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**NOTE**

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**From:** General Secretariat of the Council  
**To:** Standing Committee on Operational Co-operation on Internal Security (COSI)

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**Subject:** EU Policy Cycle: Monitoring of the Operational Action Plans 2016  
- Priority "Illegal Immigration"

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Delegations will find attached a Europol summary report on the implementation of the 2015 and 2016 OAPs on "Illegal Immigration". This annex was discussed during the National EMPACT Coordinators meeting held at Europol on 24-25-26 May 2016.

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## EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime

### Europol's findings, May 2016

#### 5 Priority Reporting

This section of the report takes an in-depth look at the Operational Action Plan on "Illegal Immigration", including the progress made since October 2015 in implementing the 2015 OAPs and the start made in implementing the 2016 OAPs.

#### **A - Facilitated Illegal Immigration.**

The migration crisis in Europe has led to a number of initiatives being launched that are coordinated through the EMPACT project, these include the setting up of JOT MARE, and also other new initiatives.

European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC) was launched by Europol in response to the call from the Council in November 2015 to "strengthen Europol's capacity to support Member States in better preventing and fighting against migrant smuggling". It was formally launched on 22 February 2016. The goal of the Centre is to proactively support Member States in dismantling criminal networks involved in organised migrant smuggling. The Centre will focus on geographical criminal hotspots, and will build a better capability across the European Union to fight people smuggling networks.

The Europol Monitoring Team (EPMT) was created in September 2015 to monitor migrant flows and daily briefings are held with the MS' liaison officers at Europol and both daily and weekly reports are produced.

Europol's Internet Referral Unit (IRU) is tasked with monitoring social media accounts used to facilitate irregular migration. (Intelligence Notification: The use of Facebook in relation to Facilitated Illegal Immigration into Europe across the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas".)

In 2015 the FII priority had 21 actions supported by two EMPACT grants, (France as main beneficiary with EUR 178,487, Austria as main beneficiary with EUR 174.985). The Grant Agreements were finalised on 5 and 8 June 2015, respectively, at the end of the year the implementation rates were 11% & 9%. The beneficiaries have requested amendments to continue spending the grant monies on 2015 actions up to 31 December 2016.

At the October 2015 reporting 6 actions were successfully completed, 1 was cancelled so 15 actions were still "live" including 8 "operational" actions. At the May 2016 reporting 11 actions are successfully completed, 4 continue, 2 are not completed, 1 is cancelled and the status of 2 is unclear; substantial progress has been made.

The final statistics for 2015 indicate that the number of contributions to FP Checkpoint reached 8815, a 78% increase on the previous year. There are significant operational results to report. Operation Tantaluf addressed an OCG comprised of Czech & Albanian nationals responsible for smuggling more than 100 irregular migrants, mainly Albanian nationals, to the UK. In an action 24-26 October 6 EAWs were executed, with 8 arrests and 10 houses searched.

Operation Mahmoud/Jamal targeted an OCG smuggling mainly Syrian irregular migrants to the EU from TR, via EL, FYROM, RS, HU, AT DE and onwards. The group is believed to have smuggled more than 100 per day, with earnings of nearly €10m and has been active since 2013. An action on 2 December led to 23 arrests, including the main target.

Action 5.3 JOT MARE continues to focus on developing intelligence and supporting law enforcement action targeting OCGs involved in maritime smuggling and subsequent secondary movements. The Vessels of Interest list now contains more than 50 vessels.

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Action 3.1 (2015) Operation Magpie – ID document fraud – action day 4-5 November 2015: more than 47,000 persons were checked at 20 BCPs, 154 irregular migrants were identified, 1 facilitator was intercepted and 73 fraudulent documents were seized. Five cases were initiated, including one of high interest.

An international joint action on 24 and 25 October saw the participation of 365 police officers from Spain and Poland, who carried out 60 inspections of restaurants run by members of a criminal network and 51 house searches, in both Spain (23) and Poland (28). A large amount of evidence was seized including documentation, equipment used for preparing forged documents, and communication devices. 29 people were arrested.

Action 2.1 (2015) saw a change of scope, as the initial target, Kosovo nationals being smuggled into Europe, decreased, whereas the facilitators remained the same. New investigations were launched and 6 facilitators were arrested 17 and 25 March in Austria and Hungary.

Action 2.6 (2015) Joint Operation Pegasus took place between 20 May and 15 December 2015. 16 MS involved in 13 EU airports. 168 incidents involving 296 persons and 229 abused documents detected. 139 persons applied for asylum and 74 refused entry to the EU.

Action 3.1 (2015), ID fraud, common actions took place in airports / ports on 4/5 November 2015 at 20 border crossing points. 154 migrants were intercepted, 1 facilitator intercepted and 73 fraudulent documents seized.

Action 5.4 (2015), Frontex coordinated Joint Operation. Coordination points were established at the border crossing points to third countries (FYROM, Albania, BiH). 15 irregular migrants detected, 449 persons refused entry 65 cases of ID fraud and 34 cases of overstaying.