

Internal Security Fund: instrument for financial support for external borders and visa 2014-2020

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The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs adopted the report by Marian-Jean MARINESCU (EPP, RO) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing, as part of the Internal Security Fund, the instrument for financial support for external borders and visa

The committee recommended that Parliament's position adopted in first reading following the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission proposal as follows:

Objectives: the general objective of the Instrument shall be to contribute to ensuring a high level of security in the Union while facilitating legitimate travel, through a uniform and high level of control of the external borders and the effective processing of Schengen visas, in compliance with the Union's commitment to fundamental freedoms and human rights.

Within the general objective, the Instrument shall

- provide a **high quality of service to visa applicants**, ensure equal treatment of third country nationals and tackle illegal immigration;
- support **integrated borders management**, in accordance with common Union standards and through sharing of information between Member States and between Member States and the Frontex Agency,
- guarantee access to **international protection for those needing it**, in accordance with the obligations contracted by the Member States in the field of human rights, including the principle of non-refoulement.

The achievement of the specific objectives of the Fund shall be evaluated using **common indicators**, as set out in Annex IV and programme-specific indicators included in national programmes.

The **operational objectives** are the following:

- gradually establishing an integrated management system for external borders, **based on solidarity and responsibility**, in particular by means of:

(i) the reinforcement of external border checks and surveillance systems and of interagency co-operation between border guards, customs, migration, asylum and law enforcement authorities of Member States at the external borders, including in the maritime border area;

(ii) any measures also contributing to the prevention and fight against cross-border crime at external borders relating to the movement of persons, including trafficking of human beings and human smuggling;

- ensure **better consular coverage** and harmonised practices on visa issuing;

- reinforce **situational awareness** at the external borders and the reaction capabilities of Member States;

prevent and tackle illegal immigration, as well as the co-operation with third countries in these regards in full coherence with the objectives and principles of Union external action and humanitarian policy.

Actions funded under the Instrument shall be implemented **in full compliance with fundamental rights and human dignity**.

When implementing actions funded under the Instrument which are related to **maritime border surveillance**, Member States will have to pay special attention to their obligations under international maritime law to render assistance to persons in distress.

Financial framework: the global resources shall be **EUR 2 760 million** until 2020, allocated as follows:

- **EUR 1 551 million** for the national programmes of Member States;
- **EUR 791 million** for developing IT systems supporting the management of migration flows across the external borders of the Union;
- **EUR 154 million** for the Special Transit Scheme;
- **EUR 264 million** for Union actions, emergency assistance and technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission, of which at least 30 % shall be used for Union actions.

Member States shall devote to **EUROSUR** the necessary funding in order to ensure the good functioning of this system.

The Commission shall consult the Frontex Agency on draft national programmes, in particular on the activities financed under the operating support, submitted by the Member States in order to **develop complementarity between the Frontex Agency's mission and the responsibilities of the Member States** for the control and surveillance of external borders as well as to ensure consistency and to avoid cost inefficiency.

The Instrument may contribute up to **EUR 1. 7 million annually** for technical assistance to the Internal Security Fund.