



Council of the
European Union

**Brussels, 30 September 2022
(OR. en)**

12522/22

**SCH-EVAL 119
SCHENGEN 91
COMIX 446**

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
Subject: Schengen Council cycle April 2022 - March 2023

In March 2022, the French Presidency convened the first meeting of the Schengen Council to improve the political steer of the Schengen area and reinforce the coherence between this political steer and the operational level. The Schengen Council - Mixed Committee at the ministerial level - is to be convened whenever the Council of Justice and Home Affairs meets and, if necessary, in the event of a crisis¹. It held its first meetings on 3 March and 10 June 2022.

On 10 June 2022, the Commission presented to the ministers at the Schengen Council a “State of Schengen report 2022”² on the outputs of the Schengen Evaluation and Monitoring Mechanism and the state of implementation of the recommendations. On this basis, the report also identifies possible priority areas for the months to come. The report was presented together with orientations for actions prepared by the French Presidency on ten areas on which the Council could focus in the following months³. In addition, the 24 May 2022 Commission report sets out ideas on what could constitute a yearly Schengen cycle.

¹ 6234/22

² 9478/22

³ 9802/22

On this basis and along the lines presented to the Schengen Council on 3 March and 10 June 2022, the Presidency is proposing a Schengen Council cycle that will enable the successive Council presidencies to plan the work efficiently. This cycle was presented, discussed and agreed at the meeting of the Working Party for Schengen Matters on 19 July 2022. On this basis, it was then presented to the relevant sectoral Council working parties. Agreement at this level was confirmed at the meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Counsellors on 27 September 2022.

In the light of the above, the Permanent Representatives' Committee (COREPER) is invited to:

- confirm its agreement on the Schengen Council cycle as set out in the annex; and
- recommend to the Council to approve the Schengen Council cycle as set out in the annex.

SCHENGEN COUNCIL CYCLE APRIL 2022 – MARCH 2023**[SCHENGEN EVALUATIONS****– JANUARY TO DECEMBER]**

- Carried out pursuant to Council Regulation No 1053/2013 until January 2023, and pursuant to the new Council Regulation on the Schengen evaluation mechanism⁴ as of February 2023.
- These evaluations allow for peer verification of the implementation of the provisions of the Schengen acquis by the states concerned, in several important areas such as external border management, police cooperation, the common visa policy, the Schengen Information System (SIS), return policy, and data protection. They can reveal serious deficiencies, which require immediate corrective action.

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL**ON THE STATE OF SCHENGEN****– JANUARY - APRIL**

- As of 2023, report submitted by the Commission pursuant to Article 25 of the Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922. To be submitted at least 6 weeks before the Schengen Council to enable its preparation, in particular in the Working Party for Schengen Matters.

SCHENGEN FORUM**– MAY**

- Organised by the Commission to facilitate informal discussions between the European institutions and agencies and the Member States, in particular to feed into the discussions and decisions of the Schengen Council.

SCHENGEN COUNCIL**– JUNE**

- Purpose: discussion of guidelines defined by the Presidency setting out possible priorities for the Schengen Council cycle, on the basis of information from the evaluations contained in the Commission's annual report.

SCHENGEN COUNCIL**– OCTOBER**

- Barometer⁵ provided by the Commission at least 6 weeks before the October Schengen Council to enable its preparation, in particular in the Working Party for Schengen Matters.
- Purpose: examination of the implementation of the priorities set out by the Schengen Council, identification of corrective measures if necessary.

⁴ Council Regulation 922/2022 on the establishment and operation of an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis (SEMM), adopted by the Council on 9 June 2022.

⁵ The frequency of the barometer could be adjusted in the future, in particular to allow for the identification of relevant evolutions, for example every six months.

SCHENGEN COUNCIL

– DECEMBER

- Barometer provided by the Commission at least 6 weeks before the December Schengen Council to enable its preparation, in particular in the Working Party for Schengen Matters.
- Purpose: presentation of the barometer by the Commission, examination of the implementation of the priorities set out by the Schengen Council, identification of corrective measures if necessary.

SCHENGEN COUNCIL

– MARCH

- Barometer provided by the Commission at least 6 weeks before the March Schengen Council to enable its preparation, in particular in the Working Party for Schengen Matters.
 - Purpose: Commission presentation of the barometer; report/conclusions from the Presidency on the implementation of the priorities set out by the Schengen Council in June; closing of the Schengen Council cycle.
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