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LIMITE

**SCH-EVAL 171
SIRIS 109
COMIX 444**

NOTE

From: the Greek delegation

To: Working Party for Schengen Matters (Schengen Evaluation) - Mixed
Committee (EU-Iceland/Norway/Switzerland/Liechtenstein)

No. prev. doc.: 6354/17

Subject: Schengen evaluation of GREECE - **Action Plan** to remedy the deficiencies
identified in the 2016 evaluation on the application of the Schengen acquis
in the field of the **Schengen Information System**

Delegations will find annexed the Action Plan to remedy any deficiencies identified in the 2016 evaluation on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the Schengen Information System provided by Greece on 12 June 2017.

In conformity with Article 16(2) of Council Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 of 7 October 2013, Member States are invited to send comments, if any, by **Monday 26 June (cob)** to schengen.evaluation@consilium.europa.eu.

**ACTION PLAN to remedy the deficiencies identified in the 2016 evaluation of Greece on the application of the Schengen acquis
in the field of the Schengen Information System**

(Article 16 of Regulation 1053/2013)

4 June 2017

Schengen Information System

- Doc C(2016)6015 (Evaluation Report)
- Doc 6354/17 (Council Recommendation)

RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITISED RE-COM YES/ NO	PLANNED ACTION/SUB ACTION (TO BE) TAKEN BY GREECE	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY	STATE OF PLAY/ FORESEEN TIME-FRAME
1. Implement without delay a tested business continuity plan and an operational and secured back-up infrastructure for its national system;	YES	1.1 A business continuity plan will be implemented in the frame of an EU funded project which will be implemented in 2018. Currently all the necessary information and technical requirements are collected in order to launch the call for tenders this Autumn.	Informatics Division/N.SIS II office	In progress/ December 2018
		1.2 The contract for the creation of the N.SIS II back up site, was signed on 2 nd of June. Implementations have already been started.	Informatics Division/N.SIS II office	In progress/ December 2017

2. Extend to all end-users the search functionalities in SIS, including "any name" and incomplete searches on persons, "any number" searches on objects and searches on travel and identity documents on the basis of biographic data;	YES	The above mentioned contract includes not only the back-up site implementation but also the replacement of the main site hardware with new and more advanced one. When this is completed, complex search functionalities like "AnyName", "Incomplete search", "AnyNumber" and "Searches on travel and identity documents on the basis of biographic data" will be extended to all end users, besides Sirene officers that already have them now.	Informatics Division/N.SIS II office	In progress/ December 2017
3. Develop the search interface in order to ensure that, when carrying out a search in SIS on a person on the basis of surname and first name, the system will also return alerts only containing a surname;	YES	Negotiations with the N.SIS contractor are ongoing in order to improve the search mechanism with this feature.	Informatics Division/N.SIS II office	In progress/ -
4. Enable searches in SIS to be carried out on the basis of a name containing a hyphen	YES	In the fields of name and surname only alphanumeric characters are allowed. But the search results include the alerts that are inserted in the SIS II database with hyphen contained.	Informatics Division/N.SIS II office	Completed
5. Remove "nationality" as a mandatory search parameter during border checks or when using mobile equipment for searching SIS;	YES	5.1 In police checks "Nationality" is not anymore mandatory. During border checks "Nationality" remains mandatory but the choice "Unknown nationality" has been added. So users can simply select this choice and the results will contain all the alerts regardless of person nationality.	Informatics Division/N.SIS II office	Completed
		5.2 The SIS search application used in mobile equipment doesn't anymore require 'nationality' field to be filled. Only, the surname and the birth year fields are mandatory.	Informatics Division/N.SIS II office	Completed
6. Further develop the mobile devices to enable photographs and links to be displayed in case of a hit;	YES	The upgrade of the SIS web service mechanism in order to bring photos and links will be included in a project funded by EU in 2018.	Informatics Division/N.SIS II office	In progress/ December 2018

7. Ensure that passengers are not systematically brought to the second line checks in the event of a hit on discreet check alert (Article 36 of Council Decision 2007/533/JHA of 12 June 2007 on the establishment, operation and use of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) ¹) at Athens airport;	YES	The gathering of information, regarding alerts of art. 36 is taking place at the first line of control.	Police Department of Athens Airport	Completed
8. Implement for the Aliens Service of the Police Directorate of Lesbos the obligation to attach, if available, fingerprints and photographs to alerts for refusal of entry or stay (Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on the establishment, operation and use of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) ² ;	YES	The procedure of attaching pictures and fingerprints to the alerts for refusal of entry or stay (Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on the establishment, operation and use of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) is followed.	Aliens Service of the Police Directorate of Lesbos	Completed
9. Develop an integrated electronic case management system for the SIRENE Bureau;	NO	The procedures for the creation of SPOC and the CMS of IPCD are in progress	International Police Cooperation Division	In progress – last trimester of 2018

¹ OJ L 205, 7.8.2007, p. 63.

² OJ L 381, 28.12.2006, p. 4.

10. Continuously ensure that the number of staff assigned to the SIRENE Bureau is sufficient with a view to handling the increasing workload;	NO	The Hellenic SIRENE Bureau has been reinforced with 2 more police officers since 2016. Further reinforcement is planned during the next months.	SIRENE Bureau	In progress/ -
11. Revise the procedures for entering alerts at the Hellenic Police, including by implementing an automated workflow;	NO	The insertion of alerts was decentralized for art. 24, 34, and 38 (documents), according to the new Order for SIS II, so the procedure was partially automated. For the rest of the alerts, there is a central authority responsible for the insertion for data quality reasons. Nevertheless, the future decentralization of these alerts is at the stage of study, which would lead to a more automated procedure.	SIRENE Bureau	In progress/-
12. Strengthen the use of discreet or specific check alerts for prosecuting criminal offences and preventing threats to public security (Article 36 (2) of Council Decision 2007/533/JHA) by the Hellenic Police;	NO	New order to the Police Departments of Greece for harmonization of the procedures regarding SIS is at the stage of creation.	SIRENE Bureau	September 2017
13. Continue to increase the number of SIS queries on police checks;	NO	The number of queries has been increased. During the period from 01/06/2015 – 01/05/2016 there were conducted 33.708.930 SIS queries, while for the period from 01/06/2016-01/05/2017 the queries reached the number of 35.420.987.	SIRENE Bureau	Completed

14.Intensify the checks of travel documents of persons enjoying the right of free movement against SIS at the external borders (see Article 8 (2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code) ³ ;	NO	The number of checks has been increased. During the period from 01/06/2015 – 01/05/2016 there were conducted 823.746 document checks of EU citizens, while for the period from 01/06/2016-01/05/2017 the checks reached the number of 1.274.436.	Department of Border Protection	Completed
15.Ensure that during border checks, biometric data stored on passengers' travel document chips are displayed on border guards' screens;	NO	After investigation, it was found out that some passports of old technology missed certain authentication files, causing the non-display of the photo. Since June 16 th 2016, this issue is fixed.	Informatics Division/N.SIS II office	Completed
16.Consider connecting its Automated Number Plate Recognition systems to SIS;	NO	Contractual negotiations are ongoing	Informatics Division	In progress/-
17.Ensure that the Customs Service has access to the online information and training material stored on the Intranet POL (Police on line);	NO	Some training material is already accessed by the Customs Service. Implementation is ongoing for the rest.	Informatics Division & Customs Service	In progress/-
18.Extend the use of the hit reporting form to all SIS user authorities, including the Customs Service and the Hellenic Coast Guard;	NO	The upgrade of the N.SIS software in order to extend the hit reporting form to all SIS user authorities has been included in a project funded by EU and implemented in 2018.	Informatics Division/N.SIS II office	In progress/ December 2018

³ OJ L 77, 23.3.2016, p. 1.

19.Ensure that the first screen of the "General Search Application" indicates when fingerprint records attached to the alert are available;	NO	The national SIS AFIS implementation that includes this feature is part of a project funded by EU and implemented in 2018.	Informatics Division/N.SIS II office	In progress/ December 2018
20.Ensure that the information and photograph of a victim of misused identity is immediately displayed on the first screen of the "General Search Application";	NO	Negotiations with the N.SIS contractor are ongoing in order to implement this feature.	Informatics Division/N.SIS II office	In progress/-
21.Integrate the transliteration rules in the "General Search Application";	NO	The transliteration rules leaflet is uploaded inside the General Search Application, so that end users can consult them immediately. Besides that, every search is being executed against the transliterated fields of the DB, so that there is no need for the user to enter a special character. More specifically: In case greek characters are filled by the end user, the transliteration in latin letters takes place on the fly and then the search is being executed. In case of Cyrillic alphabet, since this is unsupported by our keyboard, the end user consults the transliteration table and then fills latin characters.	Informatics Division/N.SIS II office	Completed
22.Ensure that when carrying out a search in SIS on the basis of a name of a person, the system simultaneously checks the data on the person as well as on his travel or identity documents;	NO	When the new hardware that can support the load of these special requests is in place (until the end of 2017), this feature will be scheduled for implementation.	Informatics Division/N.SIS II office	In progress/ March 2018

23.further develop the "General Search Application" so that during police checks end-users are not compelled to specify which category of data (for example, person, vehicle, boat) they wish to query;	NO	This is a major change for the search application and the search engine and it will be included as requirement in a project funded by EU and implemented in 2018.	Informatics Division/N.SIS II office	In progress/ December 2018
24.Resolve the current backlog at the Aliens Service of the Police Directorate of Lesvos for entering alerts for the purpose of refusing entry or stay;	NO	The backlog issue was resolved	Aliens Service of the Police Directorate of Lesvos	Completed
25.Increase the performance of the mobile equipment used by the Hellenic Police in terms of availability and user-friendliness;	NO	The Hellenic Police will soon launch a call for tenders in order to acquire new mobile equipment and search application.	Informatics Division	In progress/ March 2019
26.Provide direct access to SIS alerts concerning vehicles to the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transportation and Networks.	NO	Implementation and testing is ongoing.	Ministry of Infrastructure, Transportation and Networks	In progress/-