



Council of the
European Union

**Brussels, 27 June 2024
(OR. en)**

11335/24

LIMITE

**FRONT 202
COMIX 294**

NOTE

From:	Incoming Presidency
To:	Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/ Norway/Switzerland)
Subject:	State-of-the-art solutions and novelties in the field of integrated border management – Discussion paper

Introduction

In order to ensure a more resilient Schengen Area, we must pay particular attention to strengthening our external borders. To reach this goal, and taking into account the specificities of the different types of borders, it is of utmost importance to exchange views among Member States on state-of-the-art solutions in the field of integrated border management.

In the course of the current semester, the Hungarian Presidency would like to initiate a joint knowledge sharing process in this area among the Member States, bearing in mind that the most appropriate fora for such an exercise within the Council is the Frontiers Working Party. Relevant actors (e.g. the Frontex Research and Innovation Unit and the Commission) would also be invited to participate in such discussions.

The Hungarian Presidency aims to enable Member States to share their planned, or already implemented forward-looking/state-of-the-art solutions, which could be of common interest, while taking into account both the complexities of integrated border management and the diverse types of external borders.

If the Member States are in agreement, the Presidency would be ready to prepare a compendium of the shared initiative, supplemented by a brief review of practical information (e.g. contact details), which would enable possible further exchanges among interested Member States.

The intention of the Presidency is to focus exclusively on currently applied or planned state-of-the-art solutions and projects (whether operational, R&D, basic research, pilot testing, scientific, etc.), which Member States, based on their own experience, consider worth sharing, while avoiding overlaps with the best practices that were already identified during the Schengen evaluations. Furthermore, the focus of the discussion would not go beyond the framework of integrated border management.

The Presidency considers that this knowledge sharing among Member States may significantly contribute to effective external border management as one of the cornerstones of seamless travel within the area without internal frontiers and help to prevent irregular border crossings, cross-border crime and hybrid threats, such as the instrumentalisation of migration, being one of the key priority actions of the Schengen Cycle 2024-2025, especially by:

- ❖ **Sharing experiences and optional solutions:** Each Member State faces different challenges in border management, but the sharing of knowledge on novel solutions, best practices and state-of-the-art technologies is undoubtedly of common interest.
- ❖ **Enhancing efficiency:** Learning from each other may ensure more efficient resource management and cost-effective implementation.
- ❖ **Fostering innovation:** Exchanges on the latest and most innovative solutions can inspire Member States. This can facilitate continuous improvement and innovation in border management.

Questions for discussion

In this context, the Presidency invites delegations to reflect upon the following questions:

1. *Member States are invited to suggest further elements or aspects which should contribute to the most comprehensive discussion on this matter.*
 2. *Do delegations agree with the active involvement in such discussions of relevant actors involved in border management (e.g. Frontex, the Commission)?*
 3. *Would Member States agree on preparing a compendium of the shared initiatives?*
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