p>	<p>The procedure on assigning of a public procurement for construction of “Integrated system for control and surveillance of the Bulgarian-Turkish border and the focal point” is completed. A contractor has been chosen and the conclusion of a contract for its construction is forthcoming.</p> <p>On 8 September 2010 a contract for construction of “Integrated system for control and surveillance of the Bulgarian-Turkish border and the focal point” was concluded with deadline for execution December 2011.</p> <p>The contract envisages conducting of monthly meetings between the executor and Border Police where a report for the achieved progress and regarding the execution will be given.</p> <p>On 22 October 2010 was held the first meeting between the contractor and the Border Police to specify the progress on the project.</p> <p>In the period of 8 - 19 November 2010 joint teams of border police officers and representatives of the contractor carried out a study of the terrain on the state border to take the coordinates and the deployment of the perimeter signal-security systems (35 areas of 1 km.) and to identify the areas for construction and deployment of the Stationary surveillance posts (SSP) (6 units) and the possibilities for electric supply of the technical equipment.</p> <p>There is a conceptual project for deployment of the SSPs and</p>	<p>According to the information received from both the RDBP and the responsible WG of ERICSSON the deadlines for the completion of the 1st stage are maintained. The LCC (currently being set up in the former operational room at the BPS Svilengrad) could be visited by EvalCom.</p>

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	<p>the modules of the perimeter signal-security system which are part from the Integrated system.</p> <p>Meanwhile, on 17.11.2010 the 2nd work meeting was held on which the issues related to the staff training for work with the integrated system and the supply of thermo vision cameras for the SSP were discussed. During the meeting a monthly report of the contractor for the progress of the project was adopted.</p> <p>The contract provides training of 16 experts for using the system, 30 operators and 12 experts for diagnostic and technical maintenance. The training will be carried out by groups of 8 officers on place – on the built system.</p> <p>In December the following three meetings with the contractor were held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- one regular – the progress of the project for November 2010 was reported and- two work meetings to specify the radio relay sections. <p>In January 2011, the following two meetings with the contractor were held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- One regular – the progress of the project for December 2010 was reported and- One workshop on expert level for specifying the location of the perimeter signal-security system, which consists of 35 modules x 1 kilometre built of (Passive InfraRed PIR or seismic sensors) and PTZ thermo vision cameras. The location sites for the deployment of the perimeter signal security system are in compliance with the risky areas of high migration pressure. <p><u>Update March 2011</u> In February a regular meeting was held with the contractor for reporting the progress achieved. Construction works for setting up of Local Coordination Centre at BPS Svilengrad has started.</p>	
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<p>EvalCom recommends changing the position of the computer screens at the exit-bus terminal ensuring, that data will not be visible to passengers. Namely current dark foil on the windows is transparent enough to read information from the screen, but at the same time makes difficult to observe area outside of the booth.</p> <p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 30</p> <p>Changes were implemented on the exit-side. EvalCom recommends in general observing this recommendation very closely in order to secure that the right of privacy is always correctly respected (entry- and exit-side).</p>	<p>The recommendation has been implemented. The position of the computer screens at the exit - bus terminal is changed and they cannot be seen by the passengers.</p>	<p>Done, but from the checks observed in practice EvalCom concludes that more care should be put on organizing the queues and making travellers respect privacy during border checks.</p>
<p>The stamps available at all BCPs do not comply with the standards. The Bulgarian authorities are invited to provide for the necessary change and report to the SchEval-working group about the measures undertaken.</p> <p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 30 and page 59.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p> <p>The procurement procedure was according to the Bulgarian authorities said to be cancelled.</p> <p>A new procedure, although only covering 650 stamps, was started and will be finalized, according to Bulgarian authorities, before the end</p>	<p>The preparation of Technical Terms of Reference for the new border stamps in compliance with the specifications of SCH/Gem-Hand (93) 15 is ongoing.</p> <p>Terms of Reference for the new border stamps in compliance with the requirements of SCH/Gem-Hand (93) 15 was approved on 1 October 2010. The new stamps would be ready by 31 December 2010.</p> <p>Update March 2011</p> <p>The recommendation is implemented. The new border stamps have been submitted to all BCPs. The stamps are in use since 3 March 2011.</p>	<p>The new stamps were found to be in place and in conformity with the relevant technical specifications.</p>

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<p>of March 2011.</p> <p>The personnel in the booths showed in general good knowledge of the Schengen provisions (e.g. Schengen Border Code, Handbook). However, entry conditions should be checked more thoroughly. EvalCom further recommends having more border police officers present outside the booths in order to perform comprehensive controls also on the means of transport and secure the passengers' flow.</p> <p><i>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 31</i></p> <p>In addition to the border checks still performed in the booths there were additional personnel performing checks together with the customs also outside the booths. EvalCom acknowledges the progress, but asks the Bulgarian authorities to ensure that officers outside the booths contribute to the comprehensive controls by i. a. matching the documents with the passengers.</p>	<p>The recommendation has been implemented. At all BCP's border police officers are determined to perform checks at lane according to load. They are included in the rotation system.</p> <p>The Rotation system was temporally suspended due to the introduction of the new AIS Border Control in relation with the connection to SIS. After installing the new software, the Rotation system was put again in exploitation on 22 December 2010 at BCP Gyueshevo and on 30 December 2010 at BCP Kapitan Andreevo, BCP Lesovo and BCP Kalotina.</p> <p>In order to properly implement the Rotation system in the framework of the organization of the activities of the BCP duty shifts, Rules for Exploitation of the Rotation system were elaborated and adopted.</p> <p>All officers from the duty shifts, carrying out border checks on first line are included in the Rotation system. The specialized teams for physical checks of lorries from BCP Kapitan Andreevo are not included in the Rotation system. The officers from those teams are rotated in the framework of the monthly work-schedules for BCP.</p>	<p>EvalCom was informed that written instructions on functions and working rules of the border police officers carrying out checks outside the booths at a BCP are in place since 8 March 2011 and their implementation is strictly monitored. The general recommendation concerning the performance of border checks outside the booths remains valid. BG is invited to continue to closely monitor the performance of those checks.</p> <p>The rotation scheme, which contains the following three types of regimes, was found back in operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial Rotation – defining the initial number of Automated Working Stations and the relevant number of border police officers; - Regular Rotation – (if <i>ad hoc</i> Rotation is not active) during this working regime the border police officers are allocated at intervals between 2 and 4 hours on random principle, as it is already stated in the draft report and the table. - <i>Ad hoc</i> Rotation – in case changing of initial Rotation of border police officers in booths is needed. For example: in changing the intensity of passenger flow on Entry or Exit. The <i>Ad hoc</i> Rotation starts upon BCP's head of shift decision. <p>The scheme was found applicable for every BP-officer except for those performing physical checks on lorries, where BP-officers performing physical checks at lorries were said to rotate in accordance with their duty-roster.</p> <p>An automatic call for change could be observed in a booth by EvalCom and written reports are being kept for all positions during a shift.</p> <p>In each rotation the change of the working place is related to temporally suspension of working activities. EvalCom took on board that the reduction of the Rotation period under 2 hours especially during the summer peak season hampers smooth passengers crossing. Nevertheless EvalCom questions whether the maximum working time on one position (4 hours) is not too long to represent an efficient anti-corruption measure.</p>
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		<p>Another anti-corruption-measure explained to EvalCom consisted in border guards having to present how much money they have on them when starting their shift (only BG leva allowed). Checks can be carried out by special anti-corruption-inspection-teams</p>
<p>The ability of the Bulgarian authorities to provide an updated staffing-table dated March 2010 during the visit was appreciated. The table showed that the overall staffing-level was actually reduced (with the exception of the central administration). Since at all sites visited concern was raised whether the available staffing would also be sufficient in times of peak-traffic <u>at the BCPs</u> as well as under unforeseen circumstances <u>at the green border</u>, the Bulgarian authorities are invited to once again review the HR-strategy in order to provide sufficient staffing at the future external borders while still ensuring additional police-measures after the lifting of controls at the internal border.</p> <p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 3.4. Comments from EvalCom – Border Surveillance, page 14 and Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 31 and page 45.</p> <p>As already stated further above EvalCom noted with concern that the number of staffing available for border checks at national and regional level had slightly decreased since the time of the last visit. 12 border guards from the RBPB Dragoman and Kyustendil were deployed at BPS Svilengrad for 1 month as a preventive measure parallel to the start of the FRONTEX-RABIT-deployment at the EL - TK border. As regards checks; a check in the shift-records</p>	<p>Based on the internal redeployment of the staff border police officers from BPS – RDBP are seconded on the main BCP's. These officers have the necessary qualifications and experience to carry out the tasks concerning the border checks.</p> <p>Within the FRONTEX initiatives at the BCP Kapitan Andreevo (within the long-term program "focal points" and joint operations, which Bulgaria has hosted - JO 2010 Poseidon 2010 - land borders") the activities of the border checks are assisted by 8 - 10 European experts as well as during the peak traffic.</p> <p>Additional technical equipment is delivered by which the officers' activity is facilitated – see BG comments on recommendation 4 of p. 4.2 <i>Comments and recommendations of the Evaluation Committee: BPS and BCP Gyueshevo</i> and recommendation 8 of 4.3 <i>Comments and recommendations of the Evaluation Committee: BPS Svilengrad and BCP K. Andreevo</i>.</p> <p>Bulgaria is aware of the practice of border controls in some European countries on integrative (interchangeably) performing of the tasks of the border police officers. This working principle is to be further discussed with a view to its future implementation in Bulgaria.</p> <p>During the past summer season (time of peak-traffic) no delay and no obstacles in the border police officers' activity had been identified.</p> <p>On 13 December 2010, by an order of the Minister of Interior, the following changes were made to increase the number of the staff:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of the staff at BCP Kapitan Andreevo is 	<p>As already mentioned in the "General Information" procedures are being followed in order to increase the staffing of the BCP and also have sufficient staff available (+48 at BCP Kapitan Andreevo and +10 at BCP Kalotina) at peak-times in the forthcoming summer season.</p> <p>Detailed information was also received about redeployment of staff from the internal borders to the external borders after Schengen-accession.</p>

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<p>proved that the general staffing during summer at the BCP Kapitan Andreevo was basically equal or slightly lower compared to the time of the first visit.</p> <p>As this was formerly said to be low-traffic the recommendation has to be considered as not implemented¹.</p> <p>As regards border-surveillance the number of vacancies has also slightly increased.</p> <p>Since the completion of the technical infrastructure is still open EvalCom urgently invites the Bulgarian authorities to change the situation, fill the existing vacancies and provide for sufficient personnel at this sensitive part of the future external border.</p>	<p>increased with 48 staff positions for border police officers.</p> <p>2. The number of the staff at BCP Kalotina is increased with 10 staff positions for border police officers.</p> <p>Competitions for taking the positions in RDBP Elhovo and RDBP Dragoman are announced.</p> <p>The competition procedure, selection and appointment of border police officers will be completed by the end of February 2011, after that they will start initial professional training at the beginning of March 2011. The training will be finalised by the middle of September 2011 and the officials will start their work on the vacant positions.</p> <p>In order to guarantee efficient border control and smooth passengers' traffic in the peak summer season at the BCPs situated on the Bulgarian-Turkish border professionally experienced and trained officers will be temporary relocated from the future internal borders, until the training of the newly appointed officers finished (mid-September 2011). In compliance with the risk analysis and the statistic data from AIS "Border Control" concerning performed checks on persons and motor vehicles at BCPs on the Bulgarian-Turkish border, the number of officers during the inactive season is sufficient. Such conclusion was noted in the land borders reports of the Evaluation Commission.</p> <p><u>Update March 2011</u> Successfully passed the competitions announced in November and December 2010 new officials have been recruited, as follows:</p> <p><u>At Regional Directorate Border Police Dragoman (Bulgarian-Serbian border)– 47 officials:</u></p> <p>- At BCP Kalotina – 21 officials (10 additionally opened positions and 11 vacancies);</p>	
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¹ BG: In July 2010 four (4) officers and in August 2010 eight (8) officers have been seconded by an order of the Head of BPS Svilengrad to the BCP Kapitan Andreevo in order to support the activity at BCP.

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	<p>- At BPS Kalotina – 19 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies); - At BPS Bregovo - 4 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies); - At BPS Chiprovtsi – 2 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies); - At BPS Trun – 1 official in the field of border surveillance (vacancy).</p> <p><u>At Regional Directorate Border Police Elhovo (Bulgarian-Turkish border) - 107 officials</u></p> <p>- At BCP Kapitan Andreevo - 52 officials (48 additionally opened positions and 4 vacancies); - At BPS Svilengrad – 17 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies); - At BPS Malko Turnovo – 12 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies); - At BCP Malko Turnovo – 6 officials (vacancies); - At BPS Elhovo - 6 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancy); - At BCP Lesovo – 9 officials (4 additionally opened positions and 5 vacancies); - At BPS Bolyarovo – 4 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies); - At BPS Sredec – 1 official in the field of border surveillance (vacancy).</p> <p>These officials are taking part in initial police training course as of 7 March 2011.</p>	
<p>EvalCom strongly recommends avoiding to wrongly applying the relaxation rules on checks on persons in order to face the routine increase of the summer traffic. The relaxation of checks should be exclusively reserved to the unforeseen emergency cases.</p> <p><i>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 31</i></p>	<p>The recommendation has been implemented. Additional instructions were given concerning the cases when the checks at external borders may be relaxed in accordance with Art. 8 SBC. Up to this moment for this active season the border checks at the BCP of the border with Turkey are not relaxed.</p> <p><u>Update March 2011</u></p> <p>The decision regarding the implementation of Article 8 of SBC falls within the competences of the Heads of BCPs. The</p>	<p>According to the information received by EvalCom on this occasion, relaxation on checks never takes place. In any case relevant instructions were confirmed to be in place and the additional staff available during the forthcoming summer will help to keep up normal procedures during checks.</p>

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<p>Due to the lack of traffic no observations were possible. Border guards interviewed told that they did not receive any special instructions. The further answers received did not provide for any clear picture on the issue (divergent answers from border guards; based on the answers received it became clear that relaxation was being used but whether on exit or/and entry remained unclear).</p>	<p>Heads of BCPs are instructed to apply Article 8 of SBC exclusively in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances.</p>	
<p>Cross border cooperation with Turkish border authorities is rather limited since it mainly covers only cooperation between crossing points in practical issues. As a conclusion, limited exchange of information means limited situational awareness influences reaction time, which must be taken into account when planning border surveillance strategy and tactical usage of resources. The Bulgarian authorities are invited to increase effective operative cooperation with Turkey.</p> <p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 32</p> <p>EvalCom acknowledges the Bulgarian efforts undertaken (Bulgaria submitted in November officially a request to update the existing 1967 agreement and at the same time forwarded two draft agreements on joint patrols and on a common centre that could also be opened to Greece). Progress on the negotiations remains to be seen. Although noted positive further progress is also needed in the actual operative cooperation on site, as EvalCom could see from the minutes of one of the meetings of one of the Joint Bulgarian – Turkish Sector Committees made available to</p>	<p>In accordance with the Agreement between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey for preventing and solving border incidents and maintenance of border signs from 1967, the following meetings are held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - of the Central Mixed Bulgarian-Turkish Border Commission - once a year; - of the Section Mixed Bulgarian-Turkish border committees - once every 6 months; - of the Mixed district of Bulgarian-Turkish border committees - every three months. <p>If necessary extraordinary meetings are hold. For the period April-August 2010 the following meetings/correspondence were hold/was exchanged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 regular meetings; - 15 extraordinary meetings; - 91 (56 from Bulgarian side and 35 from Turkish side) - requests and provided information related to border violations and incidents. <p>In September 2010 the following meetings/correspondence were hold/was exchanged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 regular meeting; - 6 extraordinary meetings; - 15 (9 from Bulgarian side and 6 from Turkish side) - requests and provided information related to border violations and incidents. 	<p>As EvalCom was informed the telephone- and fax numbers have been exchanged on operative level and operative cooperation at BCPs is being practiced on a daily basis (with more information going from BG to TK than vice versa). More formalized cooperation between BG and the Gendarmerie and the Army on the TK side is often hampered by the lack of clearly defined competences and overlapping of responsibilities on the TK side (often channelled through the secretariats of the joint commissions).</p> <p>BG however observed an increased presence of the army at the TK borderline.</p>

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EvalCom.	<p>In October 2010 the following meetings/correspondence were held/was exchanged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 3 regular meetings;- 2 extraordinary meetings;- 7 (4 from Bulgarian side and 3 from Turkish side) - requests and provided information on border violations and incidents. <p>In November 2010 the following meetings/correspondence were held/was exchanged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2 regular meetings;- 3 extraordinary meetings;- 23 (19 from Bulgarian side and 4 from Turkish side) - requests and provided information on border violations and incidents. <p>In December 2010 the following meetings/correspondence were held/was exchanged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2 regular meetings;- 3 extraordinary meetings;- 12 (7 from Bulgarian side and 5 from Turkish side) - requests and provided information. <p>In the period 1 January – 3 February 2011 the following meetings/correspondence were held/was exchanged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 4 regular meetings;- 5 extraordinary meetings;- 29 letters (18 from Bulgarian and 11 from Turkish side) - requests and provided information. <p><u>Update March 2011</u></p> <p>In the period 4 - 24 February 2011 the following meetings/correspondence were held/exchanged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1 regular meetings;- 4 ad hoc meetings;- 10 letters (7 from Bulgarian and 3 from Turkish side) - requests and information were provided. <p>In the framework of ad hoc meeting held in January 2011 the following topics were discussed:</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint specifying of the routes of illegal migrants and the places for crossing the common border. - Exchange of telephone numbers between the both duty units responsible for border security and specifying the way for mutual informing; - Specifying the way for mutual coordinated activities when establishing group of persons near to the common border aiming to cross it illegally. <p>Bulgaria has elaborated a draft trilateral agreement for establishing a common contact centre for police and customs cooperation between Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey. Currently the draft agreement is under consultation procedure on national level. After conclusion of the procedure the draft will be sent to the Hellenic Republic.</p>	
<p>There is no trilateral cross border cooperation between Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece at the regional or local level. In order to have better regional (and national) situational image concerning the illegal immigration (modus operandi, trends, nationalities etc.) it is recommended to consider developing trilateral operational cooperation between border authorities.</p> <p><i>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 33</i></p> <p>EvalCom acknowledges the Bulgarian efforts undertaken (two draft agreements on joint patrols and on a common centre that could also be opened to Greece sent to Turkey). Progress on the negotiations remains to be seen.</p>	<p>In August 2010 Bulgaria proposed to the Greek side establishing of trilateral contact centre for police and customs cooperation between Republic of Bulgaria, Hellenic Republic and Republic of Turkey at a convenient location for parties.</p> <p>A response is expected from the Greek side.</p> <p>In the beginning of February 2011 the Greek side confirm their readiness for establishing a trilateral contact centre for police and customs cooperation between Republic of Bulgaria, Hellenic Republic and Republic of Turkey.</p> <p><u>Update March 2011</u> Bulgaria has elaborated a draft trilateral agreement for establishing a common contact centre for police and customs cooperation between Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey. Currently the draft agreement is under consultation procedure on national level. After conclusion of the procedure the draft will be sent to the Hellenic Republic. The trilateral operational cooperation is developing and within FRONTEX initiatives. Two meetings were held, and third meeting is forthcoming in September. On the meetings with the Turkish and Greek border authorities were discussed issues</p>	<p>BG reported that a place has already been reserved for a tripartite PCCC at the BCP Kapitan Andreevo and that the consent from the EL side as regards the tripartite PCCC has already been received.</p> <p>From the TK side, a reaction is still pending, although they have at least responded by offering dates in April for negotiations on the joint patrols and also the issue of a CC.</p>

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	<p>regarding the participation of the Turkish side (as observers) during the special operations of FRONTEX, exchange of information and establishing of Turkish local coordination centre on Turkey.</p> <p>The third meeting within the special operations of FRONTEX planned for September 2010 was postponed for indefinite time.</p>	
<p>The creation of direct contacts and cooperation between regional and local units responsible for Turkish border in Bulgaria and Greece are also recommended in order to have better situational awareness and reaction capacity in common cases. The EvalCom considers that this kind of cooperation will be even more important after full implementation of Schengen for Bulgaria.</p> <p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 33</p> <p>EvalCom appreciates the existence of liaison officers to contact the two neighbouring countries (for Greece posted in Novo Selo, for Turkey posted at the BPS Svilengrad). However even closer and more dynamic operative cooperation (e.g. in the abovementioned CCC) should be pursued.</p>	<p>In accordance with the recommendation an officer from BPS Novo Selo responsible for the guarding of the eastern part of Bulgarian-Greek border is included as a member of the district Bulgarian-Turkish Mixed Committee, and an officer from BPS Svilengrad with responsibility for guarding the western part of the Bulgarian-Turkish border is included as a member of the district Bulgarian-Greek Mixed Committee. This will ensure a reliable exchange of information and knowledge of the situation on one of the most challenging border areas of external Schengen borders - Turkish-Bulgarian-Greek border (triangle).</p> <p>According to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of the Hellenic Republic on Prevention and Settling of Border Incidents and Offences from 1955, the Bulgarian-Greek border is divided into four sectors. For each of the sectors a Border Police official is appointed and a Joint Sectoral Bulgarian – Greek Border Committee is functioning. The meetings of the committees are held regularly. Border attorneys responsible for smaller border zones are working actively, as well.</p> <p>The central Bulgarian-Greek border Committee for evaluation of the results of the Sectoral Committee’s activity held meetings annually. If necessary extraordinary meetings are hold.</p> <p>For the period April-August 2010 the following meetings/correspondence were hold/was exchanged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 regular meetings; - 3 extraordinary meetings; - 20 (11 from Bulgarian side and 9 from Greek side) - requests and provided information related to border violations and incidents, intelligence information. 	<p>See comments above.</p>

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In September 2010 within the framework of cooperation with Hellenic Republic the following meetings/correspondence were hold/was exchanged:

- 3 regular meetings;
- 5 extraordinary meetings;
- 10 (6 from Bulgarian side and 4 from Greek side) - requests and provided information related to border violations and incidents, intelligence information.

In October 2010 within the framework of cooperation with the Hellenic Republic the following meetings/correspondence were held/was exchanged:

- 1 regular meeting;
- 2 extraordinary meetings;
- 6 (2 from Bulgarian side and 4 from Greek side) - requests and provided information on border violations and incidents, as well as intelligence information.

In November 2010 within the framework of cooperation with the Hellenic Republic the following meetings/correspondence were held/was exchanged:

- 2 extraordinary meetings;
- 3 (2 from Bulgarian side and 1 from Greek side) - requests and provided information on border violations and incidents, as well as intelligence information.

In December 2010 in the framework of the cooperation with Hellenic Republic the following meetings/correspondence were held/was exchanged:

- 4 regular meetings of the four sectoral joint Bulgarian-Greek border committees to report the activity in 2010
- 4 extraordinary meetings - 2 for exchange of operational information and establishing organization for mutual notification when worsening the weather conditions and 2 for the development of a joint project "Bulgarian-Greek cooperation for exchange of best police practices in combating and preventing crime and improving the security of the population on both sides of the border after the accession of

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	<p>Bulgaria in Schengen and the full implementation of Article 22 of Regulation 562/2006”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 11 letters (5 from Bulgarian and 6 from Greek side) - requests and information were provided. <p>In the period 1 January – 2 February 2011 in the framework of the cooperation with Hellenic Republic the following meetings/correspondence were held/was exchanged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 4 extraordinary meetings;- 6 letters (4 from Bulgarian side and 2 from Greek) – requests and information were provided. <p>Regarding the cooperation with Turkey see the Bulgarian comment on the recommendation 12. of <i>point 4.3. Comments and recommendations of the Evaluation Committee: BPS Svilengrad and BCP Kapitan Andreevo.</i></p> <p>During September 2010 the following meetings/correspondence were hold/was exchanged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1 regular meeting;- 6 extraordinary meetings;- 15 (9 from Bulgarian side and 6 from Turkish side) - requests and provided information related to border violations and incidents. <p>In October 2010 the following meetings/correspondence were held/was exchanged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 3 regular meetings;- 2 extraordinary meetings;- 7 (4 from Bulgarian side and 3 from Turkish side) - requests and provided information on border violations and incidents. <p>In November 2010 the following meetings/correspondence were held/was exchanged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2 regular meetings;- 3 extraordinary meetings;- 23 (19 from Bulgarian side and 4 from Turkish side) - requests and provided information on border violations and incidents.	
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In December 2010 the following meetings/correspondence were held/was exchanged:

- 2 regular meetings;
- 3 extraordinary meetings;
- 12 (7 from Bulgarian side and 5 from Turkish side) - requests and provided information.

In the period 1 January – 3 February 2011 the following meetings/correspondence were held/was exchanged:

- 4 regular meetings;
- 5 extraordinary meetings;
- 29 letters (18 from Bulgarian and 11 from Turkish side) - requests and provided information.

Update March 2011

In the period 4 - 24 February 2011 the following meetings/correspondence were held/was exchanged:

- 1 regular meetings;
- 4 Ad hoc meetings;
- 10 letters (7 from Bulgarian and 3 from Turkish side) - requests and provided information.

In the framework of Ad hoc meeting held in January 2011 the following topics were discussed:

- **Joint specifying of the routes of illegal migrants and the places for crossing the common border.**
- **Exchange of telephone numbers between the both duty units responsible for border security and specifying the way for mutual informing;**
- **Specifying the way for mutual coordinated activities when establishing group of persons near to the common border aiming to cross it illegally.**

In the beginning of February 2011 the Greek side confirm their readiness for establishing a trilateral contact centre for police and customs cooperation between Republic of Bulgaria, Greece and Republic of Turkey.

Bulgaria has elaborated a draft trilateral agreement for

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	<p>establishing a common contact centre for police and customs cooperation between Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey. Currently the draft agreement is under consultation procedure on national level. After conclusion of the procedure the draft will be sent to the Hellenic Republic.</p>	
<p>EvalCom was appreciative of the information received about the issue of risk-analysis. It is nevertheless highly recommended to once again revise and amend the entire workflow and ensure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ that the appropriate relevant data to serve as the basis for risk-analysis are made constantly available on all levels (development of a risk-analysis-monitor) ○ that all authorities involved (i.a. Migration-directorate, Agency for Refugees, National Police) meet regularly to analyse the situation and draft reports containing operative conclusions and appropriate measures and ○ that these reports are regularly made available for operative implementation to all authorities involved. <p>The Bulgarian authorities are invited to report regularly on the progress achieved.</p> <p><i>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 4.1. Comments from EvalCom - Risk Analysis, page 17 and Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 36</i></p> <p>All entities in connection with border-control are regularly contributing to risk-analysis. There are regular regional joint risk-analysis (every three months) between Customs and the Border Police and also regular meetings on central level.</p> <p>EvalCom acknowledges the progress and encourages the Bulgarian side to continue to</p>	<p>Providing the appropriate relevant data serving as a basis for risk analysis at the local level is a daily process. The border police officers obtain the data as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - during the briefing conducted of the on-duty shifts right before the beginning of the shift (at the BCP and "green border"); - electronically to the first and second line of BCP and - via Intranet in the patrol bases of the green border. <p>The work of the interagency working group (involving representatives from all engaged institutions) established to elaborate a Strategy in the field of migration as a sub strategy of the Strategy for National Security started in July 2010. The Strategy will identify the main national priorities in migration policy in the framework of the common European Migration Policy.</p> <p>The objectives of the Strategy are: to prepare a prognosis in regard to the development of migration policies; to identify future policies in the field of migration, among which is the change of legislation and structural reforms; to improve the coordination between the competent structures, working in the area of migration.</p> <p>The working group will hold its second meeting in September 2010 and on 24 September 2010 Hanns Seidel Foundation will organize a round table for discussions of the objectives and priorities of the Strategy.</p> <p>The Bulgarian Border police risk analysis system is based on the European model of integrated risk analyses (CIRAM). The general documents introducing the model are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concept for Risk Analyses Management adopted on 30 April 2009; 	<p>The quality of risk analysis at central and regional level has certainly improved. There is better situational awareness and a reliable picture could be obtained.</p> <p>For further comments see also “General Information”.</p>

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<p>integrate other entities in the regular meetings to achieve regularly a real common situational picture. EvalCom took note of the fact that central and local risk analysis is available on the intranet. At local level, information was transmitted orally (between shifts) using specific forms made available to EvalCom. EvalCom recommends improving the quality of the risk-analysis reports, as some of the conclusions drawn currently in the reports made available to EvalCom gave rise to further questions.</p>	<p>- Framework Concept "Police Evaluation and Risk Analyses at the CDBP adopted on 12 June 2009.</p> <p>A Risk register had been created in Chief Directorate Border Police. In addition, regional concepts for risk analyses and risk registers have been created in all Regional Directorates of Border Police.</p> <p>Risk analysis is organized on three levels. The strategic analysis is conducted on national level by the Chief Directorate of the Border Police. The operational analysis is carried out at regional level by the Regional Directorates of the Border Police and the tactical analysis is performed at local level by the Border Police Stations. The analysis is based on internal and external sources of information, as well as FRONTEX regular analytical reports. The leading authority for the risk analysis in the field of border management is the Border Police within the Ministry of Interior. At the beginning of 2010, a report on Risk management at the CDBP for 2009 and reports of the RDBP were elaborated. The other agencies/structures involved in or contributing to the preparation of the risk analysis are as follows:</p> <p><u>Services of obligatory border control</u> Customs, Veterinary control, Phytosanitary control.</p> <p><u>Structures within the Ministry of Interior</u> Regional Directorates of MOI Chief Directorate Combating Organized Crime Chief Directorate Criminal police Chief Directorate of Public Order Police Migration Directorate International Police Cooperation Directorate</p> <p><u>Others</u> State Agency "National Security"; State Agency for Refugees</p> <p>The necessary information and intelligence for the risk analysis are collected by the relevant structure of the Border police as</p>	
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	<p>presented in the diagram.</p> <p>The bottom-up transmission of information goes from local to regional and from regional to central level on a daily basis in different forms: announcements, daily bulletins, inquiries, monthly reports, etc., on paper or by electronic means.</p> <p>The organization on local level allows the timely transmission of information about the situation, gathered by the border patrol or the border police officer to the higher level of border police staff, responsible for risk analysis. The latter provides feedback in the form of daily informing with the power of instructions to the staff. Every border police officer on shift has access in real time to the information stored in the different automated information systems related to border control, the information bulletins and all inquiries concerning information and data about risk analysis and the risk profiles, which are considered being of interest.</p> <p>The transmission of risk analysis information on local level is also a daily process, which is carried out during the briefings (instructions) given to the shifts on duty immediately before starting their duties, both at the BCP and the “green border”. The risk analysis is electronically available for all automated working stations at the BCPs and the patrol bases on the “green border” having Intranet access.</p> <p>The tactical risk analysis carried out on BCPs is performed with different regularity in accordance with the changes in the operative situation. The inquiry on risk analysis on tactical level is daily prepared, including identification of the daily risk profile, which is followed by updating of the check list and distribution of the staff to the working places. The officers receive information at the time of giving of instructions. During the border checks, the border police officers apply tactical risk analysis on the basis on outlined risk profiles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- If all or most of the risk indicators relevant to the profile are detected, there is “High risk”. In such cases, control on second line is obligatory performed;- If only some of the indicators relevant to the profile are	
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identified, there is “Medium risk”. In such cases, a detailed interview with the passenger is carried out on the first line, aiming at identification of evidences for the reason of the journey.

- If no hit with the profile is identified, there is “Low risk”. In such cases minimal checks are performed for citizens enjoying the right of free movement, and thorough checking for the third country nationals.

The operative risk analysis is carried out at the Regional Directorate of the Border Police (RDBP). The RDBP daily collects processes and analyses information about attempts and offences at the borders. The information received is summarized and published in the daily bulletin of RDBP and included in the common bulletin of CDBP which is in electronic version and is available on the Intranet of MoI. All territorial structures, including border police officers working on the first line in charge of border checks have an access to the bulletin. Inquiries in the bulletin may be carried out using names, number of document, registration of motor vehicles, date of birth, etc. The database is maintained since 1999.

There is an active exchange of operative information and analyses with the regional structures of the other agencies of MoI (Chief Directorate Combating Organized Crime, Migration Directorate, International Operational Police Cooperation Directorate etc.) aiming at prevention and detection of cross border crimes. It may lead to joint actions, if necessary, according to functions and competences of the relevant authorities.

RDBP prepares Annual report-analyses, six-month report-analyses, 3-months analyses about the operative situation in the responsibility zone, as well as monthly overview of the activities, scale statistics for monthly-performed activities, announcements, inquiries, information and other documents used by the territorial structures. RDBP elaborates and updates risk profiles of the main risks and threats for the zone of responsibility. The documents are accessible via the Intranet of

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	<p>the MoI.</p> <p>The strategic risk analysis is carried out at the level of the CDBP. The Department for Operative and Investigation Activity within the CDBP weekly receives summarized information from RDBP, concerning the operative situation – detected cases of illegal migration, smuggling, trafficking in human beings and other cross border crime. The information is summarized and submitted to the management of CDBP. The information is used for elaboration of analytical documents.</p> <p>The strategic analysis at national level uses also external sources of information and analytical products, received in the framework of active international information exchange of the MoI - through the International Operative Police Cooperation Directorate (Interpol, Europol, and SIRENE), FRONTEX, the Bulgarian liaison officers posted abroad and the foreign LOs situated in Bulgaria. The other governmental institutions could feed up relevant information from their policy areas.</p> <p>The draft “Strategy in the field of Migration” should be elaborated by 31 January 2011 and subsequently adopted by the Council of Ministers.</p> <p>On 24 September 2010 the planned round table took place with the support of the Hanns Seidel Foundation. A broad political and public support was expressed for the development of Strategy in the field of migration. During the discussions at the round table a review was made of the state of play in the field of fight against illegal migration, border management, asylum, labour migration, visa policy, issues regarding citizenship and interaction between the structures. The debate on the objectives and the priorities which must be laid down in the future Strategy was started. Representatives of all state institutions related to the migration, asylum and citizenship, as well as representatives from non-governmental sector, the local government and academic spheres took part in the discussions.</p> <p>Since 21 October 2010 a joint risk analysis on a national level (for the period 01.10.2009 – 30.09.2010), worked out by CDBP</p>	
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and Migration Directorate, and has been distributed to the competent structures at regional and local level. The joint risk analysis examines the migration processes and possible changes in the migration flows which may occur after Bulgaria's accession to the Schengen area.

Since 13 October 2010 CDBP and Customs have worked out strategic joint risk analysis as well. The joint risk analysis includes the comprehensive "single picture" of the borders operational situation and the risky areas to the border security – illegal migration, smuggling, THB, smuggling of narcotic substances, forgery of banknotes and certificates, arms, excise and double use goods.

Interaction between CDBP and Migration Directorate

Since the beginning of November 2010 CDBP and Migration Directorate implement the one year Plan for interaction in the field of illegal migration.

Interaction between CDBP and u Customs Agency

On 12 November 2010 the directors of CDBP and Customs Agency signed Joint Action Plan between CDBP and Customs Agency for the period 16.11.2010 – 31.12.2011. The plan provides the organization for effective interaction between CDBP and Customs Agency for prevention and detection of violations and offences of border and customs regime and other offences performed in the border area.

The *National Strategy in the field of Migration, Asylum and Integration (2011-2020)* has been elaborated. Currently in compliance with the national legislation the Strategy is under inter-institutional consultation procedure. The Strategy will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for adoption after completion of the consultation procedure.

On 26 January 2011 the updated *Joint risk analysis on Migration processes and forecasts of changes in the Migration Pressure Changes* (joint analysis between CDBP and Migration Directorate) and the *Risk analysis of migration processes and prognosis for changes in the migration pressure of the CDBP*

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	<p>were approved (see also BG comments on first recommendation <i>Under 5. General conclusions including recommendations and follow-up</i> – page 118).</p> <p><u>Update March 2011</u> On 23 February 2011 the National Strategy in the field of Migration, Asylum and Integration (2011-2020) has been adopted by the Council of Ministers. All main agencies/structures involved in or contributing to the preparation of the risk analysis are integrated to the regular meetings. Furthermore the Joint risk analysis on Migration processes and forecasts of changes in the Migration Pressure Changes (between CDBP and Migration Directorate) and the Risk analysis of migration processes and prognosis for changes in the migration pressure of the CDBP are published at the internal site of the CDBP (http://www.nsgp.mvr.bg), section “Internal information”, “Internal news” and have been submitted to the chief, regional and specialized MoI directorates as well as to the State Agency for Refugees with the Council of Ministers.</p>	
<p>The EvalCom found the Border Police Station well equipped with all necessary means to carry out their task. However, the monthly limit of 90 litres of gas per car seriously hampers the full utilization of the existing capacity, especially patrolling and especially the reaction-capacity. The EvalCom is of the strict opinion that the limit must be abolished and that it must be assured that tasks can be fulfilled in conformity with the results of risk analysis and other appropriate circumstances.</p> <p><i>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 3.2. Comments from EvalCom – BCP K. Andreevo, page 11 and Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 41</i></p>	<p>Each Regional Directorate has a monthly planned fuel, depending on the needs. The distribution of fuel is conducted by the Director of the Regional Directorate.</p> <p>The declared Border Police fuel necessity for 2011 is 1 225 000 litres. For comparison, for 2010 the fuel amount is 550 000 litres, and for 2009 – 425 000 litres.</p> <p>All measures taken by Border Police for cost efficiency and saving of recourses, the regime of economy on fuel does not influence the efficiency of Border Police activity.</p> <p>If needed additional quantities of fuel is delivered.</p> <p>In November 2010 for the needs of CDBP were designated 900,000 litres <u>motor fuel</u> for 2011 (according to Minister of Interior order № Iz-2849/30.11.2010).</p> <p>In December 2010 for the external land borders the amount of</p>	<p>EvalCom acknowledges the efforts undertaken, especially for the RDBP Elhovo.</p> <p>During a field visit the logbooks of a patrol belonging to the BPS Svilengrad could be checked and no limitations in operative work could be observed.</p>

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<p>The Bulgarian authorities reported to EvalCom that no restrictions exist.</p> <p>No contradictory information could be observed.</p> <p>The fuel assigned annually to the RDBP Elhovo was found to be slightly increased</p> <p>EvalCom still invites the Bulgarian authorities to secure that sufficient fuel is available for operative tasks when- and wherever needed.</p>	<p><u>motor fuel was increased</u> with 160,000 litres, which is 17.8 % more compared with the determined fuel in November.</p> <p>The total quantity motor fuel distributed for the needs of CDBP for 2011 is 1 060 000 litres.</p> <p>The distribution of motor fuel at the external land borders in 2011 is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>RDBP Elhovo</u> – 312 800 (increase with 81 %). For BPS Svilengrad the amount motor fuel, planned for 2011 before the increase is 30 000 litres. After the additionally provided fuel, the quantity is 72,000 litres (increase with 140%); • <u>RDBP Kyustendil</u> – 108 400 litres (increase with 10.2 %); • <u>RDBP Dragoman</u> – 145 600 litres (increase with 7.4 %). <p>The provided additional fuel for CDBP will ensure sufficient available quantity for execution of the operational tasks and implementation of effective border control at external borders</p>	
<p>EvalCom found the current tactical use of dogs for border checks and border surveillance inadequate also at this BPS. Sniffer-dogs should be used in border surveillance in order to carry out foot patrol, detect illegal migrants and be available on the spot when needed. More time should be foreseen to execute border surveillance-tasks on the expense of being nearby the BCP area.</p> <p><i>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 42</i></p> <p>Recommendation being implemented.</p>	<p>A working group for updating the Instruction on border dog handlers' activities (border surveillance and border checks) and the Training modules for dog handlers and sniffers for the Chief Directorate Border Police was established.</p> <p>The actualization of these two documents includes tactical procedures, training of dog holders, conditions for dog accommodation and their service aiming efficiency improvement in their use in border checks and border surveillance.</p> <p>We use the experience of CDBP officers, achieved in their active participation in Workshops and Seminars, related to dog holders' training organized and coordinated by FRONTEX and those of the experts involved in the elaboration of the already accepted „Common Guidelines for Dog Holders” of FRONTEX.</p> <p>Since April 2010 a Programme for preliminary preparation of</p>	<p>During a field visit EvalCom was informed that there are 10 tracking dogs (1 in use at a time directly for surveillance in the area of the border line).</p>

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	<p>growing up sniffers for the Chief Directorate Border Police has been implemented.</p> <p>The Instruction on border dog handlers' activities (border surveillance and border checks) and the Training modules for dog handlers and sniffers for the Chief Directorate Border Police will be adopted by 31 December 2010.</p> <p>The Instruction on border dog handlers' activities (border surveillance and border checks) and the Training modules for dog handlers and sniffers for the Chief Directorate Border Police were adopted on 19 November 2010.</p>	
<p>The EvalCom recommends reconsidering the deployment of the stationary thermal cameras and concentrating in the real high risk areas (i.e. redeploy the stationary camera from Shtit to Matochina).</p> <p><i>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 3.4. Comments from EvalCom - Border Surveillance, page 14 and Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 44</i></p> <p>This stationary camera was found to be broken and under repair, but they deployed a mobile camera to Matochina to cover the high-risk area.</p>	<p>The recent deployment of the three stationary thermo vision cameras in the zone of BPS – Svilengrad is in accordance with the projects, under which they had been delivered. Two of the cameras had been delivered under a project for surveillance of BCP area, funded by the World Bank. The third camera is delivered under PHARE Project – for the surveillance of the Bulgarian-Turkish border. The place of deployment is according to the operative situation at the time of the post building.</p> <p>Stationary surveillance posts had been envisaged as peripheral system and components of the Integrated surveillance system, including: thermo vision camera, colour CCD camera, on land radio location station, control panel, device for information achieves etc. Those posts shall be deployed on suitable for observation heights. For the parts of the state border with no coverage, the deployment of perimeter signal-guarding systems is envisaged, in combination with stationary cameras and mobile thermo vision systems.</p> <p>In this way Matochina zone will be covered.</p> <p><u>Update March 2011</u> The recommendation has been implemented. In the area of Matochina a new stationary surveillance post has been installed. The broken camera of the SSP in the area of Shtit has been repaired. In addition, two new stationary surveillance posts have been installed: one in Lesovo and</p>	<p>EvalCom acknowledges the improvements made.</p>

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	one in the area of Svilengrad.	
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General recommendations land borders		
<p>The ability of the Bulgarian authorities to provide an updated staffing-table dated March 2010 during the visit was appreciated. The table showed that the overall staffing-level was actually reduced (with the exception of the central administration). Since at all sites visited concern was raised whether the available staffing would also be sufficient in times of peak-traffic <u>at the BCPs</u> as well as under unforeseen circumstances <u>at the green border</u>, the Bulgarian authorities are invited to once again review the HR-strategy in order to provide sufficient staffing at the future external borders while still ensuring additional police-measures after the lifting of controls at the internal border.</p> <p><i>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 3.4. Comments from EvalCom – Border Surveillance, page 14 and Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 31 and page 45.</i></p> <p>As already stated further above EvalCom noted with concern that the number of staffing available for border checks at national and regional level had slightly decreased since the time of the last visit.</p> <p>12 border guards from the RBPD Dragoman and Kyustendil were deployed at BPS Svilengrad for 1 month as a preventive measure parallel to the start of the FRONTEX-RABIT-deployment at the EL - TK border.</p> <p>As regards checks; a check in the shift-records proved that the general staffing during summer at</p>	<p>Based on the internal redeployment of the staff border police officers from BPS – RDBP are seconded on the main BCP's. These officers have the necessary qualifications and experience to carry out the tasks concerning the border checks.</p> <p>Within the FRONTEX initiatives at the BCP Kapitan Andreevo (within the long-term program "focal points" and joint operations, which Bulgaria has hosted - JO 2010 Poseidon 2010 - land borders") the activities of the border checks are assisted by 8 - 10 European experts as well as during the peak traffic.</p> <p>Additional technical equipment is delivered by which the officers' activity is facilitated – see BG comments on recommendation 4 of p. 4.2 <i>Comments and recommendations of the Evaluation Committee: BPS and BCP Gyueshevo</i> and recommendation 8 of 4.3 <i>Comments and recommendations of the Evaluation Committee: BPS Svilengrad and BCP K. Andreevo</i>.</p> <p>Bulgaria is aware of the practice of border controls in some European countries on integrative (interchangeably) performing of the tasks of the border police officers. This working principle is to be further discussed with a view to its future implementation in Bulgaria.</p> <p>During the past summer season (time of peak-traffic) no delay and no obstacles in the border police officers' activity had been identified.</p> <p>On 13 December 2010, by an order of the Minister of Interior, the following changes were made to increase the number of the staff:</p> <p>1. The number of the staff at BCP Kapitan Andreevo is increased with 48 staff positions for border police officers.</p>	<p>As already mentioned in the "General Information" and in the comments on the recommendations further above procedures are being followed in order to increase the staffing of the BCP and also have sufficient staff available (+48 at BCP Kapitan Andreevo and +10 at BCP Kalotina) at peak-times in the forthcoming summer season.</p> <p>Detailed information was also received about redeployment of staff from the internal borders to the external borders after Schengen-accession.</p>

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<p>the BCP Kapitan Andreevo was basically equal or slightly lower compared to the time of the first visit.</p> <p>As this was formerly said to be low-traffic the recommendation has to be considered as not implemented².</p> <p>As regards border-surveillance the number of vacancies has also slightly increased.</p> <p>Since the completion of the technical infrastructure is still open EvalCom urgently invites the Bulgarian authorities to change the situation, fill the existing vacancies and provide for sufficient personnel at this sensitive part of the future external border.</p>	<p>2. The number of the staff at BCP Kalotina is increased with 10 staff positions for border police officers.</p> <p>Competitions for taking the positions in RDBP Elhovo and RDBP Dragoman are announced.</p> <p>The competition procedure, selection and appointment of border police officers will be completed by the end of February 2011, after that they will start initial professional training at the beginning of March 2011. The training will be finalised by the middle of September 2011 and the officials will start their work on the vacant positions.</p> <p>In order to guarantee efficient border control and smooth passengers' traffic in the peak summer season at the BCPs situated on the Bulgarian-Turkish border professionally experienced and trained officers will be temporary relocated from the future internal borders, until the training of the newly appointed officers finished (mid September 2011). In compliance with the risk analysis and the statistic data from AIS "Border Control" concerning performed checks on persons and motor vehicles at BCPs on the Bulgarian-Turkish border, the number of officers during the inactive season is sufficient. Such conclusion was noted in the land borders reports of the Evaluation Commission.</p> <p><u>Update March 2011</u> Successfully passed the competitions announced in November and December 2010 new officials have been recruited, as follows:</p> <p><u>At Regional Directorate Border Police Dragoman (Bulgarian-Serbian border)– 47 officials:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- At BCP Kalotina – 21 officials (10 additionally opened positions and 11 vacancies);- At BPS Kalotina – 19 officials in the field of border	
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² BG: In July 2010 four (4) officers and in August 2010 eight (8) officers have been seconded by an order of the Head of BPS Svilengrad to the BCP Kapitan Andreevo in order to support the activity at BCP.

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	<p>surveillance (vacancies);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At BPS Bregovo - 4 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies); - At BPS Chiprovtsi – 2 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies); - At BPS Trun – 1 official in the field of border surveillance (vacancy). <p><u>At Regional Directorate Border Police Elhovo (Bulgarian-Turkish border) - 107 officials</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At BCP Kapitan Andreevo - 52 officials (48 additionally opened positions and 4 vacancies); - At BPS Svilengrad – 17 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies); - At BPS Malko Turnovo – 12 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies); - At BCP Malko Turnovo – 6 officials (vacancies); - At BPS Elhovo - 6 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancy); - At BCP Lesovo – 9 officials (4 additionally opened positions and 5 vacancies); - At BPS Bolyarovo – 4 officials in the field of border surveillance (vacancies); - At BPS Sredec – 1 official in the field of border surveillance (vacancy). <p>These officials are taking part in initial police training course as of 7 March 2011.</p>	
<p>It was noted positively that the first new helicopter for the Bulgarian Border Police was delivered during the visit. EvalCom invites Bulgaria to further enhance airborne surveillance and regularly report on the achieved progress.</p> <p><i>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 3.4. Comments from EvalCom – Border Surveillance, page 14 and Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 46</i></p>	<p>Under the Schengen facility agreements have been assigned for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery of two helicopters, type "small" - a term of delivery: November 30, 2010; - Delivery of one helicopter type "medium" - a term of delivery: November 30, 2010; - Building air sheds for ground and places for landing RDBP Elhovo - a period of performance: November 30, 2010. <p>Premises for storage of the spare parts, tools and ground equipment are provided.</p>	<p>EvalCom acknowledges the improvements made in the field of air-surveillance and communication between the NCC, helicopters (if announced in the briefing before) and the ground teams via TETRA .</p> <p>Air base Bezmer and air base Sofia are in operation. The two helicopters at Bezmer air base could be observed by EvalCom.</p> <p>The provided information on the number of flights shows constant progress. EvalCom encourages to continue the increase</p> <p>The air surveillance concept is being implemented accordingly (additional staffing being appointed; training ongoing; for the time</p>

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<p>EvalCom acknowledged that the “medium”-type helicopter has arrived, the necessary infrastructure is under preparation and the technical preparations (incl. training of the staff) has been completed, yet regrets that the helicopter already available hasn't been used in operative action (so far only six test-flights combined with surveillance-tasks having taken place).</p> <p>EvalCom invites to put the helicopters into operation as soon as possible and also to undertake all measures so that the two small helicopters still to arrive are also integrated in the system soon.</p> <p>EvalCom further invites to prepare all necessary preconditions so that the helicopters can indeed be deployed close to the (external) borders.</p> <p>As regards operative action EvalCom recommends to provide for a sufficient number of local observers adequately trained who can support the pilot when in operation at particular hot-spots.</p>	<p>In May 2010 the staff of the air team was increased from 25 to 46 employees. At present 23 employees work in the unit and are announced two new competitive selection procedures for pilots and engineers to fill the vacancies.</p> <p>In July 2010 three engineers passed specialized training. According to the plan for 2011 a resource for 1000 flight hours and training of 5 flight crews of helicopters are envisaged.</p> <p>On the External Borders Fund 2010-2013 in 3.2.1 Objective "Improving the operational capacity of Border Police for air surveillance of the external borders" is included the construction of airfield of the Border Police.</p> <p>Nine officers successfully passed the competition (selection procedure) so far. Five officers were assigned as pilots. The assignment of one more boarding engineer, one engineer for maintenance of the engine and two aeromechanics is forthcoming.</p> <p><u>Training:</u> Seven officers have been trained in 5 specialized training courses carried out in the period between March and August 2010. Two more officers attended training course in September for pilots of helicopter AW 109 Power. Two new courses has started in September - for training of 2 more pilots for airborne management of helicopter AW 139 Power and one course for training of one avionic mechanic for helicopter AW 109 Power. One officer from the special detachment for border surveillance in CDBP took part in the training course organized and coordinated by FRONTEX for airborne crew management for improvement of professional skills and expertise.</p> <p><u>Air surveillance:</u> On 5 October 2010 the first flight for aerial surveillance was carried out along the Bulgarian-Turkish border. The flight covered the following border area: Elhovo – Lesovo - Svilengrad</p> <p>During the flight were performed the following tasks:</p>	<p>being support from gov't squads being provided).</p> <p>Support from local observers was confirmed at the BPS Svilengrad.</p>
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- air surveillance of border zone;
- communication tests via TETRA system ;
- interaction between the helicopter crew and the mobile and the stationary posts for border surveillance.

The communication tests have proved full coverage of the TETRA network. The signal connection showed fluent communication capacity with the Border Police mobile units, the stationary posts for border surveillance, the operative duty units at BPS – Elhovo and BPS – Svilengrad, as well as the operative duty centres situated in the RDBP-Elhovo and in the CDBP, as well as the connection with the operative duty unit of the special detachment for air surveillance.

The second flight is planned for 19 October 2010. It will cover the Bulgarian-Turkish land and southern maritime border (Elhovo - Lesovo - Resovo - Burgas). It will have similar task as the previous one but this time the connection with the Border Police patrolling vessels and posts for technical and visual surveillance of the sea border will be tested too.

In October 2010 one more pilot of helicopter was appointed.

Training

In October 2010 two more pilots and one more employee from the engineer-technical staff passed courses for preparation. The training of another two pilots and two employees from the engineer-technical staff is ongoing.

On 20 October 2010 a second flight for aerial surveillance was carried out along the Bulgarian-Turkish border. The flight covered the following border area: Elhovo – Lesovo – Scharkovo – Granichar – Zvezdec – Malko Tarnovo – Kosti – Kondolovo.

During the flight the following tasks were performed:

- air surveillance of the border zone;
- communication tests via TETRA system;
- interaction between the helicopter crew and the mobile and the

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	<p>stationary posts for border surveillance.</p> <p>The communication tests have proved full coverage of the TETRA network. The signal connection showed fluent communication capacity with the Border Police mobile units, the stationary posts for border surveillance, the operative on-duty units at BPS – Elhovo, Boliarovo, Sredec, Malko Tarnovo, as well as the operative on-duty centres situated in the RDBP-Elhovo and in the CDBP, as well as the connection with the operative on-duty unit of the special detachment for air surveillance.</p> <p>During November 2010 the training of the staff from the Specialized Unit for Air Surveillance was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- pilots – 5 officers passed successfully the special course for pilots and received certificates;- engineers and technical staff – 7 officers successfully passed the course for maintenance of the relevant models of engines and helicopters. <p>In November a training course Star SAFIRE multi-sensor system for engineers and technical staff was carried out.</p> <p>Until the beginning of November 2010 had been realized 6 flights with the available helicopter for border airborne surveillance - 2 along the Turkish border, 1 on the sea border, 2 on the Serbian border and 1 along the FYROM state border. The following tasks were performed during the flights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- identification of optimal parameters, referring to the speed and the height for efficient airborne surveillance, in accordance with the geographical conditions of the sensitive areas (relief and airflows);- communication tests via TETRA system;- interaction between the helicopter crew and the mobile and stationary posts for border surveillance. <p>The communication tests had proven full coverage of TETRA network. The signal connection showed free communication capacity of the Border Police mobile units, as well as of the stationary posts for border surveillance, the operative duty units in the BPSs, in the RDBP and in the National Coordination</p>	
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	<p>Centre.</p> <p>Sites for landing of the helicopters are determined, which can be used by crews of helicopters at the time of carrying out border airborne surveillance tasks.</p> <p>A special training exercise for detention of state border offenders was carried out with the helicopter for border surveillance.</p> <p>At the end of November 2010 one additional helicopter, middle size was, delivered under Schengen Facility. On 5 December 2010 the final two small helicopters were delivered. The three new helicopters will be used for surveillance of air borders from the beginning of 2011.</p> <p>In December 2010 the Concept for Air surveillance of the state border of the Republic of Bulgaria, adopted on 2 July 2009, <u>was updated.</u></p> <p><u>The updated Concept</u> stipulates the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- specific tasks of the air surveillance component;- operational area (area of operation);- risk directions for air surveillance;- current situation and concrete measures to enhance the capacity of air surveillance;- organizational structure and basing and the stages of realization of the concept with the specific measure for each stage. <p>In December, due to the bad weather conditions, just two planned flights for air surveillance of the Bulgarian-Turkish and Bulgarian-FYROM border were carried out.</p> <p>Until the completion of the construction of the post for permanent base in RDBP Elhovo as of January 24, 2011, two of the helicopters (one middle sized AGUSTA AW139 and a light type AGUSTA A109E) have been redeployed to Bezmer Airbase near the town of Elhovo (16 minutes flight time to Bulgarian-Turkish border). This location ensures full operational coverage (planned and emergency flights) of the</p>	
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	<p>Bulgarian border with Turkey. It also ensures air surveillance of the maritime border in compliance with the best practices in this field.</p> <p>24 officers of the Specialized Unit for air surveillance (flight and engineer staff) were seconded at the Bezmer Airbase.</p> <p>In January 2011 six flights for air surveillance of the external borders – two on Bulgarian-Turkish border, three on the sea border and one on the Bulgarian-Serbian border were carried out. Two from these flights (one on the Bulgarian-Turkish and one on the Bulgarian-Serbian borders) were carried out in relation with special police operations.</p> <p>In order to ensure the necessary administrative capacity for the needs of the post for permanent base in RDBP Elhovo since 01 January 2011 the number of staff has increased by 29 staff positions.</p> <p><u>Update March 2011</u> In February 2011 the 11 scheduled flights for air surveillance were performed - 6 on the Bulgarian-Turkish border, 1 on the Bulgarian-FYROM border, 3 on the Bulgarian-Serbian and 1 on the sea border.</p>	
<p>Reviewing the three sites visited EvalCom was very satisfied with the general setup of the BCP Gyueshevo. The construction-work almost completed will allow for a good implementation of joint controls and up-to-date checking procedures. As regards the other two sites it was taken on with concern that obviously major reconstruction – in the case of Kapitan Andreevo even a complete rebuilding – is foreseen (to start late 2010/early 2011). Although it was clearly stated that the construction-work will be planned in a way that cross-border-traffic and control-procedures will not be hindered this will mean that the major BCP to-wards Turkey and the major BCP towards Serbia will be affected. Also</p>	<p>No major reconstruction of the BCP Kalotina and BCP Kapitan Andreevo will be carried out. The reconstruction of BCP Kalotina and BCP Kapitan Andreevo was envisaged in a long term World Bank project for facilitating of the trade and transport in South-eastern Europe. The decision not to rebuild BCP Kalotina and BCP Kapitan Andreevo was taken taking after a thorough analysis of the available infrastructure and the needs of the cross border traffic and border controls, taking also into account the delay of the implementation of the trade and transport project. It was estimated that the project objectives could be achieved with the rehabilitation and repair of the already existing buildings and facilities.</p> <p>The rehabilitation and modernization will not hinder the cross-border traffic or affect the quality of the border control</p>	<p>The announced repairs and improvements in Kapitan Andreevo BCP could be confirmed during the visit.</p> <p>The functional location of the new inspection halls and the improvements in the workflow of the lorry-checks were particularly appreciated.</p> <p>EvalCom was informed that the envisaged World Bank Project will now be started (implementation time October 2011 – December 2012) and took note that obviously close cooperation between the Border police and the responsables of the project is established in the framework of the steering-WG, which will taker the necessary measures to limit the impact of the works on the border-checking activities (see also “General information”).</p>

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<p>– since in both cases a considerable enlargement and an implementation of joint control between Border Police and Customs are foreseen – the works foreseen will most probably lead to increased need for staffing and equipment. The Bulgarian authorities are invited to report regularly on the progress achieved.</p> <p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 3.2. Comments from EvalCom – BCP K.Andreevo, page 9 and Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 22</p> <p>(.....)</p> <p>EvalCom takes note that no reconstruction will take place.</p> <p>As regards the checks in the inspection-halls EvalCom could observe good cooperation with Customs on entry-side (checks for cars and lorries incl. refrigerator for the load of one truck available on re-quest).</p> <p>As regards other changes (fixing holes in the roof of one inspection-hall etc.) no changes were observed (some shortcomings still open).</p> <p>and</p> <p>Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 48</p> <p>(.....)</p> <p>The EvalCom acknowledges that, according to the information received, no reconstruction-work will be undertaken at the BCPs Kalotina and</p>	<p>procedures. The construction works will basically include renovation of the existing administrative buildings, roofs, replacement of interior installation/fitting, lighting, where necessary, thermal and hydro insulation, etc. A priority will be given to the activities related to the implementation of the recommendations of the EvalCom.</p> <p>The construction works are planned to begin in the second half of 2011 and to finish in the first quarter of 2012.</p> <p>In addition, it is envisaged to improve the current complicated road access and traffic to BCP Kapitan Andreevo. This goal will be achieved through the implementation of another component of the project for facilitating of the trade and transport in South-eastern Europe – construction of an access road to the border crossing point which will be the last section of the Maritsa highway. The project foresees that the highway will be constructed north from the existing road and will link with the latter before the border crossing point. Thus the works on the highway will not hinder the cross border traffic and the border control procedures.</p> <p>Furthermore, also at the BCP Kapitan Andreevo, two new halls for thorough customs checks for the needs of the Customs Agency will to be built. Since they will be situated away from traffic lines, their construction will not hamper the functioning of the border crossing point and the border control.</p> <p>When performing construction works at a BCP in Bulgaria, the following mandatory rules apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The projects for planned construction works must be coordinated with the border services at each stage;• The plan for organisation of construction works drafted by the construction company is coordinated in advance with Border Police and the other border services. The implementation is controlled by a special interagency committee with representatives from all relevant state, local and private entities (the border services, the contracting authority, the construction company, the company exercising construction supervision, the planners, and the	
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<p>Kapitan Andreevo, but invites the Bulgarian authorities to urgently fix the open and pending problems in Kapitan Andreevo (e.g. the open roofing at the lorry-inspection-hall, the update of the car- and lorry-inspection-hall at the customs, the full repair of the fences, streamlining in the lorry-entry-checks, proper integration of the third weighing-bridge, etc.)</p>	<p>local authorities). The committee ensures the smooth execution of the border controls and the passing of the traffic. All operational questions the occur during the works are solved immediately;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The neighbouring countries, in this case Turkey and Serbia are duly informed about the activities at the Bulgarian border crossing point. If necessary, the existing bilateral commissions composed from representatives of the border services from both countries could meet to discuss issues of common interest. There is already positive experience in such cross border coordination from the reconstruction of the Turkish BCP Kapakule, adjacent to BCP Kapitan Andreevo, as well as the construction of the latest BCP at the Bulgarian-Turkish border Lesovo - Hamzabeyli. <p>On the basis of the latest update of the project in coordination with other competent authorities, the planned activities at BCP Kalotina and BCP Kapitan Andreevo are with the following time schedule:</p> <p>Procedure for selection of a contractor to undertake the construction works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Preparation of tender documents - May 2011;- Announcement of the tender procedure- July 2011;- Signing a contract with the selected contractor - October 2011. <p>Execution of construction works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Start of execution of construction works - November 2011;- Completion of construction works - November 2012. <p><u>Update March 2011</u></p> <p>The repair works in the existing two halls for customs checks at the entry lane for heavy vehicles and on the exit lane for cars at Customs Border Point Kapitan Andreevo has been done.</p> <p>Two new halls of lightweight construction for second line</p>	
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	<p>custom checks on entry and exit lanes – cars and buses are built.</p> <p>Entirely new fences are built in the East and Northeast perimeter of the zone of BCP Kapitan Andreevo. Damages of the peripheral fence of BCP Kapitan Andreevo-road have been repair and fences are being strengthened in the Southern region.</p> <p>The third weighbridge at Customs Border Point Kapitan Andreevo has been properly integrated and put into exploitation.</p>	
<p>The Bulgarian authorities informed the EvalCom about the future implementation of the 1st phase of the “Integrated Border Surveillance System” at the Green Border towards Turkey. Since the forthcoming full implementation of the Schengen acquis is bound to substantially increase migration-pressure at this border-section the Bulgarian authorities are invited to ensure the timely implementation and report on the progress regularly.</p> <p><i>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 51</i></p> <p>The projected date for finalization of the first part (Svilengrad → Lesovo; length of 58km; total length of the border to TK is 271km) is foreseen for Dec. 2011.</p> <p>The deadline for the next stage along the border between BG and TR (BCP Lesovo – Resovo) is foreseen for 2013.</p>	<p>A public procurement procedure for the construction of “Integrated system for control and surveillance of the Bulgarian-Turkish border and the focal point” has started in April 2009 but has been delayed due to appeals by some of the bidders. On 5 August 2010 the Supreme Administrative Court pronounced its final decision. On 24 August 2010 the chosen contractor, the Consortium Ericsson Telecommunications Bulgaria SMLLC and Eriksson Slovakia sro submitted to the Ministry of Finance the documents required under the law for signing of a contract. The contract is already elaborated and its signing is foreseen for 7 September 2010.</p> <p>The “Integrated system for control and surveillance of the Bulgarian-Turkish border” will cover 58 201 meters of the border between BCP Kapitan Andreevo and BCP Lesovo as well as the territory adjacent to the border crossing points. The Integrated system will be built as a three-stage structure for management and communication between the different components and units – the regional coordination centre in Regional Directorate Border Police – Elhovo, the local coordination centre in Border Police station Svilengrad and the peripheral surveillance systems (seismic sensors, stationary and mobile surveillance posts. It will be developed taking into account the experience and best practices of Member States that already have integrated system for control and surveillance of the external Schengen green border such as Finland, Hungary, Slovakia and Lithuania.</p>	<p>As mentioned above and according to the information received from both the RDBP and the responsible WG of ERICSSON the deadlines for the completion of the 1st stage are maintained. The LCC (currently being set up in the former operational room at the BPS Svilengrad) could be visited by EvalCom. The 1st stage will be handed over to BG authorities on 12 December 2011.</p>

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The deadline for implementation of the project, respectively for setting up the integrated system and putting it into operation is 460 days. Under this condition, the integrated surveillance system will be ready by December 2011. It is worth mentioning that Bulgaria already has sufficient and adequate capacity for border control and surveillance at the Bulgarian-Turkish border. As the EvalCom has reported after the evaluation, there is sufficient number of well-trained border police officers that are equipped with modern technical means for carrying out strict border control and to ensure the safety of the external border.

On 8 September 2010 a contract for construction of "Integrated system for control and surveillance of the Bulgarian-Turkish border and the focal point" was signed with deadline for execution December 2011.

The contract envisages conducting of monthly meetings between the contractor and Border Police where a report for the achieved progress and regarding the execution will be given.

On 22 October 2010 the first meeting between the contractor and the Border Police to specify the progress on the project was held.

In the period of 8 - 19 November 2010 joint teams of border police officers and representatives of the contractor carried out a study of the terrain on the state border to take the coordinates and the deployment of the perimeter signal-security systems (35 areas of 1 km.) and to identify the areas for construction and deployment of the Stationary surveillance posts (SSP) (6 units) and the possibilities for electric supply of the technical equipment.

There is a conceptual project for deployment of the SSPs and the modules of the perimeter signal-security system which are part from the Integrated system.

Meanwhile, on 17.11.2010 was held the second work meeting, on which was discussed the issues related to the staff training for work with the integrated system and the supply of thermo

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	<p>vision cameras for the SSP. During the meeting a monthly report of the contractor for the progress of the project was adopted.</p> <p>The contract provides training of 16 experts for using the system, 30 operators and 12 experts for diagnostic and technical maintenance. The training will be carried out by groups of 8 officers on place – on the built system.</p> <p>In December the following three meetings with the contractor were held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one regular – the progress of the project for November 2010 was reported and - two work meetings to specify the radio relay sections. <p>In January 2011, the following two meetings with the contractor were held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One regular – the progress of the project for December 2010 was reported and - One workshop on expert level for specifying the location of the perimeter signal-security system, which consists of 35 modules x 1 kilometre built of (Passive InfraRed PIR or seismic sensors) and PTZ thermo vision cameras. The location sites for the deployment of the perimeter signal security system are in compliance with the risky areas of high migration pressure. <p><u>Update March 2011</u> In February 2011 a regular meeting was held with the contractor for reporting the progress achieved. Construction works for setting up of Local Coordination Centre at BPS Svilengrad has started.</p>	
<p>EvalCom was very appreciative of the fact that the Bulgarian authorities were very open in reporting about the level of technical equipment already available. It was taken on board that there is progress in this field and that even in the last days before the visit sophisticated control and surveillance-equipment was delivered to the</p>	<p>The recommendation has been implemented. In the context of the professional training on the spots without interruption of work a practical training and examination of the staff skills to work with new technical equipment supplied for border control has been conducted.</p> <p><u>Update March 2011</u></p>	<p>EvalCom could observe the existing RALEN-equipment working properly and was informed that procurement-procedures is forthcoming for a second one, which was said to be installed in the neighbouring hall.</p>

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<p>border police officers on the spot. The Bulgarian authorities are invited to further develop their efforts in training the border police-officers in the use of this equipment in order to rapidly provide for its optimal use.</p> <p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 3.2. Comments from EvalCom – BCP K.Andreevo, page 10 and Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 52</p> <p>EvalCom acknowledges that new equipment has continued to arrive (part of it again prior to the visit) and that efforts could be observed that also training was provided.</p> <p>As regards the RALEN-scanning-device in the area for lorry-checking, EvalCom was yet informed that the system was removed a few days after departure of the first visit and re-installed only on 30 November 2010³.</p>	<p>The RALEN system for detecting persons hiding in trucks at Kapitan Andreevo BCP is in use since November 2010.</p> <p>In addition, a procurement procedure has been opened for the delivery and installation of devices to detect hidden persons in lorries at BCP at the external land borders. The deadline for submitting offers was 7 March 2011.</p>	
<p>The operational performance and detection capacity of the Green-border surveillance should be improved (especially in the light of the envisaged full implementation of Schengen in Bulgaria). The EvalCom invites Bulgaria to reconsider the deployment of personnel and surveillance techniques to further enhance efficiency.</p>	<p>The relevant analysis has been made and in the annual plan for border control for the period October 2010 - September 2011 measures to improve patrol tactics and deployment of technical equipment in order to enhance the effectiveness of border surveillance are included.</p> <p>A new Instruction for the patrol-post activities in the Border Police in compliance with the provisions of SBC and the Catalogue of best practices for external borders is drafting.</p>	<p>EvalCom acknowledges that the existing vacancies have been filled up and encourages the BG authorities to complete the training asap and put them into operative action.</p> <p>EvalCom furthermore encourages the BG authorities to timely finalize the 1st stage of the IBSS so that additional redeployment to areas not covered by the system can take place as already planned.</p> <p>EvalCom furthermore acknowledges the plans for redeployment from</p>

³ BG: In parallel to the launched procurement (on 16 March 2010) for purchasing RALEN system in coordination with the producer such system was installed at BCP Kapitan Andreevo in order to test its functional capacity in real environment and training of the staff as well. Due to some detected discrepancies in the candidate's documents the procedure was cancelled. On 17 May a new procedure for RALEN purchasing was open and later cancelled again due to some procedure gaps. Meanwhile the system was removed from BCP Kapitan Andreevo. In November 2010 procurement was carried out once again and resulted in purchasing of one RALEN system for detecting persons hidden in cargo motor vehicles.
The system was fully put into operation at the end of November 2010.

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<p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 53</p> <p>While the operational performance was found in general to be satisfactory and also the detection capacity will, taking into account the available technical equipment, be sufficient, EvalCom notes with concern that the number of personnel available for border surveillance has been slightly reduced since the previous visit.</p> <p>EvalCom urges the Bulgarian authorities to correct this approach immediately and be aware that this section of the border is one of the (currently) sensitive external borders of the EU.</p>	<p>In order to increase the quality of the border control, on 16 September 2010 three new mobile laboratories for documents checks were received at BPS Svilengrad. The officers are trained to work with the new laboratories.</p> <p><u>Update March 2011</u></p> <p>Successfully passed the competitions announced in November and December 2010 new officials have been recruited, as follows:</p> <p><u>At Regional Directorate Border Police Dragoman (Bulgarian-Serbian border)– 47 officials in total from them in the field of border surveillance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At BPS Kalotina – 19 officials (vacancies); - At BPS Bregovo - 4 officials (vacancies); - At BPS Chiprovtsi – 2 officials (vacancies); - At BPS Trun – 1 official (vacancy). <p><u>At Regional Directorate Border Police Elhovo (Bulgarian-Turkish border) - 107 officials in total from them in the field of border surveillance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At BPS Svilengrad – 17 officials (vacancies); - At BPS Malko Turnovo – 12 officials (vacancies); - At BPS Elhovo - 6 officials (vacancy); - At BPS Bolyarovo – 4 officials (vacancies); - At BPS Sredec – 1 official (vacancy). <p>These officials are taking part in initial police training course as of 7 March 2011.</p>	<p>the future internal to the external border and invites the BG authorities to also put these plans in action as foreseen.</p>
<p>The overall education and training policy for the border police is a high quality instrument effectively structured at the central, regional and local level. However, there is still a general need of enhancing the language skills of the top and medium management of the border police, in</p>	<p>The training of the staff from the CDBP in courses in the Academy of MoI is ongoing.</p> <p>Under FRONTEX initiatives the participating of border police officers in all the training programs with a maximum allowable number of participants will continue.</p>	<p>The following information was provided to EvalCom during presentations:</p> <p><u>Management courses:</u></p> <p>In March, 2011 a regular course for management skills and</p>

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<p>particular for the EN language, which is an essential communication vehicle among the Schengen Member States border management authorities. The Bulgarian authorities are invited to facilitate that senior and junior managers attend language- as well as management courses.</p> <p><i>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 32</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(.....)</p> <p>Managers are attending different training-courses.</p> <p><i>and</i></p> <p><i>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 53</i></p> <p>EvalCom takes on board that training-courses on English, German, French, Spanish, Serbian, Greek, Turkish and Farzi were offered and that 284 border guards have attended those courses.</p> <p>EvalCom still has concerns about the possibility of the managerial staff to attend those courses and thus reiterates the previous recommendation.</p>	<p>In the program upon External Borders Fund a training module for specialized language skills is provided.</p> <p>In 2010 the following officers from the senior and medium management level were trained in English:</p> <p><u>Dragoman</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - chiefs of BPS and BCP – 2; - chiefs of shifts – 3; - Commander of section – 1. <p><u>Kyustendil</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - chief of shift – 1 <p><u>Elhovo</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - chief of BPS – 1; - chiefs of shifts – 2; - Commander of section – 1. <p>TOTAL: 11 officers</p> <p><u>Management training</u></p> <p>In addition to the regular training for managerial staff of the MoI, new courses on "Management for officers of CDBP" have started at the Academy of MoI since the beginning of 2011.</p> <p>3 courses "Management for officers of CDBP" for 130 officers from the senior and middle management staff of Border Police will be held in the first half of 2011 for the following officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 23 officers from RDBP Dragoman; - 19 officers from RDBP Kyustendil; - 28 officers from RDBP Elhovo. <p>10 other courses for junior management staff, involving 240 officers, will be held in the same period for the following officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 52 officers from RDBP Dragoman; 	<p>improvement of the middle and the high managerial staff was conducted with the participation of 12 border police officers from RDBP - Elhovo, of these - 2 from BPS-Svilengrad.</p> <p>Additionally in February and March 2011 2 one-week courses were conducted at the Police Academy of the Ministry of Interior with the participation of 16 officers from RDBP – Elhovo, of these - 6 officers from BPS Svilengrad.</p> <p>In addition, during the first six months of 2011, there will be conducted 10 courses with the participation of 62 officers from the RDBP-Elhovo conducted at the Police Academy of the Ministry of Interior.</p> <p><u>English language courses:</u></p> <p>From the beginning of 2011, in regularly planned language training of the senior and junior managerial staff of CDBP at the Police Academy of the Ministry of Interior English language course (beginners) are being conducted with the participation of 6 officers from the RDBP-Elhovo, of these – 3 from BPS-Svilengrad;</p> <p>Additional English courses had been organised at the Police Academy of the Ministry of Interior as follows:</p> <p>12 weeks training in English B1 level, with the participation of 2 officers from the RDBP-Elhovo, of these - 1 from BPS-Svilengrad.</p> <p>15 weeks training in English (beginners) with the participation of 7 officers from the RDBP-Elhovo, of these - 3 from BPS-Svilengrad.</p> <p>During the second half of 2011 two more courses in English language are planned, in which 28 officers from the Border Police will participate.</p>
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	<p>- 38 officers from RDBP Kyustendil; - 62 officers from RDBP Elhovo.</p> <p><u>Update March 2011</u></p> <p>50 high-level and middle-management officials from the CDBP were trained within a management course held in February 2011. Among them 10 officials from Dragoman, 10 from Elhovo and 9 from Kyustendil were trained.</p> <p><u>Language training</u> Since January 2011 an English language course for basic training has started. Six officers of RDBP Elhovo and two officers of RDBP Kyustendil are included in the course which will finish on 21 April 2011.</p> <p>On the same date a Turkish language course has started as well. 5 officers of RDBP Elhovo and one officers of RDBP Dragoman are included in the course which will finish on 8 July 2011.</p> <p><u>Update March 2011</u></p> <p>On 15 February 2011 an English language course for level B2 started. 13 high-level and middle-management officials from the CDBP take part in the course, of them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 officials from Regional Directorate Border Police Dragoman; - 2 officials from Regional Directorate Border Police Elhovo; - 4 officials from Regional Directorate Border Police Kyustendil. 	
<p>Issuance of visas was carried out in compliance with the Schengen acquis. However, the fact that MFA has to give permission each time a visa is issued makes this procedure unnecessarily long. The Bulgarian authorities are invited to consider</p>	<p>On 14th July 2010 the Council of Ministers approved the Draft-Law amending and supplementing the Law for the Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria which envisages the abolition of the consultation procedure with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding visa issuance at the border. It is submitted for</p>	<p>At BCP Kapitan Andreevo visas were issued electronically. The standard EU-visa-sticker (10 stored; old version) was found in use. There were 2 visas issued in 2011.</p> <p>Visa-fees were found in line with the provisions of the visacode</p>

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<p>changing this procedure and only involving the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs in cases when consultation or thorough investigations are needed. The EvalCom notes that visa stickers were filled in manually and encourages the Bulgarian authorities to bring the new automated visa issuing system into full operation as soon as possible.</p> <p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 21 and page 54.</p> <p>Legislative amendment will enter into force on 1 January 2011. Until then consultation-procedures remain the same. Automated visa-issuing-system is operative.</p>	<p>discussion in the Parliament.</p> <p>The new AIS ‘Border Control’ and the VIS working stations at the BCPs with ability of taking biometric data will be put into operation in September 2010. The setting up of this system will replace the existing manual issuance of visas. Visas will be printed on spot and will be machine-readable.</p> <p>The new AIS ‘Border Control’ compatible with SIS has been put into real operation on 22 October 2010.</p> <p>The first group of Border Police officers had been trained in the National Visa Centre in July – training of the trainers for working on the terminals of the National Visa Information System at the BCPs.</p> <p>The working stations of VIS had been installed in all BCPs at external border. Currently the stations are operative at local level and the training of border police officers is carrying out. After identifying the security politics with the competent structures regarding the communications the gradual connection with CVIS of Bulgaria will start.</p> <p>The new VIS at the BCPs with ability of automated visa issuing will become fully operational on 15 November 2010.</p> <p>Since 16 November 2010 through the new AIS ‘Border Control’ automated checks/inquiries in NSIS and the National VIS could be done, and following additional information could be obtained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for previous trips of the checked person/vehicle; - for the authenticity of the checked document. <p>A special ‘training of the trainers’ course was carried out in the period September – October 2010 for using the National Visa Information System. 21 officers were trained.</p> <p>The training includes processing of submitted visas applications, taking biometrics, entering data in National Visa Information System, issuing of visas and visa stickers printing,</p>	<p>(were automatically assigned by the system).</p> <p>Staff of the BCP confirmed that no permission had to be asked from the MFA.</p>
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	<p>as well as settings in National Visa Information System.</p> <p>The new VIS at the BCPs with ability of automated visa issuing technically is being put into real exploitation on 30 November 2010. For the purposes of the system exploitation and in order to ensure the access of the officials from the BCPs to the NVIS an Organizational Technological Rules for Issuing Visas at Borders were approved.</p> <p>On 1 February 2011 the Law Amending the Law on the Foreigners at the Republic of Bulgaria came into force and as of that date the obligation for consulting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at issuing visas at the border was dropped.</p>	
<p>The EvalCom appreciates the automated rotation system for shifts for the border police officers working in the booths at the BCP's. Therefore the EvalCom recommends implementing a rotation-system for all first-line-officers. EvalCom acknowledges also the benefits of the rotation-system as a tool in the prevention of corruption. The Bulgarian authorities are invited to keep a high level in the fight against corruption.</p> <p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 3.2. Comments from EvalCom – BCP K.Andreevo page 10 and Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 58</p> <p>EvalCom noted with concern that, according to the information received from local Bulgarian authorities, the rotation system was, due to the introduction of the new AIS border control in relation with the connection to the SIS, no longer in use. To adapt the rotation-system to AIS Border control software a technical time is needed. The local authorities had no idea when it would be implemented again and had also never heard about a complete implementation of the rotation system that would affect all border</p>	<p>The recommendation has been implemented. All border police officers carrying out first line border checks both those who work in the booths and those who are at the lanes are included in the rotation system.</p> <p>The Rotation system was temporally suspended due to the introduction of the new AIS Border Control in relation with the connection to SIS. After installing the new software, the Rotation system was put again in exploitation on 22 December 2010 at BCP Gyueshevo and on 30 December 2010 at BCP Kapitan Andreevo, BCP Lesovo and BCP Kalotina.</p> <p>In order to properly implement the Rotation system in the framework of the organization of the activities of the BCP duty shifts, Rules for Exploitation of the Rotation system were elaborated and adopted.</p> <p>All officers from the duty shifts, carrying out border checks on first line are included in the Rotation system. The specialized teams for physical checks of lorries from BCP Kapitan Andreevo are not included in the Rotation system. The officers from those teams are rotated in the framework of the monthly work-schedules for BCP.</p> <p><u>Update March 2011</u></p> <p>The rotation of the border officers at the BCPs is reintroduced since 22 December 2010 at BCP Gyueshevo</p>	<p>EvalCom was informed that written instructions on functions and working rules of the border police officers carrying out checks outside the booths at a BCP are in place since 8 March 2011 and their implementation is strictly monitored. The general recommendation concerning the performance of border checks outside the booths remains valid. BG is invited to continue to closely monitor the performance of those checks.</p> <p>The rotation scheme, which contains the following three types of regimes, was found back in operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial Rotation – defining the initial number of Automated Working Stations and the relevant number of border police officers; - Regular Rotation – (if <i>ad hoc</i> Rotation is not active) during this working regime the border police officers are allocated at intervals between 2 and 4 hours on random principle, as it is already stated in the draft report and the table. - <i>Ad hoc</i> Rotation – in case changing of initial Rotation of border police officers in booths is needed. For example: in changing the intensity of passenger flow on Entry or Exit. The <i>Ad hoc</i> Rotation starts upon BCP's head of shift decision. <p>The scheme was found applicable for every BP-officer except for those performing physical checks on lorries, where BP-officers performing physical checks at lorries were said to rotate in accordance with their duty-roster.</p> <p>An automatic call for change could be observed in a booth by</p>

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<p>guards working at first line. EvalCom urgently asks the Bulgarian authorities to put it back into full operation as mentioned by Bulgaria already in the follow-up.</p>	<p>and on 30 December 2010 at BCP Kapitan Andreevo, BCP Lesovo and BCP Kalotina (reminder: the rotation system was temporally suspended due to the introduction of the new AIS Border Control in relation with the connection to SIS).</p>	<p>EvalCom and written reports are being kept for all positions during a shift.</p> <p>In each rotation the change of the working place is related to temporally suspension of working activities. EvalCom took on board that the reduction of the Rotation period under 2 hours especially during the summer peak season hampers smooth passengers crossing. Nevertheless EvalCom questions whether the maximum working time on one position (4 hours) is not too long to represent an efficient anti-corruption measure.</p>
<p>EvalCom notes that one of the most demanding border-regions at the external Schengen borders will be the Turkish-Greek-Bulgarian border area (triangle). It is necessary closely follow and analyse if there are any changes in border situation. The current border security system cannot cope with more demanding situations. Instead a functional regional tripartite cooperation among the border authorities will be needed. Cooperation should be pragmatic and it should cover common risk-analysis, rapid and reliable information exchange and joint actions.</p> <p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 58</p> <p>See comments above.</p>	<p>For the implementation of the recommendation an officer from BPS Novo Selo responsible for the guarding of the most Eastern part of Bulgarian-Greek border is included as a member from the district Bulgarian-Turkish Mixed Committee, and an officer from BPS Svilengrad with responsibility for guarding the most Western part of the Bulgarian-Turkish border is included as a member from the district Bulgarian-Greek Mixed Committee. This will ensure a reliable exchange of information and knowledge of the situation on one of the most challenging border areas of external Schengen borders.</p> <p>In August 2010 Bulgaria proposed to the Greek side establishing of trilateral contact centre for police and customs cooperation between Republic of Bulgaria, Hellenic Republic and Republic of Turkey at a convenient location for parties.</p> <p>A response is expected from the Greek side.</p> <p>In the beginning of February 2011 the Greek side confirm their readiness for establishing a trilateral contact centre for police and customs cooperation between Republic of Bulgaria, Hellenic Republic and Republic of Turkey.</p> <p>Update Bulgaria has elaborated a draft trilateral agreement for establishing a common contact centre for police and customs cooperation between Bulgaria, Hellenic Republic and Turkey. Currently the draft agreement is under consultation</p>	<p>BG reported that a place has already been reserved for a tripartite PCCC at the BCP Kapitan Andreevo and that the consent from the EL side as regards the tripartite PCCC has already been received.</p> <p>From the TK side, a reaction is still pending, although they have at least responded by offering dates in April for negotiations on the joint patrols and also the issue of a CC.</p>

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	<p>procedure on national level. After conclusion of the procedure the draft will be sent to the Hellenic Republic.</p>	
<p>The stamps available at all BCPs do not comply with the standards. The Bulgarian authorities are invited to provide for the necessary change and report to the SchEval-working group about the measures undertaken.</p> <p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 30 and page 59.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p> <p>The procurement procedure was according to the Bulgarian authorities said to be cancelled.</p> <p>A new procedure, although only covering 650 stamps, was started and will be finalized, according to Bulgarian authorities, before the end of March 2011.</p>	<p>The preparation of Technical Terms of Reference for the new border stamps in compliance with the specifications of SCH/Gem-Hand (93) 15 is ongoing.</p> <p>Terms of Reference for the new border stamps in compliance with the requirements of SCH/Gem-Hand (93) 15 was approved on 1 October 2010. The new stamps would be ready by 31 December 2010.</p> <p>Update March 2011 The recommendation is implemented. The new border stamps have been submitted to all BCPs. The stamps are in use since 3 March 2011.</p>	<p>The new stamps were found to be in place and in conformity with the relevant technical specifications.</p>
<p>The EvalCom invites Bulgaria to significantly improve the performance of the local leadership (BCP and BPS) in order to achieve better operational and tactical capacities and thereby improvements in the overall performance.</p> <p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 60</p> <p>EvalCom acknowledges the number of courses offered (and attended), but at the same time has noted considerable lacks in leadership and knowledge of tasks related to the managerial staff.</p> <p>EvalCom strongly invites the Bulgarian authorities to continue with the efforts to improve</p>	<p>Officers from different management levels pass courses for improvement of the professional qualification are arranged at Academy of MoI. Usually, their duration is 2 weeks and is divided into two stages: basic and specialized.</p> <p>The courses give administrative knowledge and skills, management capacity and training on the specific competences according to the concrete position.</p> <p>For the first half of 2010, 49 officers at different management levels from CDBP have completed these courses. Till the end of the year 55 more officers will pass such courses.</p> <p>The training in police tactics for the inferior and middle managerial staff is carried out regularly. From the beginning of 2011 will start the conducting of a tactical course for updating of the professional qualification – the topic will be “Mixed patrols”.</p>	<p>EvalCom acknowledges the progress seen at the BCP and encourages the BG authorities to continue in this way, as the upcoming summer-traffic and especially the foreseen refurbishment will provide again for particular challenges.</p>

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<p>the leadership-performance (BCP and BPS).</p> <p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(.....)</p> <p><u>Conclusion March</u> Some acting senior officers/duty officers/shift-leaders show good leadership skills and tactical/operational flexibility. The Bulgarian Border Police Management is strongly encouraged to further increase the number of experienced officers at leadership level in order to enhance the overall performance in border surveillance.</p> <p><u>Comments and recommendation December</u> No progress was seen by EvalCom</p> <p>Revisit report from December 2010, Under point 6. Overview recommendations – follow-up – state-of-play, page 32</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(.....)</p> <p><u>Conclusion March</u> EvalCom recommends organizing managerial training courses for the managers of the BCP at the station and at the regional level.</p> <p><u>Comments and recommendation December</u> Managers are attending different training-courses.</p>	<p>For the last quarter of 2010 within the “on the job” training for the inferior and middle managerial staff in the BPS and BCP courses on 5 specific topics on risk analysis, assessment of the situation, decision making and interaction are planned.</p> <p>The total number of Border Police officers of all management levels who will attend training courses for improvement of the professional qualification at the Police Academy of the Ministry of Interior in 2010 is 191.</p> <p>At present, the following number of officers has passed the courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 122 officers – commanders of sections; - 48 officers – head of department; head of sector; head of BCP; chief of group at BCP; chief of group – BPS and RDBP. <p>By the end of the year the training of 10 commanders of sections and 11 chiefs of shifts/groups/BCPs is envisaged. In 2011, the Border Police officers will continue participating management skills training courses. The number of trainees will be determined during the second half of November.</p> <p>From 191 officers planned for training during 2010, 190 have been trained. On 6 December 2010 the training of the last officer has started.</p> <p>For 2011 a course “Management for officers of CDBP” for training of 80 officers of management level is planned. The course will hold at Police Academy of the Ministry of Interior.</p> <p>In addition to the regular training for managerial staff of the MoI, new courses on "Management for officers of CDBP" have started at the Academy of MoI since the beginning of 2011.</p> <p>3 courses "Management for officers of CDBP" for 130 officers from the senior and middle management staff of Border Police will be held in the first half of 2011 for the following officers:</p>
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- 23 officers from RDBP Dragoman;
 - 19 officers from RDBP Kyustendil;
 - 28 officers from RDBP Elhovo.
- 10 other courses for junior management staff, involving 240 officers, will be held in the same period for the following officers:
- 52 officers from RDBP Dragoman;
 - 38 officers from RDBP Kyustendil;
 - 62 officers from RDBP Elhovo.

Update March 2011

50 high-level and middle-management officials from the CDBP were trained within a management course held in February 2011. Among them 10 officials from Dragoman, 10 from Elhovo and 9 from Kyustendil were trained.

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9. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of the meetings and the visits on site, EvalCom came to the conclusion that Bulgaria, as regards the field of border control at the external land border, now fulfils the Schengen-requirements.

1. Bulgaria has reacted properly to the contents of the first revisit-report and shown good improvements, especially concerning strategic planning-activities.
2. Taking into account the critical migration-situation in the area, the following additional measures are considered necessary:
 - 2.1. BG still needs to further increase their efforts and work even more proactively to even better foresee upcoming changes at the future internal and external border and its effects in other fields, evaluate the possible impact of their magnitude on the available resources (not only BP, but also other entities; border control, detention centers, asylum-system) and adapt their approach accordingly.
 - 2.2. BG is also strongly advised to closely monitor the developments in illegal migration in this area, by means of risk analysis and constantly adapt their foreseen measures.
 - 2.3. EvalCom again has to reiterate that the relations with TK remain a point of concern. Although there are encouraging signs on operative level in BG and even dates for negotiations between BG and TK are proposed, the needed basic improvement in international cooperation (affecting the whole border area between TK – EL and BG) still remains to be achieved (possibly with an adequate support though different EU-channels).
 - 2.4. The migration-situation in the area (EL, BG, internal and external border) will be most critical. As the border-zone EL – TK – BG will in addition require a joint approach a “special package” of accompanying measures might be necessary. BG is therefore invited to prepare a special plan containing actions to be implemented at the moment of entering Schengen in order to be able to respond to the possible strong increase in migration-pressure (involving all entities). The plan should involve all relevant BG-authorities and also contain appropriate external measures (improved strategic partnership with EL, opening of the foreseen PCCC at the BCP Kapitan Andreevo even if it is only with the participation of EL for the starting-period, initiate a regular information-exchange via dedicated NPOCs).
 - 2.5. Given the fact that the SE borders currently represent one of the biggest migration risks and that it still remains to be seen in what proportion that pressure will shift to the TK-BG border EvalCom also recommends, besides the already running JO Poseidon Land, to involve FRONTEX in the preparatory measures and even possibly prepare an additional FRONTEX-deployment in order to allow for adaptation of the national resources to the changes in migratory pressure actually taking place immediately after accession.

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- 2.6. EvalCom recommends to the WP on Schengen Matters (Schengen Evaluation) to advise BG to report regularly on the measures mentioned under pt. 2.1. - 2.5., the implementation of the “Strategy for the development of Border Police after the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Schengen area – 2011 – 2013” and especially the developments related to the foreseen increase of human resources and the integrated border surveillance system at the BG-TK land border.
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