

LATVIA

LV written comments regarding block 4 - enabling Europol to enter data into the Schengen Information System (SIS)

Q 1) Do you agree that there is an operational need to make verified third-country sourced information on terrorists and other criminals available to frontline officers (border guards and police officers) in order to detect those persons when they seek to cross EU external borders or when they are being checked within the EU?

LV agrees that such an information should be made available to frontline officers. LV also tends to believe that **there is a gap** in this regard that should be addressed. Thus, LV considers that at first **the scale of the problem (information gap)** should be determined regarding both FTFs and other offences in respect of which Europol is competent (for instance, CSA etc.). In view of this, LV expects COM to present **precise figures**. Only then – on the basis of those figures provided by COM – **the final decision on the scope** should be taken, namely, whether a future solution should refer only to FTFs (or whether it should cover a wider range of offences).

2) If so, do you agree that the Schengen Information System is the right tool to make this information available to frontline officers (border guards and police officers)? If not, what alternative solution would you propose?

LV agrees that SIS is the right tool to make this information available to frontline officers. In this regard, LV sees the **TWP protocol**¹ agreed last year as the best way forward. In LV view, it provides **a clear and harmonised procedure** for entering relevant data in the SIS, as well as it **ensures availability of those data** to frontline officers. Depending on the reply to the question on information gap, the scope of the TWP protocol could be either maintained only for FTFs' purposes or supplemented by other/all offences in respect of which Europol is competent.

¹ Process for evaluating and possibly entering information from third countries on suspected FTFs in the SIS; doc. 13037/20