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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: Draft Council conclusions on the multiannual strategic policy cycle for European integrated border management (EIBM)

Delegations will find attached draft Council conclusions on the multiannual strategic policy cycle for European integrated border management (EIBM), to be discussed at the meeting of the JHA Counsellors (Frontiers) on 8 September 2022.

**Draft Council conclusions on the multiannual strategic policy cycle for
European Integrated Border Management (EIBM)**

The Council of the European Union,

Introduction

1. NOTES that the successive terrorism, migration and COVID-19 challenges have put a strain on the functioning of the Schengen area; UNDERLINES the key role of an effective European integrated border management (EIBM) for the proper functioning of the Schengen area.

General

2. WELCOMES the Commission's policy document developing a multiannual strategic policy for European integrated border management (EIBM Policy document) as the basis for a discussion with the European Parliament and the Council.
3. RECALLS that following this discussion, the Commission will adopt a communication establishing the multiannual strategic policy for EIBM; UNDERLINES that the 5-year multiannual strategic policy cycle for EIBM will be complemented by the technical and operational strategy to be adopted by the Frontex Management Board and the national strategies of the Member States, with a view to effectively addressing the current and future challenges in the area of border management whilst reflecting the specific situation of each Member State.

Principles

4. ENDORSES the main principles underpinning the EIBM Policy document, as well as the policy priorities and strategic guidelines; PROPOSES to add the four-tier access control model as one of the key principles; INVITES the Commission to further elaborate the concepts of integrated planning and EIBM technical standards.
5. INVITES the Commission to carefully delineate the scope of EIBM, especially with regard to measures within the Schengen area.
6. INVITES the Commission to devote particular attention to recent phenomena, such as the instrumentalisation of migration and other hybrid threats.

Policy priorities and strategic guidelines for the components of EIBM

7. COMMENDS the Commission for the comprehensive list of policy priorities and strategic guidelines for the components of EIBM; STRESSES the need for prioritisation through the national strategies, *inter alia* on the basis of the risk analyses by Frontex and the results of the Schengen evaluations and vulnerability assessments.
8. STRESSES the essential role of risk analyses based on the Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model (CIRAM); ENCOURAGES a continued reflection on this concept in order to fully take into account new challenges as well as interoperability and artificial intelligence.
9. STRESSES the need to develop appropriate responses to challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic or the war in Ukraine.
10. STRESSES the importance of prevention of irregular migration and cross-border crime and CALLS FOR a more proactive approach regarding the respective strategic guidelines.
11. UNDERLINES that border surveillance may also be carried out by technical means, including electronic means, equipment, surveillance systems and, where appropriate, all types of stationary and mobile infrastructure, in full compliance with fundamental rights.

12. STRESSES the need to take due account of international maritime law, in particular with regard to search and rescue operations.
13. As regards the use of state-of-the-art technology, UNDERLINES the need to take also into account systems developed by the maritime agencies EMSA and EFCA as well as the need for enhanced coordination in this regard.
14. STRESSES the need for inter-agency cooperation in order to more effectively combat secondary flows, while respecting the limits of the EBCG Regulation; in this respect, also HIGHLIGHTS the potential of EUROSUR.
15. HIGHLIGHTS that the effective implementation of the EIBM components should be eligible for financing from EU funds; RECALLS that solidarity should not be restricted to EU funding instruments.
16. CONSIDERS that the training of border guards is an essential precondition for properly functioning external borders and, in this light, INVITES the Commission to engage with Frontex in order to initiate discussions on creating a comprehensive training concept, including the detection of false and falsified documents and impostors, and the issue of returns. Furthermore, the suggested establishment of a Frontex training centre should be carefully discussed while taking into consideration the role of the current Frontex Partnership Academies.

Governance

17. STRESSES that the governance of the multiannual strategic policy cycle should be integrated into the Schengen cycle and regularly reviewed within the Schengen Council.

Evaluation

18. RECALLS that four years after the adoption of the communication setting out the multiannual strategic policy for EIBM, the Commission will carry out a thorough evaluation of the policy's implementation by all stakeholders at EU and national levels; INVITES the Commission to provide, in its communication establishing the multiannual strategic policy, information on the method and criteria for this evaluation, in particular to assist the Member States in the evaluation of their national strategies.

Conclusion

19. INVITES the Commission to take into account the abovementioned elements, the specific comments and drafting proposals by Member States as well as the 2020 and 2022 Strategic Risk Analyses with a view to adopting by the end of 2022 the communication establishing the multiannual strategic policy for EIBM.