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From:	Hellenic delegation
To:	Working Party for Schengen Matters (Schengen Evaluation) - Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Norway/Switzerland/Liechtenstein)
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Subject:	Follow-up report on the implementation of the Action Plan on addressing the "serious" deficiencies identified in the 2015 evaluation on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of management of the external borders by Greece

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Delegations will find enclosed the "Follow-up report on the implementation of the Action plan on addressing the "serious" deficiencies identified in the 2015 evaluation on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of management of the external borders by Greece" as provided for in article 16(3) of the SEM Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013.

## Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide a “Follow-up Report on the implementation of the Action plan on addressing deficiencies identified in the unannounced 2015 evaluation on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of management of the external borders by Greece”, in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of SEM Reg. (EU) 1053/2013 <sup>1</sup>.

In sum, Greece has delivered forty five (45) completed actions and provided a realistic timeframe for the remaining five (5) continued actions, ensuring a monitoring framework, including training, review of statistics and targeted interventions <sup>2</sup>.

The full implementation of long term or continued actions, including the new national integrated maritime surveillance system, risk analysis, training, reinforcement of personnel and IT infrastructure will continue to be closely monitored. A pool of experienced Police and HCG officers is established to evaluate the implementation of the Schengen Acquis in the field of external borders. The above officers have the experience, knowledge and expertise, and have been trained as Schengen evaluators. Their task will be the training of border guards all along the external borders and the monitoring of the correct implementation of the instructions issued by the HP HQ, related to the recommendations of the Council and the implementation of the Schengen Acquis, in general.

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<sup>1</sup> In the framework of the SEM Regulation 1053/2013 an unannounced evaluation visit took place at land and sea external borders of Greece, 10-13 November 2015. The evaluation Report, adopted by the Commission on 2 February 2016, concluded that there were “serious deficiencies” in the carrying out of external border control by Greece. Recommendations for remedial action were adopted by the Council on 12 February 2016. As the Evaluation Report found serious deficiencies, the Commission in addition adopted on 24 February 2016 an implementing decision setting out a Recommendation on specific measures to be taken by Greece.

Following the Action Plan presented by the Greek authorities on 12 March 2016 to remedy deficiencies identified in the 2015 evaluation of the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of management of the external borders<sup>1</sup> and the additional elements and clarifications provided to the Commission's assessment of the adequacy of the Action Plan on 12 April 2016, Greece presented its final Report on the implementation of its Action Plan, in accordance with the provisions of article 16(4) of the SEM Regulation 1053/2013 on the 29 April 2016.

Since 12 March 2016, Greece, firmly committed to contributing to the strengthening of the internal security of the EU, provides monthly reports on the Commission's Recommendation Article 19b (1) SBC on specific measures to be taken by the Hellenic Republic following the evaluation report and Council Recommendation related to Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 1053/2013, of 2 February 2016. Any new issue raised by the Commission during this process, is addressed by Greece as a matter of priority.

<sup>2</sup> Recommendations consider registration procedure 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 40, 41 and 42; sea border surveillance 12, 13 and 14, risk analyses 15, 16 and 17, international cooperation 18; border checks procedures 22, 23, 25, 26, 27 and 28; human resources and training 19 and 43; and infrastructure and equipment 34, 47 and 48. EL should take appropriate measures to ensure that at all external borders of Greece, external border control is carried out and brought in line with the Schengen Acquis in order not to jeopardise the functioning of the Schengen area according to recommendation 50.

Despite Greece's stated disagreement with the assessment of the evaluation report, all issues identified in it have been dealt with as a matter of priority and urgency, with a view to ensuring, on our part, the integrity and continued functioning of the Schengen area. It should be noted that, since the evaluation visit on 10-13 November 2015, the situation on the ground has changed significantly. The unilateral closure of borders along the Western Balkan Route and the EU-Turkey joint statement have created additional responsibilities for Greece, which unavoidably also affect the implementation of the Action Plan. As a result, complementary actions have been taken in the context of the evaluation process, impacts and risks are assessed on a daily basis and solutions are provided by the Greek authorities in close cooperation with the EU Institutions and Agencies, with the contribution of Member States. Efforts will continue in this vein.

In view of the forthcoming Communication of the Commission, following the adoption of the Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation for temporary internal border control in exceptional circumstances putting the overall functioning of the Schengen area at risk, Greece wishes to stress the following points:

1. Border controls at Greek BCP with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are tightened and extensive patrolling is taking place at the green borderline. HP completed peacefully the evacuation of Idomeni, the makeshift camp near the village on the border with FYROM and two unofficial camps located around two gas stations close to Idomeni. All migrants were transferred to reception facilities with the purpose to be preregistered.

In the framework of the National Operation 'SARISA', Greece has taken all necessary measures to prevent and deter any attempt of absconding from the mainland to the north, including to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Hellenic Police conducts police checks on railway stations, central bus stations and highways. For the purposes of this Operation, during the first six months of 2016 a total of 35.367 persons and 29.789 vehicles (trains, cars, buses, lorries) were checked, and 2.769 individuals were arrested.

In the period between 15 June 2016 and 08 August 2016, the Hellenic Police deterred 4.305 migrants who sought to continue their travel to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from the area of Kilkis (Idomeni, Evzoni, Doirani). These persons were transferred to reception centres in Northern Greece to be pre-registered. In the period between 13.07.2016-26.07.2016, in the area of Florina 70 migrants were deterred from moving to Albania.

In addition, Greece has never refused to accept back those attempted to enter its neighbouring countries. However, the number of the official readmission requests from former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia to the Greek authorities is limited and indicates that the revival of this route is not based on evidence but only on abstract reasoning (3 requests during June for 22 persons in total, 1 request during July 2016 for 6 persons in total).

2. In the period between 09 June 2016 and 5 July 2016 20.100 persons were pre-registered (pending full lodging of their asylum application) by Greek Asylum Service in cooperation with EASO and UNHCR <sup>3, 4</sup>. The rest of the migrants remaining in Greece (in mainland and islands) have already lodged an asylum application or are under return procedure. According to the latest data (09 August 2016), Greece has reception capacity of 57.016 places. It is estimated that only 2.200 persons reside outside organised facilities.

In light of the above, Greece believes that no risk of secondary movements from its territory to other EU Member States, such that can pose a threat to the internal security and public order in accordance with SBC, can be substantiated.

3. In the context of sea border management strategy implementation, HCG reinforces and reallocates its operational resources according to risk assessment and after continuous monitoring of the existing operational needs. Furthermore, the technical equipment provided by Member States within the framework of Poseidon Rapid Intervention (28.12.2015-31.05.2016) and JO EPN Poseidon 2016 that launched on 01.06.2016 with the same operational capacity of assets and personnel, has contributed substantially to the enhancement of the existing situational awareness and response capacities, the significant increase of migrants boats apprehensions at sea and, consequently, to implementing more efficiently the hotspot approach concept.

In the meantime, the real-time situational picture in regional and local level is adequately ensured via a dense network of patrolling activities and special technical equipment of a significant number of HCG surface assets (e.g. thermal cameras, etc), which enable situational awareness at the maritime frontline as well as real time exchange of information from local to central level and vice versa.

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<sup>3</sup> The preregistration process is open to those who entered Greece between 1.1.2015 and 20.3.2016 and aims to address the need to access international protection by those currently on mainland Greece, who have not applied for asylum already.

<sup>4</sup> <http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/EN-01.08.2016-Press-Release-end-pre-registration.pdf>

4. Regarding the cooperation of HCG with Turkish authorities, the “Second Report on the progress made in the implementation of the EU-Turkey statement”<sup>5</sup> acknowledges that “Greek and Turkish authorities now exchange information on a regular basis. During the first five months in 2016, the Greek Coast Guard alerted its Turkish counterpart to 120 search and rescue cases, leading to a specific response in 42 cases, and also sent 189 messages concerning 268 migrant boats, leading to a response by the Turkish authorities on 31 boats”. The above figures demonstrate that despite the enhancement in the multi-level cooperation between the Hellenic Coastguard and the Turkish Coast Guard, much more effective response by the Turkish authorities is still anticipated.

The Hellenic Military Forces are an indispensable part of Greece’s surveillance system. Such cooperating schemes are commonly applicable by an important number of EU M-Ss. The aforementioned Authorities operate in a supplementary way to the national efforts led by the HCG, at the sea domain, sharing relevant information and contributing to the enhancement of the national situational picture. Moreover, the active involvement of the Hellenic Military Forces is stipulated by the Eurosur Regulation and this multipurpose management of available resources is strongly encouraged by the EU, under the core ideas of cost efficiency, maximization of available resources and avoidance of duplication of efforts. In addition, it should be underlined that this picture is consistently enriched with relevant information gathered and shared with EU and NATO stakeholders <sup>6</sup> on the basis of SOPs mutual agreed and signed on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

5. In spite of the impact on the local societies and economy, Greece has constructed and operates Hotspots on 5 Greek islands with a total capacity of 7.450 places and has delivered in total 57.016 reception places in mainland and islands (including UNHCR and unorganised facilities). With the support of the Commission and Frontex, the hotspots have been adapted to facilitate swift returns to Turkey from the islands and to integrate return and asylum officers in their structures and workflows since almost all newcomers from Turkey, submit international protection request.

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<sup>5</sup> 15.06.2016, COM (2016) 349 (final).

<sup>6</sup> Second Report on the progress made in the implementation of the EU-Turkey statement” (15.06.2016, COM(2016) 349 final): “Ongoing operations by Frontex and NATO continue to enhance early warning and surveillance activities and sharing of operational information with the HCG and Hellenic Navy. Frontex and NATO are currently working on standard operating procedures and developing a common situational picture covering their areas of operation to enable NATO activity in the Aegean to further increase the high detection rate and to speed up information exchange on migrant smuggling incidents, routes and methods”.

For this reason 9.991 migrants remain on the Greek islands (09 August 2015), exceed the reception capacity of hotspots since the asylum examination procedure takes several weeks before it is concluded. The reason for this is that Member States have not responded in a satisfactory way to the EASO calls for experts. This leads to overcrowding and excessive pressure on facilities that mobilised HP to take more active measure to guarantee the peaceful atmosphere for migrants and field workers.

To address this challenge, the solution cannot only be found in the increase of the total reception capacity <sup>7</sup> on the islands; the migratory pressure should be alleviated by transferring migrants who have received the international protection status to the mainland in reception sites. Nevertheless, because of the limited response of other Member States to actually relocate migrants according to their commitments, more and more places are used for the relocation beneficiaries' scheme restricting the number of places available for the non relocation beneficiaries.

Despite Greece's efforts, the whole reception system is overburdened as only 2.735 asylum seekers had been effectively relocated from Greece to other MS out of an agreed target of 63,302 (latest data 11 August 2016) <sup>8</sup>. It should be clear, that Greece has not unlimited reception capacity and that in order to provide human reception conditions, solidarity needs to be applied. While only few Member States partly deliver on their commitments some others are still unwilling to demonstrate solidarity. Other Member States chose to build fences resulting only in increasing the revenues of criminal networks and changing the migratory routes.

In a period of instability in the Mediterranean region, Greece is fully cognizant of its strategic role in shaping Europe's response to the migratory crisis and reiterates its commitment to contribute to the public order and internal security of EU in close cooperation with other Member States, EU Institutions and Agencies. Greece, mainly due to its geographical position and the specificities of its external sea borders, is affected more than any other member state from an unprecedented migratory and refugee crisis.

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<sup>7</sup> "Second Report on the progress made in the implementation of the EU-Turkey statement" (15.06.2016, COM(2016) 349 final) (Operational Steps)".

<sup>8</sup> Fourth report on relocation and resettlement, 15.6.2016, COM(2016) 416 final.

The challenge has been to manage, with limited resources, in the best possible way, the humanitarian crisis at hand, while at the same time respecting human rights and common European values, and ensuring effective control of the external borders of the EU.

Greece believes that since the evaluation visit of the on site team (November 2015) tremendous efforts have been made and a great deal of energy has been put to respond to the above challenges in an even more complex environment.

It's time to stop the "blame and shame" narrative that has been used for too long.

**FOLLOW UP REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN ON ADDRESSING THE “SERIOUS” DEFICIENCIES IDENTIFIED IN THE 2015 EVALUATION ON THE APPLICATION OF THE SCHENGEN ACQUIS IN THE FIELD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE EXTERNAL BORDERS BY GREECE**

*(STATE OF PLAY 12.08.2016)*

	<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Actions taken by EL</u>	<u>Time-frame</u>	<u>Res. Authority</u>
<b><u>Sea borders</u></b>				
Sites visited	Sea borders team: Chios and Samos Island including visits to the local headquarters of the HP (HP) and the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG), screening centres and temporary reception facilities, border crossing point (BCP) Chios Port and Samos Port.			
<b><u>Registration procedure</u></b>	<b><u>for the sites visited at the sea border:</u></b>			
	Rec. 1 Content of the documents of temporary stay	<p>1. Content of temporary documents amended 3 new documents introduced to adjust to the EU-Turkey Joint statement.</p> <p><b><u>(Update 12.08.2016) temporary documents are no longer provided to migrants. The majority of migrants choose to apply for asylum. 20.100 have been preregistered (pending full lodging of their asylum application) between June-July 2016 by Asylum Service and UNHCR. The rest remaining in Greece have already applied for asylum in the island or in mainland. Return decisions have been issued for only few of the migrants who were not preregistered <sup>9</sup>.</u></b></p> <p>(more analysis in point 7 of COM Rec. Article 19b(1) SBC - 6<sup>th</sup> Report) <sup>4</sup>.</p>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Illegal Migration Control Division</b>  <b>Asylum service</b>

<sup>9</sup> The preregistration process is open to those who entered Greece between 1.1.2015 and 20.3.2016 and aims to address the need to access international protection by an estimated 49,000 people currently on mainland Greece. The system is overburdened as of 29.1.2016, only 1,970 asylum seekers had been relocated from Greece to other MS out of an agreed target of 66,400.



	Rec. 2 Security features of the documents of temporary stay	<p>2. security features &amp; IT software upgraded</p> <p>Greece created “Immigrants Data Mapping” IDM software tool that gives instant access to SIS II; Interpol and national databases and accelerates the procedures (HP and Asylum Service).</p> <p><b>(Update 12.08.2016) temporary documents are no longer provided to migrants.</b> (more analysis in point 7 of COM Rec. Article 19b(1) SBC - 6<sup>th</sup> Report).</p>	<b>Completed</b>	<p><b>HP/ Illegal Migration Control Division</b></p> <p><b>HP/IT Division</b></p>
	Rec. 3. HP staffing for registration	<p>3.Adequate number of officers seconded. Future needs assessment completed in cooperation with FRONTEX</p> <p>(more analysis in points 1 (1a-1c), 2, 4 (4a-4e) of COM Rec. Article 19b(1) SBC - 6<sup>th</sup> Report).</p>		<p><b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b></p> <p><b>FRONTEX</b></p>
	Rec. 4 facilities for accommodation during the registration process (including for vulnerable persons);	<p>4. Current maximum accommodation capacity 7.450 persons in islands (In 29.4.2016 the total number in Greece was 44.710 and according to the last data on 04.08.2016 increased to 57.024 places. Facilities for vulnerable persons available (max. capacity 1.008 places)</p> <p>(more analysis in point 5 of COM Rec. Article 19b(1) SBC - 6<sup>th</sup> Report).</p>	<b>Completed</b>	<p><b>Hellenic Army, HP, Reception and Identification Service</b></p>
	Rec. 5 systematic checks against SIS, Interpol and national databases during the registration process	<p>5. New electronic application launched, instructions to all BCPs, training, close monitoring through statistics Immigrants Data Mapping application is used since 10.02.2016 for the checking against SIS, Interpol and the national databases and all hot-spots are equipped with falsification detecting devices Passport readers. HP Headquarters monitor constantly the statistics.</p>	<b>Completed</b>	<p><b>HP/SIS/SIRENE Division</b></p> <p><b>HP/IT Division, Borders Protection Division</b></p>

		(more analysis in point 8 of COM Rec. Article 19b(1) SBC - 6 <sup>th</sup> Report).		
	Rec. 6 registration in line with the Article 14 of the Eurodac regulation,	6. Adequate number of Eurodac devices in operation & sufficient personnel & IT capacity allow the transmission of the data within the foreseen deadline  (more analysis in points 5, 6, of COM Rec. Article 19b(1) SBC - 6 <sup>th</sup> Report).	<b>Completed</b>  <b>(IT capacity procurement ends 2017)</b>	<b>HP/ Borders Protection Division, HP/IT Reception and Identification Service</b>
	Rec. 7 Scanners, Eurodac stations, IT capacity (internet, broadband);	7. Adequate number of Eurodac stations in operation & sufficient personnel & IT capacity assessed, technical requirements ready and procurement procedure in progress.  (more analysis in points 5, 6 of COM Rec. Article 19b(1) SBC - 6 <sup>th</sup> Report).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/ Borders Protection Division, Identification Service</b>
	Rec. 8 fingerprint quality	8. Currently no paper collection	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/ Borders Protection Division, Identification Service</b>
	Rec. 9 all illegal migrants to be fully identified, fingerprinted and registered into Eurodac with respect to their human rights	9. All irregular migrants are fully identified, fingerprinted and registered into Eurodac, there is adequate accommodation space and no case of mistreatment has been reported.  (more analysis in points 4, 5, 9, 11 (11a) of COM Rec. Article 19b(1) SBC - 6 <sup>th</sup> Report).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/ Borders Protection Division, Reception and Identification Service</b>

<b><u>Risk analysis</u></b>	Rec. 15 Risk analysis system at local level	<p>15. HP&amp;HCG Risk Analysis in central level is ready. Risk Analysis in national level incorporating data from other authorities (HGC, Armed Forces, Customs, Civil Protection etc.) is being prepared by NCC. The first draft is prepared.</p> <p>Risk Analysis in local level exists in Evros region.</p> <p>The aim of HP is to have a Risk Analysis based on CIRAM 2.0. at local level at the islands by the end of 2017.</p> <p>HCG has appointed since the beginning of 2016 intelligence officers at local level with experience in carrying out risk analysis. (more info pag. 20, final report 29.4.2016).</p> <p>Greek authorities will work systematically to fully implement this Recommendation by the end of 2017 and in the framework of the new Action Plan (evaluation April 2016).</p>	<b>In progress</b> <b>(local R.A. by end 2017)</b>	<b>HP/HCG/NCC</b>
	Rec. 16 nominate and train the necessary personnel at local level for carrying out risk analysis activities;	<p>16. <u>HP</u>: The funding for Risk Analysis training is ensured under ISF. However it wasn't possible for HP to organize a training course in cooperation with FRONTEX (June 2016). For this reason a programme in national level with Greek academics that will start in September 2016. HP considers training as an essential part for the quality of Risk Analysis products.</p> <p><u>HCG</u>: Analytical presentation of the training programme on Risk Analysis (p. 21-22, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).</p> <p>EL underlines the importance to organise Risk Analysis training in cooperation FRONTEX.</p>	<b>In progress</b> <b>(end 2016)</b>	<b>HCG/ IMSB, HP/Borders Protection Division</b>  <b>FRONTEX</b>
	Rec. 17 familiarise the first line border guards with the common foreign terrorist fighters risk indicators	<p>17. Since the evaluation instructions and extensive training on foreign terrorist fighters and counter terrorism are taking place both by HP and HCG. There is constant communication regarding the issue locally and in central level. The efforts will be continued.</p>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HCG/ IMSB, HP/Borders Protection Division</b>

		(more analysis in p. 21-22, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).		
<b><u>International cooperation</u></b>	Rec. 18 Cooperation with the Turkish border control authorities at local level	18. The most recent HCG-TCG Aegean Regional Commanders meeting was held in 24-26.5.2016 in Izmir.  (More analysis, p. 24-25 final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HCG/IMSB</b>
<b><u>Human resources and training</u></b>	Rec. 19 increase training at the local level especially on forged and falsified documents, risk analysis and updated legislation;	19. Training ensured-ISF, 60 officers trained in forged documents in eastern Aegean & Borders with FYROM. Sept. 2016 a new extensive training programme for HP is starting. Each year 241 police officers will be trained, among others, on forged and falsified documents.  HCG : a training programme was offered to 24 HCG members already and in the future Frontex cancelled "Training on advanced skills for detection of falsified documents" programmed for September 2016. Frontex will set Greece as a priority for roadshows training in detecting forged & falsified documents in 2017.  (More analysis p. 25-26, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Criminal Investigations Division</b>  <b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>  <b>HCG</b>
	Rec. 20 provide language training	20. HP: Turkish, English offered 2015-2016, Turkish, English programme will start in September 2016  Since 2011 HCG all new recruits of HCG have certified good knowledge of at least one foreign language (mainly English). Nevertheless, English advanced-terminology lessons are also offered within the training institution. In 2012 seven HCG members participated in intensive language training (Arabic-Turkish) offered by the Hellenic Police with the financial aid of EBF.	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>  <b>HCG</b>

		(More analysis p. 26, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).		
	Rec. 21 train more border guards on second line check	21. Training offered in cooperation with FRONTEX. <sup>10</sup> (More analysis p. 26, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>
<b><u>Border checks procedures</u></b>	Rec. 22 border checks in line with the COM recommendation on EU citizens coming from risk areas;	22. Renewed orders <sup>11</sup> were sent to all BCPs <sup>6</sup> (More analysis p. 26, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>
	Rec. 23 intensify the use of relevant document analysis tools/efficient document fraud detection;	23. Special services in GPD exist, software and training. HP has sent instructions for more intensive checks <sup>6</sup> (More analysis p. 27, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>
	Rec. 24 written information to TCN on thorough second line check/purpose & procedure	24. Renewed orders were sent to all BCPs. In March 2016 trainers visited and verified that personnel are well informed. <sup>6</sup> (More analysis p. 27, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>
	Rec. 25 integrating the photo of the visa applicant in the visa sticker	25. Since 20.01.2016 VIS has been rolled-out <sup>6</sup> (More analysis p. 27, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>

<sup>10</sup> A pool of experienced HP Officers is established to evaluate the implementation of the Schengen Acquis in the field of the external borders. Their task will be training of border guards all over the external borders and the monitoring of the observation of the instructions sent by the HP HQ related to the recommendations of the Council and the proper implementation of the Schengen Acquis in general.

<sup>11</sup> After sending renewed orders to Police Authorities, for each issue in this Action Plan, there were visits during March 2016 organized in sites of special interest in order to cross check the implementation. Additionally there is frequent monitor of the statistics. It was observed that police officers were aware of the notifications.

	Rec. 26 perform checks on cruise ships based on crew & passenger list	26. Renewed orders were set to all BCPs <sup>6</sup> (More analysis p. 27, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Prot. Division</b>
	Rec. 27 checks on pleasure boats at BCPs;	27. The “exceptional approach of pleasure boats coming from third countries” was abolished on 18.03.2016  (More analysis p. 27, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HCG</b>
	Rec. 28 border checks to TCNs in line with Article 7 of the SBC/ purpose of stay and means of subsistence (Chios);	28. Renewed orders were sent to all BCPs <sup>6</sup> (More analysis p. 27-28, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>
	Rec. 29 annul or revoke a visa in line with Visa Code (Chios);	29. Renewed orders were sent to all BCPs <sup>6</sup> (More analysis p. 28, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>
	Rec. 30 access to iFado BCP (Samos);	30. Renewed orders were sent to all BCPs <sup>6</sup> (More analysis p. 28, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>
<b><u>Infrastructure and equipment</u></b>	Rec. 31 magnifying devices to first line control booths	31. All BCPs are provided with magnifying devices (More analysis p. 28, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>
	Rec. 32 prevent unauthorized persons from observing the computer screen at control booth shelter	32. Appropriate measures have been taken (More analysis p. 28, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>
	Rec. 33 Access/use updated SBC, Schengen Handbook (SHB) & Annexes;	33. All tools updated and uploaded to Police-on-Line system (More analysis p. 28, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>

	Rec. 34 functioning of the visa fingerprint scanners at the control (Chios);	34. Technical problems were fixed  (More analysis p. 28, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>
	Rec. 35 Observation of the passenger flow e.g. by installing a video surveillance system (CCTV) (port of Chios)	35. Technical requirements ready, the proposal is submitted and approved. Open tender call is in progress. CCTV camera systems will be delivered the latest on May 2017.  <u>Update 12.08.2016:</u> The first phase has ended (consultation) and beginning of Sept 2016 the call will be published.  (More analysis p. 29, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>In progress</b>  <b>(deliv. May 2017)</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>
	Rec. 36 ensure that the recommendations 31 to 35 are taken into account when building the new passenger terminal in Samos.	36. It is already taken into account.  <u>Update 12.08.2016:</u> Final stage. It will be delivered by the end of 2016.  (More analysis p. 29, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HCG/Division for Ports and Port Policy</b>
<b><u>Land borders</u></b>				
<b><u>Site visited</u></b>	<b><u>Land borders team:</u></b> Police Directorate (Regional operational Centre) in Orestiada, Reception Centre Fylakio, BCP Kastanies and local operational centre Nea Vyssa.			
<b><u>Registration procedure</u></b>	<b><u>Reception center Fylakio</u></b>			
	Rec. 40 adequate number of Eurodac terminals	40. There are 4 additional Eurodac stations installed.  (more analysis in point 40 of COM Rec. Article 19b(1) SBC - 6 <sup>th</sup> Report and p. 31, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>Reception and Identification Service</b>
	Rec. 41 screening experts, interpreters	41. Screening experts were seconded in cooperation with FRONTEX. Future needs assessment completed; a new request has been submitted.	<b>Completed</b>	<b>Reception and Identification Service</b>

		(More analysis p. 31, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).		
	Rec. 42 systematic checks against SIS, Interpol (SLDT) and national databases	42. New electronic application launched, instructions to all BCPs, training <sup>6</sup>  (More analysis in points 8 and 10 of COM Rec. Article 19b(1) SBC - 6th Report and p. 31, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>
<b><u>International Cooperation</u></b>	Rec. 39 continue with the efforts for strengthening the cooperation with Bulgaria and Turkey and to participate actively in the future activities of the 'Trilateral Common Contact Center for police and customs cooperation';	39. It is ratified by the Hellenic Parliament and published to the National Gazette.  (More analysis p. 31, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/International Police Cooperation Division</b>
<b><u>Human Resources and training</u></b>	Rec. 43 increase the number of staff per shift at BCP Kastanies and ensure the deployment of at least one officer in the second line	43. Three more border guards were reinforced.  (More analysis p. 31, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>
<b><u>Border check procedures</u></b>	<b><u>Police directorate Orestiada</u></b>  Rec. 37 situational awareness, role of Regional Coordination Centre, integrating functions currently covered by the Regional Control Centre and Nea Vyssa centre;	37. Two new local operation centers will be established one in Nea Vyssa and one in Didimotyho. Their situational picture will be shared with the Regional Coordination Center in Orestiada.  (More analysis p. 29, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>In progress (Operational end 2018)</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>



	38. finalise the installation of GPS transmitters to the patrolling vehicles or units to enable the surveillance centre to monitor their location;	38. In the framework of the extension of the ABSS, a GIS (Geographical Information System) is foreseen in the Technical Specifications. Therefore, EL considers that there will be adequate monitoring of the area.  (More analysis p. 29-30, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>  (new assessment in (2018))	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>
	<b><u>BCP Kastanies</u></b>  Rec. 49 persons subjected to thorough second line checks are informed in advance about the purpose of such a check;	49. Renewed orders have been sent to all BCPs <sup>6</sup>  (More analysis p. 33, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Borders Protection Division</b>
<b><u>Infrastructure and equipment</u></b>	<b><u>BCP Kastanies</u></b>  Rec. 44 extend CVIS in order to provide the first line with all information stored inside the VIS	44. CVIS extended.  (More analysis p.32, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Border Protection Division, IT Division</b>
	Rec. 45. Update electronic resources	45. All tools updated and uploaded to Police-on-Line system <sup>6</sup>  (More analysis p.32, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016)	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Border Protection Division</b>
	Rec. 46 reallocate the heart beat detector at the BCP Kastanies to another BCP;	46. It was moved to Evzoni BCP  (More analysis p.32, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Border Protection Division</b>

	Rec. 47 traffic management, control booths, lanes, surveillance system and fencing;	47. <b>(Update 12.08.2016):</b> Infrastructure works ready. Renovative interventions of the building that are irrelevant with Schengen Requirements are pending.  (More analysis p.32, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HP/Border Protection Division</b>
	Rec. 48 improve traffic management and surveillance at the BCP	48. More personnel is sent and CCTV cameras procurement will finish the latest by May 2017  (More analysis p.39, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).	<b>Completed (CCTV end May 2017)</b>	<b>HP/Border Protection Division</b>
<b><u>General issues</u></b>	<b><u>Returns</u></b>  Rec. 10 return procedures for illegal migrants	10. <b>(Update 12.08.2016):</b> Regarding the implementation of the Joint EU-Turkey Statement related to the readmission of third country nationals, our country in cooperation with FRONTEX continued the readmission operation to Turkey.  More specific till 16-06-2016 Greece has implement the following operations:  1st RETURN OPERATION: 04-04-2016 (-136- third country nationals from Lesvos and -66- from Chios)  2nd RETURN OPERATION: 08-04-2016 [-123- from Lesvos (-50- were detained in Kos, -29- in Samos and -45- in Lesvos)].  3rd RETURN OPERATION: 26-04-2016 [-49- from Kos, Chios, Lesvos]  4th RETURN OPERATION: 27-04-2016 [-12- from Lesvos]  5th RETURN OPERATION: 18-05-2016 [-04- from Chios]  6th RETURN OPERATION: 20-05-2016 [-23- from Lesvos]  7TH RETURN OPERATION: 20-05-2016 [-28- from Kos]  8th RETURN OPERATION: 08-06-2016 [-8- from Chios]  9th RETURN OPERATION: 09-06-2016 [-13- from Chios]	<b>Completed</b>  The future of this action depends on the cooperation of Turkey and the support of FRONTEX and other MS.	<b>HP Illegal Migration Control Division</b>

		<p>10<sup>th</sup> RETURN OPERATION: 16-06-2016 [-6- from Lesvos]</p> <p><u>(It should be noted that due to the fact that the majority of migrants apply for asylum, it was not possible to since the last mission to organize a new return operation).</u></p> <p>According to the above mentioned, Greece continues the operations in cooperation with Frontex regarding the readmission of third country nationals to Turkey.</p> <p>In the framework of FOAR action, Greece authorities are in close cooperation with FRONTEX in order to increase our capacity building on activities related to returns. More specific on the previous months many actions were implanted, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Training of police staff related to procurement procedures.</li> <li>b. Training of Hellenic Police Staff related to JRO's.</li> <li>c. Appointment of FX's liaison officers at Hellenic Police Headquarters and RCO Attica in order to have closer cooperation.</li> <li>d. Experience exchange related to detention centers for those who are going to be returned.</li> <li>e. Various of staff is transferred to the Hot Spot's (Lesvos, Samos, Chios, Kos and Leros), in order to assist our efforts to handle the migration pressure on the spot.</li> </ul> <p>Coordination of JRO's over the last months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. Financial support on the operations which were implemented over the last months (JRO's and returns to Turkey by boat).</li> </ul> <p>This effort is continuous and our authorities are looking forward to keep this cooperation in this level in order to achieve our target,</p>		
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		which is mainly the management of the migration pressure but also to increase our capacity building for the actions related to returns.		
	<p><b><u>Sea Border surveillance</u></b></p> <p>Rec. 12 coastal surveillance system covering the whole sea border between Greece and Turkey</p>	<p>12. Study ready, operational requirements agreed among competent authorities, technical dialogue with the industry to start <u>end August 2016</u>.</p> <p>The implementation of the National Integrated Maritime Surveillance System will ensure a real time full maritime domain awareness that will contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Protecting life at sea</li> <li>b) Rational utilization of operational means and human resources</li> <li>c) Increasing response capacity</li> <li>d) Enhancing the efficiency of operational resources</li> </ul> <p>It will be a state-of-the art entirely new and fully independent system. Its software will be of open architecture in order to have the capacity to centrally integrate and fuse information from future or already existing surveillance and information systems. A Project working group has already been set up in order to define the operational requirements, to issue an RFI (Request for Information), consult with the industry through the Technical Dialogue Procedure and finalize the technical specifications. The whole process is planned to last between 6 and 9 months (by the end 2016).</p> <p>The operational requirements have already been agreed in cooperation with all competent Authorities and the RFI is scheduled</p>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HCG/IMSB</b>

		<p>to be issued by the end of August 2016. It is expected that one single tender be published by mid-2017. According to the national legislation and the expected recourses from the bidders, the tendering procedure will last about 1,5 year, so the contract is planned to be signed in the 4th term of 2018. The installation of the surveillance stations should then start progressively from the North-eastern Aegean region by the end of 2018 or early 2019.</p> <p>At the same time, works to adapt HCG Operations' Center will start within the HCG's HQs. The Command and Control of the system will be centrally based and as soon as each surveillance station is completed, it will be connected and transmit information to the HCG HQs (modular design). The whole system is expected to be fully deployed and operational by the end of 2021.</p> <p>Concerning the procurement of patrol boats, under the ISF National Programme (NP), 4 patrol boats were planned to be delivered within 2016 as a continuation of the relevant multiannual project under EBF 2012 and 2013 aiming to the procurement of 6 Coastal Patrol Boats. However, the contractor has bankrupted and is not able to fulfill its obligations under the contract signed. Alternative solutions are being explored in order to acquire as many equivalent boats as possible within the available budget. In any case, the reaction capability is already at a good level in the Eastern Aegean islands since boats from other HCG authorities are seconded on a rotating basis. Please note that in order to enhance significantly the reaction capacity with viable utilization of the operational assets a procurement of 10 new boats of over 20m would be needed which requires a budget of about 35 to 40 M €</p> <p>Finally, for what concerns the procurement of 2 Coastal Patrol Vessels over 30m and 1 TVV under ISF NP Specific Actions, the technical specifications have already been completed. The competent Delegated Authority issued the relevant Calls on 27/04/2016 and 08/07/2016 respectively. The foreseen procedures have been completed and the tenders are to be published by the end</p>		
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		<p>of August / early September 2016. Deliveries are expected by the end of 2019 and 2018 respectively. Here again, it is pointed out that the real operational need is of 2 additional CPVs (4 CPVs in total).</p> <p>Greece considers that the above measures taken will improve sea border surveillance by establishing a comprehensive and effective coastal surveillance system covering the whole sea border between Greece and Turkey.</p> <p>(More analysis in points 4, 5, 11 of COM Rec. Article 19b(1) SBC - 6th Report).</p>		
	<p>Rec. 13 sufficient patrolling activity between islands, sufficient number of patrol boats kept in readiness for rapid reaction;</p>	<p>13. The following activities have been undertaken by the HCG in the broader sea area of Eastern Aegean (including the islands of Chios and Samos), after the evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request to Frontex on 03.12.2015 regarding the launching of a Rapid Intervention Operation, that began on 28.12.2015 and terminated on 31.05.16. Upon its completion, JO EPN POSEIDON 2016 started with the same operational areas and capacity of assets and personnel.</li> <li>• Request to retain the participation of UK's OPV 'VOS GRACE', already operating in the Eastern Aegean Sea. It is noted that the UK Border Force presence at the area was reinforced by two extra OPV "PROTECTOR" (still operating) &amp; "SENTINEL" (departure on 20.06.16 for JO TRITON). Furthermore on a monthly basis, the operational capabilities of local assets are reinforced by OPVs,CPVs &amp;CPB, according to the HCG risk assessment. [Update 05.08.16, Eastern Aegean is reinforced by two (02) OPVs, and two (02) CPVs ] and one (01) OPV in Creta island.</li> <li>• Finalization of procurement procedures and deployment of one (01) new, offshore patrol vessel (O.P.V. 090).</li> </ul>	<b>Completed</b>	<b>HCG/IMSB</b>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conclusion of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the HCG and the International Federation of Rescue at sea (IMRF), with the aim, inter alia, to provide assistance as regards search and rescue activities. This specific action shall provide for sufficient capabilities of maritime surveillance conducted by national means.</li> <li>• Creation and operation of the electronic system "PYTHEAS" for the direct and real time identification and control of persons and vehicles, to which access is also given to offshore patrol vessels completed.</li> <li>• Provision of training, by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Department Enforcement, to the Port Authorities of the Eastern Aegean, related on control activities of incoming persons and migration issues completed.</li> </ul> <p>Also, standardization of regular coordination procedures for the enhancement of cooperation, at local level, via joint daily HP and HCG meetings for the fine tuning of the ongoing operational activities, within the framework of FX Joint Operations, has already been accomplished.</p> <p>(More analysis in points 2, 3, 13b of COM Rec. Article 19b(1) SBC - 6th Report).</p>		
	<p>Rec. 14 information sharing between the relevant authorities</p>	<p>14. HCG implements a MoU with Armed Forces, National Intelligence Service.</p> <p>Furthermore, in 2012, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Commandants of the HCG and the Hellenic Navy, for improving maritime situational awareness, fostering interoperability and utilizing available resources, infrastructure and capabilities, which is subject to modification on the basis of any emerged needs and challenges [ and is amended accordingly based on emerged needs challenges].</p>	<p><b>Completed</b></p>	<p><b>HCG</b></p>

		(More analysis in point 3 of COM Rec. Article 19b(1) SBC - 6th Report).		
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Regarding Rec. 50 (More analysis in Introduction of this document and points 4, 5, 11 of COM Rec. Article 19b(1) SBC - 6th Report and p. 33-35, final report of the Action Plan 29.4.2016).

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