

ISF Mid-Term Review

**10th HOME Affairs Funds
Committee**

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Scope

- **Scope:**
 - Taking stock of the programme implementation and revise ISF programmes to address existing and new challenges to internal and external security
 - Programming of additional MTR resources for successful programmes
 - Consideration of emerging priorities and EU horizontal priorities
- **Standard amendment** (Articles 24(1) to (4) CPR): approval by the MC, possible letter of observations (OL) by COM, adoption within 4 months from submission (“stop the clock” following OL), etc. (see note HOME-Funds/2023/11)
- Based on **informal dialogue** with COM
- **Adoptions as from third quarter of 2025** (and anyhow by the end of 2025)



Priorities: information exchange

- **Support the national implementation of the Directive (EU) 2023/977 on information exchange:**
 - The financing of the national implementation is crucial to ensure compliance with legal obligations for Member States. Notably, this includes the establishment or upgrading of a case management system (CMS) that is fully interoperable with Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) for the Single Point of Contact. Such a system will enhance operational capabilities and facilitate seamless information exchange between national and EU law enforcement authorities, contributing to more effective cross-border cooperation.
- **Support the national implementation of automated exchanges of facial images, the first new data category under the Prüm II Regulation (EU) 2024/982:**
 - The financing of the creation or upgrading of a criminal facial images database is crucial to implement the legal obligations for Member States. The financing can also cover the necessary technical developments for the connection to the new Prüm router for the three biometric data categories (DNA profiles, dactyloscopic data and facial images) and the following core data exchange.



Priorities: information exchange

- **Support the voluntary participation to European Police Records Index System (EPRIS) for automated exchanges of police records**, the second new data category under the **Prüm II Regulation (EU) 2024/982**. The financing of the national implementation of EPRIS will boost the exchange of valuable information between law enforcement authorities.
- Step up **information exchange projects between customs and police in the fight on drug trafficking** through close cooperation around key logistical hubs vulnerable to being infiltrated by organised crime, and expand in public-private partnerships with key private stakeholders to enhance resilience of logistical hubs.
- Support the capacity of Member States to **transfer and share large volumes of data** and to set out interoperable data formats to facilitate cross-border cooperation



Priorities: Fight against organised crime

- Invest in **the “follow-the-money” approach** to enhance financial investigators capacity to uncover criminal assets as a key means to tackle high risk criminal networks. Member States are encouraged to use the top-up to implement the new requirements from the Asset Recovery and Confiscation Directive. There is a need to invest in Asset Recovery Offices with increased accesses to databases, the need to establish Asset Management Offices and an obligation to start parallel financial investigations whenever investigating organised crime, requiring significant manpower and technical expertise to be built up. Furthermore, it is important to enhance operational cooperation with financial institutions through public-private partnership ([EFIPPP Homepage - EFIPPP](#)).
- More broadly, **invest in the dismantling of high risk criminal networks**, building methodologies and technologies (including AI tools) for the storage, management, enrichment, analysis and visualization of large datasets related to combating crime in order to enhance the intelligence picture on criminal networks.



Priority – Operational Cooperation

- **Support, in the context of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), at national level, the establishment of ‘national EMPACT Support Teams’ (NEST) and, in Member States ensuring the ‘drivership’ of an EMPACT priority/operational action plan, of teams supporting the ‘Driver(s)’.**
 - Indeed, the financing of staff can be done under the shared management ISF programme of any Member State. Under ISF Specific Objective 2 ‘*intensify cross-border cooperation*’, it could take the form of either an individual operation setting up and running the national EMPACT coordinated structure with 90% EU contribution (EMPACT being identified as a key priority in Annex IV of ISF Regulation), or under ‘*Operating Support*’ with 100% EU contribution). If Operating Support has not been activated by Member States yet, it can be done via programme amendment. Such a measure would boost participation in actions in the context of EMPACT.
- **Support the operational law enforcement cooperation among Member States in the follow up to the Council Recommendation (EU) 2022/915:**
 - This will accompany the foreseen establishment of a Commission technical expert group on operational law enforcement cooperation in Q2 2025. The expert group will be a forum for a structured discussion with the Member States and it will be tasked with identifying the needs of law enforcement authorities across the EU and solutions to address these needs, and exchanging best practices (including those stemming from Schengen evaluations).



Priority – European Critical Communication System

Funding for the **finalization of Member States testbeds** for the European Critical Communication System, as well as **partial integration of completed Member States' systems**.

+ additional priorities for different Member States



Thank you



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