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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway and Switzerland)
Subject:	EU Action on Migratory Pressures - targeted update and the outcome of discussion on Turkey

I. INTRODUCTION

Presidencies are responsible for the bi-annual updating of the "EU Action on Migratory Pressures - A Strategic Response", which was approved by the JHA Council at its meeting on 26-27 April 2012 (doc. 9650/12). According to the methodology for its follow-up and implementation (doc. 6443/13), SCIFA/Mixed Committee is to provide the strategic oversight of the implementation of the key actions under the Strategic Priorities.

In line with the requests by Member States to improve and operationalise the EU Action on Migratory Pressures, the Latvian Presidency initiated a targeted update method as a means of preparing thematic discussions in SCIFA during the first half of 2015 (doc. 5890/15). This recommendation was endorsed by SCIFA on 15 February 2015. Based on the proposals put forward by delegations, the Presidency chose to concentrate on Turkey for the targeted update of the EU Action document and SCIFA discussion during the first half of 2015.

II. TARGETED UPDATE OF THE EU ACTION ON MIGRATORY PRESSURES - TURKEY

On the basis of the contributions received by delegations, the Commission and FRONTEX, the Presidency updated the parts of the EU Action document pertaining to Turkey and prepared some questions for SCIFA discussion on 4 May 2015 (doc. 8161/15).

As expected, the targeted update solicited a higher number of contributions from the Member States compared with the last several updating rounds. Submissions were received from 13 Member States, FRONTEX, and the Commission. CH advised that it had no updates. In addition, comments and suggestions for further discussion were received from DK, HU, PT, UK and FRONTEX.

Following the SCIFA meeting on 4 May 2015, additional contributions were received by EL, RO and NO.

On this basis, the Presidency prepared the final updated table in the Annex, which presents the main developments and actions taken in the framework of the EU Action on migratory pressures in relation to Turkey since December 2014. It demonstrates steady progress across a wide spectrum of operational cooperation with Turkey.

III. OUTCOME OF SCIFA DISCUSSION ON TURKEY

The discussion took place at the SCIFA meeting on 4 May 2015. In order to focus SCIFA discussion on operational and political issues where further support by SCIFA would be most effective and timely, the Presidency invited delegations to concentrate on a limited number of issues that were most pertinent to their respective national situation. The following main issues were covered by delegations:

Forthcoming visits and visits

- The Commission noted that 50 days of missions to Turkey were held in 2014, and invited interested parties to join a number of upcoming visits to Turkey. Planned missions will address police cooperation (20-22 May 2015), judicial cooperation (15-17 June 2015), borders (22-26 June 2015) and the Roma people (20-24 July 2015).

Progress made

- Turkey has made significant progress in addressing the "**ghost ships**" phenomenon. The Commission reported that the Turkish authorities had intervened in the Mersin area with the result that no "ghost" cargo ships had left port since January 2015.
- An **Immigration Liaison Officer** will be deployed to Turkey. This was confirmed by the Commission following FRONTEX approval. A number of delegations also suggested upgrading or strengthening the capabilities of local FRONTEX offices, such as that in Piraeus.

Cooperation

- **Regional cooperation between EL and Turkey** was reported as good. A hotline has been established between regional coast guard commanders in Rhodes (EL) and Izmir (Turkey), though EL noted the need to also foster low-level contacts so that coast guard teams facing each other can better communicate and coordinate.
- IT is seeking **trilateral (IT-EL-Turkey) cooperation** in the Eastern Mediterranean and reported some positive movements under the guidance of FRONTEX.
- **Other proposals** for cooperation touched on training, simultaneous patrolling on land and at sea, and police and judicial cooperation. In this context, EL sought an update on the FRONTEX-Turkey Memorandum of Understanding, and cautioned against duplicating efforts at bilateral cooperation.
- Delegations noted that many contributions and proposals rely on a high degree of cooperation from Turkey, who should be **an important ally in the region**, not least in the fight against IS/Da'esh and organised crime, and in view of its acceptance of refugees from the Syrian conflict. Turkey occupies a vital geopolitical position between Europe and the Middle East. While further cooperation is necessary for European security, it was important to recognise the efforts and achievements of the Turkish authorities in tackling migratory pressures (especially in halting the ghost ships phenomenon), and to refrain from excessive or conflicting requests. The Commission raised the issue of funding in this context, remarking on the relatively small contribution by the EU while Turkey faces costs of € billion.

Turkey as a country of transit

- The visa regime in Turkey was a source of concern for many delegations. Both Egypt and Algeria have introduced visa requirements for Syrian nationals. Turkey maintained visa-free travel, which has been identified as a source of concern. Turkey had the capacity to act as a significant transit point for migrants from the wider Middle East-North Africa region: migrants may legally enter Turkey but then illegally enter the EU. Along with Syrians, Moroccan, Tunisian, Libyan, Georgian, Jordanian, Lebanese and Iranian passport holders do not require a visa to enter Turkey.
- This was also relevant to the issue of false documents, not least as Istanbul Ataturk International Airport is the third-country embarkation point at which the largest number of inbound fraudulent documents were detected in 2015.
- Regarding returning foreign terrorist fighters, the Commission advised that an amendment to the Schengen Handbook would be published soon. FR and DK in this context suggested to reinforce the Schengen Border Code regarding border controls for EU citizens.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The Presidency is satisfied with the results of the targeted update of the EU Action on Migratory Pressures, noting in particular that it had increased engagement of the delegations with the document and facilitated SCIFA discussions on an important topic. The incoming Presidencies may reflect whether to consider continuing with this amended methodology or rather revert to the comprehensive bi-annual update prescribed by the Council Decision.

Targeted update of the "EU Action on Migratory Pressures – a Strategic Response" - activities related to Turkey

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
1	Strategic Priority Area 1: Strengthening cooperation with third countries of transit and origin on migration management			
1.1	<p>Challenge 1: Preventing and combatting illegal immigration by ensuring smooth and orderly return of illegal migrants between States, including respect for the obligation of each State under customary international law to readmit its own nationals</p> <p>Goal: EU readmission agreements as tools of an effective return policy in order to tackle illegal immigration. Initiation and continuation of negotiations on EU readmission agreements with relevant third countries, including further appropriate steps when negotiations stall</p>			
1.1.A	Operationalising Council Conclusions of June 2011 defining an EU strategy on readmission (doc. 11260/11 MIGR 118).	<p>PRES COM WP on Migration (expulsion) / HLWG / SCIFA EEAS</p> <p>Frontex with EASO and other project partners</p>		<p>EU readmission policy remains an important priority, with the emphasis on implementing those EURA's already in force and completing outstanding mandates.</p> <p>EU READMISSION AGREEMENTS (EURAs)</p> <p>EURA Turkey Developments: signed 16 December 2013, entered into force 1 October 2014. The first meeting of the Joint Readmission Committee is scheduled to take place in Brussels on 13 July 2015.</p> <p>Multi-Country Action Programme, “Regional support to protection-sensitive migration management in the Western Balkans and Turkey” to cover the period 2015-2018 under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance 2014 funding (IPA II). Start: 2015 Description: A list of cooperation activities have been drawn up by DG Enlargement which could be funded via IPA II. These activities fall within the following three core components: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of migrants 2. Information exchange 3. Establishing regional return mechanisms </p>

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				In this context, better implementation of the Greek-Turkish Readmission Protocol is important (see 3.1.D)..
1.8	Challenge 8: To address migratory pressures via the 'Silk Routes', including prevention of illegal immigration and combatting THB			
	A: Efforts to develop the 'Silk Routes Partnership' should continue, including development of concrete projects to address illegal immigration, improve border management, enhance international protection, combat THB, and mitigate the negative impacts of migratory flows on EU MS and partner countries.	MS, COM, NO	On-going	<p>Bridging Measures for Migration Management in the Silk Routes Region Framework: Silk Routes Partnership/Budapest Process Description: prepare the ground for operational actions to strengthen migration management in the Silk Routes region. Outcomes/results: Scoping missions to Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan have taken place, and migration training has been delivered to officials from all three countries.</p> <p>Support to the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration under the Budapest Process (www.budapestprocess.org) Framework: Silk Routes Partnership/Budapest Process (Turkey holds the Chairmanship of the Budapest Process since 2006, Hungary is Co-Chair) Start: 01 February 2014 End: 31 January 2017 Budget/funding: current budget is approx. €4 million out of which €2.6 million of EU funding Description: to deliver concrete actions to strengthen the migration management capacities of the Silk Routes countries, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, Bangladesh and Iran, and contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Ministerial Declaration on a Silk Routes Partnership for Migration (in all 4 GAMM pillars). HU, BG, SE, CH, Turkey and ICMPD are the implementing partners, HU is coordinator, Turkey is the co-coordinator of the project. NL, NO and UK are currently in the process of joining the consortium. Outcomes/results: A kick-off conference, two regional trainings and several national workshops were held in 2014. Follow-up: project implementation will continue with regional and national capacity building trainings, workshops, technical assistance. Country specified pilot projects will be launched in 2015.</p>
2	Strategic Priority Area 2: Enhanced border management at the external borders			

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
2.2	Challenge 2: Preventing and combatting illegal immigration by ensuring strong and efficient external border control Goal: Strengthening the security and control at the Schengen external borders. Implementation of the Frontex regulation. Enhance inter-agency cooperation and cooperation between agencies and MS. Strengthening identification of illegal immigration routes inside the Schengen area.			
2.2.D	Develop cooperation at the appropriate levels with countries of origin and transit, on combating illegal immigration and criminal organisations dealing with smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings.	MS, Europol	On-going	Project regarding capacity building, trainings etc. on issues related to illegal migration, border management and returns Start: launched in 2014 by IOM in Greece-Bulgaria-Turkey. Description: This EU-planned project, implemented by the IOM and involving relevant border management authorities of the three countries at local and central level, aims at building mutual trust and establishment of operational cross-border cooperation. Frontex Risk Analysis Unit contributes to this project. (For TU-RAN multilateral collaboration between Frontex and different Turkish authorities, see activity 3.2.H). Bulgaria proposed within the project a pilot project to Turkey for exchange of experts at border crossing points. Answer is pending. Greece proposed the establishment of a secure information exchange system in real time related to information exchange, interceptions, readmission, etc. The Bulgarian side has adopted this proposal.
		SE	On-going	Placement of a Swedish immigration liaison officer in Turkey , focusing on migration related crime. This should improve cooperation with Turkish authorities, airlines and handling agents.
3	Strategic Priority Area 3: Preventing illegal immigration from Turkey			
3.1	Challenge 1: Ensure effective border controls are in place at the borders of Turkey with the EU Member States Goal: To fight illegal border crossings by ensuring that efficient measures are in place for the detection, prevention and interception of illegal migrants at the Greek-Turkish border. Increase capacity in Greece by introducing sustainable measures to reduce illegal immigration			
3.1.A	Implementation of Memorandum of Understanding between Frontex and the competent Turkish border control authorities.	Frontex DK, FR, EL	2013	Memorandum of Understanding Frontex-Turkey Mandate: to establish practical cooperation between Frontex and Turkish border authorities (risk analysis, training, research, exchanges of experience and best practices) Outcomes/results: MoU was signed in May 2012. In March 2014, the two parties agreed on a Cooperation agenda to implement a series of activities within this framework, which is now underway. Developments: following the decision of its management board, Frontex is now

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				planning to deploy to Turkey on a permanent basis a liaison officer whose primary task would be to facilitate the implementation of the Cooperation agenda and to develop the working relations with Turkish authorities. Pending agreement between Turkey and Frontex, the deployment might take place by the end of 2015.
3.1.B	Greek National Action Plan on Asylum and Migration Management. Swift implementation of the Greek Asylum and Migration Management, focusing on increased operational capacity at the border, notably by optimising synergies between the different actors involved, including the Task Force on Greece.	Council COM EASO EL, DK, FR	On-going	<p>Greek National Action Plan Developments: on 9/10 October 2014 on the basis of COM Staff Working document (14027/14), the JHA Council took note of the state of play of the implementation of the action plan on migration and asylum which was finalised at the end of 2014 and continued with the Greek Road Map for Asylum 2015. Continued efforts will be needed after 2015 in order to enable Greece to operate sustainable border management, migration and asylum systems.</p> <p>Exercise has been taken forward (regular meetings with Greek authorities) in cooperation with interested MS and other stakeholders. Last meeting with interested MS and EU agencies on the revised Greek Action Plan took place on 2 October 2014. EASO provides support in: training of 1st and 2nd instance asylum, training on nationality establishment, in the field of the European Asylum and Migration Funds, on the collection and analysis of statistical data and in the field of country of origin information.</p>
3.1.C	Continue support for Operations EPN Poseidon Sea, Flexible Operational Activities Land 2015, JO Focal Points 2015 Land and Flexible Operational Activities in Return, through increased contributions from MS.	Frontex, MS DK, FR	2012 and on-ward	<p>Joint Operations: EPN Poseidon Sea 2015, Flexible Operational Activities 2015 Land, Focal Points 2015 Land, Flexible Operational Activities in Return Responsible agency: Frontex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EPN Poseidon Sea 2015 Start: launched on 1 February 2015 as a continuation of 2014 operation. Description: aims to ensure continuity of operational response in tackling the exceptional situation of irregular migration towards Greece and other MS with a desired prevention effect; coordinate the EU MSs operational solidarity; to render effective border security at the external sea borders of the Eastern Mediterranean region. Developments: NL is supporting Poseidon Sea with experts and a RHIB in 2015. In 2014, RO participated with 40 border police officers, profiling-experts and crew members, two patrol vessels and three cars equipped with thermovision.

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1182 236 2190 671"> <p>▪ Flexible Operational Activities Land 2015 (South Eastern Operational Area – EL and BG) Start: launched on 4 February 2015 (replacing JO Poseidon Land 2014) Description: aims to implement coordinated operational activities at EU external land borders in order to control irregular migration flows towards the territory of the MS and to tackle cross border crime focusing on green border surveillance activities. Developments: Frontex continues to support the deployment of interpreters and de-briefers from MS through capacity-building activities (workshop, trainings) with Greek and Bulgarian officers. 24 MS are participating by deploying personnel and technical equipment, which is an increase when compared to the previous years. For 2015, RO has contributed 16 experts, seven vehicles, and other resources.</p> <li data-bbox="1182 708 2190 1038"> <p>▪ Focal Points Land 2015 Start: launched on 4 February 2015 (as a follow up of JO Focal Points Land 2014). Description: a permanent platform to enhance operational cooperation and best practices exchange among MS/SAC and at the Greek (Kipi, Kastanies) and Bulgarian (Kapitan Andreevo, Lesovo) border crossing points with Turkey. Developments: 23 MS are participating by deploying personnel and technical equipment. BG and Turkey stepped up their participation by deploying CO2 detectors and god handler teams. For 2015 RO has contributed one expert and one service vehicle.</p> <li data-bbox="1182 1046 2190 1182"> <p>▪ Flexible Operational Activities in Return (FOA-R 2015) Start: launched on 26 March 2015 (successor of JO Attica). Description: main objective is to support Greece and Bulgaria on return. Developments: RO has contributed two screening experts in 2014.</p>

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3.1.D	Bilateral Greek-Turkish cooperation on combatting illegal migration, THB			<p>Regular bilateral Greek-Turkish meetings of experts on the implementation of the Readmission Protocol. 10th meeting took place in Ankara in January 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exchange of contact points at local and regional level at land borders with Turkey (Evros region). ▪ Hotlines between Heads of Greek and Turkish Coast Guards and annual meetings between them. Last meeting took place in Athens in November 2014. ▪ Communication and collaboration on a daily basis of the Centres for Search and Rescue (RCCs) of the respective coastguards. ▪ Cooperation between Headquarters HCG-EL.AKT and of the member of the Turkish coastguard seconded at the Turkish Embassy in Athens. ▪ Promotion of collaboration between the Regional General Commanders of the two Coastguards in the Aegean. First meeting took place in Izmir in March 2015. ▪ Pending: exchange of contact points at local level between coast guards. ▪ The following proposals have been submitted by the Greek to the Turkish side: 1) training and organizing joint return flights with the support of Frontex, 2) implementation of simultaneous (not joint/common) patrols at the land borders between Greece and Turkey, 3) dismantling of facilitation networks on the basis of specific operational plan, 4) establishment of a secure information exchange system in real time related to information exchange, interceptions, readmission, etc.
3.2	<p>Challenge 2: Combatting illegal immigration transiting Turkey to enter the EU Goal: To obtain the effective engagement of the Turkish authorities to prevent illegal immigration transiting through their territory towards the EU external borders. To sign and conclude the EU-Turkey readmission agreement. Intensify trilateral cooperation between Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey for joint border management and police cooperation</p>			
3.2.A	Enhancing capacity to generate situational awareness on illegal migration via Turkey.	Frontex	On-going	<p>TU-RAN Initiative Responsible agency: Frontex Description: Frontex and Turkey launched analytical activities for the purpose of joint risk analysis in 2013. Several workshops were organised and regular quarterly reports were initiated. Regular monthly information exchange is in place as of 2014, based on model used in other risk analysis networks. In 2014, TU-RAN activities focused on consolidation and quality of data and further development of joint reports. Outcomes/results: In 2015, the TU-RAN plans to deliver two bi-annual joint reports.</p>

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				<p>Dedicated joint analytical work is being done on the new modus operandi of cargo vessels, and displacement effect (resulting from the counter-measures).</p> <p>Cooperation between the Frontex Situation Centre and Turkey Responsible agency: Frontex Description: exchange of relevant situational awareness products and services, in particular through social media alerts covering irregular migration facilitation offers via Turkey; enhancing information exchange, situation monitoring and visualization tools by Turkish authorities where appropriate in the framework of their cooperation with Frontex.</p>
3.2.B	Continue assisting the Turkish authorities in strengthening their capacity to combat illegal immigration, through IPA and bilateral MS' funding.	COM MS DK, FR, CZ, NO	On-going	<p>COM has been continuing to co-finance new IPA projects, contributing directly and indirectly to combating illegal migration in Turkey, and more generally to improving the management of migration. New projects are also under preparation under IPA 2014 and 2015. Discussions on these new projects are ongoing.</p> <p>In 2015 the Czech Republic will fund activities (10 million CZK/EUR 380 000) aiming at the strengthening of the Turkish asylum and migration infrastructure. These activities will be developed and implemented by the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Ministry (AFAD).</p> <p>2012-2015 Norway has co-financed (with the UK) Turkey's first official Strategy Document and National Action Plan on Irregular Migration. The Action on Irregular Migration was developed by IOM with the coordination of the beneficiary, and endorsed by the Minister of Interior on 5 March 2015.</p>
3.2.C	Continue promoting the reform of border, migration, asylum and visa systems in Turkey	COM	On-going	<p>Dialogue on visa liberalisation - Turkey Developments: initiated in parallel with signature of EUREP Turkey with the presentation of the "Roadmap towards visa-free regime". COM issued a report (COM(2014) 646 final) on Turkey's fulfilment of the Roadmap's benchmarks on 20 October 2014. The report was presented to Turkish authorities during the visit of Mr Ruete, Director General of DG HOME, on 23 February 2015. The visit also started the preparation of a new report.</p>

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		SE		<p>Follow-up: Second round of field visits in the framework of the visa liberalisation dialogue, organised by the Commission and involving also experts from EU MS and agencies, will take place between 13 April and 25 July 2015. A new report on the progress made by Turkey in fulfilling the requirements of the visa liberalization roadmap will be issued by the Commission at the end of 2015.</p> <p>Strengthening the capacity of the DGMM to manage migration Responsible party: Swedish Migration Agency/ Directorate General of Migration Management Start: October 2014, expected to last till October 2015, funded by the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Description: the main aim is to strengthen the capacity of DGMM to manage migration in line with EU standards focusing on migration intelligence, LEAN-management, voluntary return and third country cooperation.</p>
		SE,DE		<p>Prague Process Targeted Initiative "Strengthening capacities in the areas of asylum and international protection: Pilot Project 4 (PP4) Quality and training in the asylum processes" Description: Prague Process Targeted Initiative; Sweden and Germany are leading states. Outcomes/results: project implemented 2012-2014.</p>
		RO, PL		<p>Prague Process Targeted Initiative Pilot Project 5 (PP5) "Strengthening capacities in the areas of asylum and international protection: quality and training in the asylum processes" Start: November 2014 (lasting till December 2015). Description: aims to promote exchange of best practices in establishing identity and/or nationality of irregular migrants. Turkey is included in the target third countries, as it expressed its interest for cooperation within the Joint Declaration and participates with the MS in the implementation of activities within PP5. Romania and Poland are leading states.</p>

REF	Activity	Resp. party	Target date	Status/Observations
				<p>Prague Process Targeted Initiative Pilot Project 7 (PP7): "Quality in the Decision Making in the Asylum Process – Continuous Training Using Content of Jurisprudence"</p> <p>Start: November 2014 (lasting till March 2016).</p> <p>Description: aims to promote capacity building in the asylum process; Sweden and are Germany leading states.</p>
3.2.D	Develop cooperation at the appropriate levels in order to combat organised crime facilitating the smuggling of migrants and the trafficking of human beings.	MS Frontex, Europol DK, FR	On-going	<p>At JHA Council on 6-7 June 2013, it was agreed that fight against facilitation of illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings will be among the nine priorities for the EU policy cycle 2014-2017.</p> <p>Frontex continues to develop and implement activities which contribute to the prevention and combating of cross border crime by supporting national authorities in cases of smuggling and trafficking in human beings, also by means of EMPACT Priorities derived from EU Policy Cycle. This includes the identification of facilitators and potential victims. In this regard, Frontex actively contributes to the regional ILOs meetings in Turkey since 2012. These meetings contribute to the updating of the situational picture of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings in Turkey, and Frontex continues to participate in these meetings. Joint analytical work within TU-RAN especially contributes towards this objective including the ongoing work related to the new <i>modus operandi</i> concerning the use of cargo vessels.</p> <p>Frontex is exploring the opportunity to send a Liaison Officer to Turkey. (See 3.1.A).</p>
3.2.E	Continue and step up the dialogue with Turkey launched on 15 March 2012, on cooperation within the JHA area.	COM DK, FR	On-going	See 3.2.C
3.2.F	Develop cooperation between Europol and Turkish Police.	Europol DK, FR	On-going	<p>Turkey-Europol cooperation</p> <p>Developments: Contacts are ongoing to formalise the secondment to Europol of a liaison officer stationed at the Embassy of Turkey to the Netherlands based on the existing strategic cooperation agreement.</p> <p>FP Checkpoint tries to enhance the cooperation with Turkish authorities through the</p>

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				EMPACT Priority Facilitation of Illegal Immigration OAP 2014 (and will pertain in OAP 2015) by participating (along MS and Frontex) and strongly supporting the Operational Action – Network of Liaison Officers in Turkey. There are meetings envisaged for 2015 of Working group tactical (MS + may include Europol) on frequent basis and strategic plenary meetings to include Frontex and the Commission (twice a year).
3.2.G	Frontex should make full use of its recently expanded mandate and strengthen its operational cooperation with the competent Turkish border control authorities.	Frontex DK, FR	On-going	Cooperation Plan Frontex-Turkey Developments: agreed in February 2014, the plan foresees activities that will be implemented from 2014 to 2016 (risk analyses, training, research). Several activities already took place in 2014, including cooperation with Turkey to fight the ghost ships phenomenon. FRONTEX took a decision on prioritizing Turkey for the deployment of a Frontex liaison officer and started consultations for a possible deployment to Turkey by the end of 2015. (See activity 3.1.A)
3.2.H	Establishment of a trilateral common contact centre for cooperation between police, border and customs officials from BG, EL and Turkey, in coordination with Frontex and Europol within their respective mandates.	BG, EL, DK, FR, Turkey	On-going	Common Contact Centre for Police and Customs cooperation at border checkpoint "Kapitan Andreevo" Developments: consultations between representatives of Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey on the draft agreement for the establishment of the centre were held in Sofia on 12 September 2013. Consensus on the draft, signature awaited.
3.2.I	Enhance cooperation with the relevant Turkish authorities, in order to ensure the implementation of escorted transit and assisted voluntary return projects via Turkey.	MS COM DK, FR BG UK	On-going	Broader Dialogue and Cooperation Framework on JHA with Turkey Developments: has been proposed to Turkey in December 2012 following Council conclusions of June 2012. Includes proposition to develop cooperation on joint return flights. Bulgaria-Turkey Protocol for implementation of EURA Turkey Developments: on 3 February 2015 Bulgaria submitted to Turkey a "Protocol between the government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the government of the Republic of Turkey implementing the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Turkey on the readmission of persons residing without authorization". Assisted Voluntary Return projects funded by UK Developments: between 2009 and 2014, the UK funded AVR projects in Turkey,

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		NO		<p>implemented by IOM, directly supporting the sustainable rehabilitation and reintegration of returning migrants and improved AVR advocacy and practices in Turkey (http://www.turkey.iom.int/pa4.htm).</p> <p>Assisted Voluntary Return projects funded by Norway Developments: between 2012 and 2015 Norway has funded AVR programmes facilitating return and reintegration for irregular migrants. In the same period of time Norway has funded an outreach programme for unaccompanied minors (UAM) in transit. The programme has strengthened the capacity of Turkish authorities to provide assistance to UAMs, provided the target group with information on the risks of migration and social services in Turkey as well as shelters for Syrian UAMs.</p>
4	Strategic Priority Area 4: Better tackling of abuse of legal migration channels			
4.2	Challenge 2: Combatting and preventing illegal immigration caused by visa liberalisation Goal: Decrease the level of illegally staying work force			
4.2.B	Gradual steps towards visa liberalisation with selected third countries while fully involving the Council on a case by case basis.	COM and Council	On-going	Visa dialogue is on-going with Turkey. (See 3.2.C).