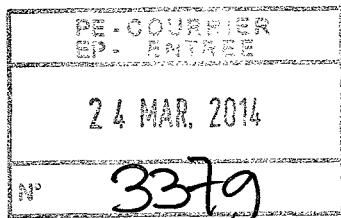


EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL HOME AFFAIRS

Director-General

Brussels, 17 MARS 2014



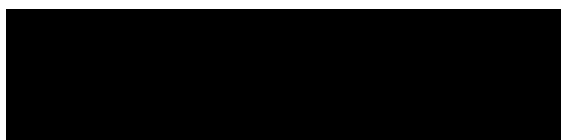
Dear Chairman, *Jean Juan Fernando*

Attached to her letter of 27 February 2014, Commissioner Malmström has sent you a background note on the overall outcome of the policy dialogues carried out as part of the preparation for the programmes of the new Home Affairs Funds 2014-2020.

To accompany the general background note, please find enclosed additional information on the conducted policy dialogues in the form of country fiches, providing more details on the individual bilateral conversations held with the 28 Member States.

I trust that the background note and the country fiches in particular provide Members of Parliament with sufficient information ahead of our meeting on 20 March, which I look forward to.

Yours faithfully,



Stefano Manservigi

Encl.: Country fiches

*Mr Juan Fernando López Aguilar
Chairman of the Committee on
Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs*

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Policy dialogue with Austria - 30th October 2013

Allocation

AMIF 64,5 M €	ISF-B 14 M €	ISF-P 12,5 M €	Total 91 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

In the area of **asylum**, Austria will concentrate efforts on implementation of the new asylum legislation to ensure a high quality of effective legal protection through legal aid and legal representation. Austria does not give priority to relocation and Austria prefers to carry out humanitarian actions (currently a permanent shelter in Austria for 250 Syrians). In the area of **return**, Austria and COM agree on the importance of an effective return policy with both its voluntary and forced return components, with focus on voluntary one. The voluntary component is already high in Austria. Moreover, reintegration activities as well as increased cooperation with third countries will likely be pursued. Concerning **integration** of TCN, special attention will be given to languages classes and access to the labour market, taking into consideration the different need of various target groups.

Internal security – Borders and visa

Having only external **air borders**, Austria will join EUROSUR on 1 December 2014 and plans to finance measures aimed at proving real-time exchange and cooperation of the NCC with other relevant authorities. Austria will further develop **ABC gates** at the Vienna airport, will carry out the full implementation of **VIS** as well as the maintenance of **SIS II** national system and its upgrade. Austria is very much interested in using ISF-Borders fund for the deployment of **Immigration Liaison Officers** and document advisors in third countries. Furthermore, COM welcomed many Austrian representation arrangements and emphasised the importance of **consular cooperation**.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. Austria mirrors well its participation in the **policy cycle** and its national strategies with its funding priorities. Austria presented its specific geographical situation as a reason for the importance of **international cooperation**, both transnational within the EU as well as external with the countries of the Western Balkans. A holistic strategic approach has to be adopted to link numerous areas of activities with main pillars such as capacity of the police, of the administration and of law enforcement authorities. Synergy has to be achieved between **cybercrime** and cyber security, between combatting **drug trafficking** and **financial investigations**. Training and forensics are for Austria crucial overarching instruments to serve multipurpose aims. Key issues such as **trafficking in human beings** and **critical infrastructure** were also discussed during the dialogue. Generally speaking, making a good prioritization on the basis of the available funds is crucial.

Policy dialogue with Belgium - 28 October 2013

Allocation

AMIF 89.3 M €	ISF-B 17.5 M €	ISF-P 17.9 M €	Total 124.7 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

In the area of **asylum**, an optimisation of the Belgium **reception capacity** was discussed, as well as the improvement of the reception conditions quality (especially for vulnerable persons) and ways to ensure a smoother transition from reception centres to permanent housing. Belgium indicated that its priorities include the implementation of the revised asylum procedure Directive, the consolidation of the system and the development of the CEAS in cooperation with EASO. Belgium hopes to increase its resettlement capacity in the period 2014-2020. With regard to **integration** of third-country nationals Belgium will take a regional approach to address the needs of each region, for example in Flanders facilitate access to the labour market and services while in Wallonia improve the integration trajectory through civic orientation and French language classes and the German region improve cooperation between services and develop cultural and anti-discrimination activities. On **legal migration**, Belgium needs a multi-disciplinary approach for information campaigns. Belgium will concentrate on the development of a tool to analyse and interpret available information on arrival and stay in order to better monitor the efficiency of procedures and facilitate early detection of abuses. For **return**, voluntary return will be made more accessible (particularly for vulnerable persons). Belgium intends to improve conditions in the forced return and detention centres, and to shorten the return procedure through a closer follow-up of the persons and better training of staff.

Internal security – Borders and visa

BE has implemented all **Schengen acquis** evaluation recommendations and would re-prioritise funding to implement any future recommendations. The full implementation of **EUROSUR** will be the priority for the first years of the programme. Belgium plans to implement **modern technology at the borders** (e.g. installation of (future) Smart Borders compatible ABC-gates and implementation of a single window system at its maritime borders to facilitate cross-border passenger flows). Belgium will keep **SIS II** and **VIS** operational and establish a SIS II back-up site. Belgium intends to upgrade equipment in consulates and is interested in cooperating with other MS to increase the **consular coverage**.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. A strategic approach is also needed to include the various existing national strategies (e.g. cybercrime, anti-radicalisation) but also develop horizontal priorities such as training and the exchange of information at EU and international level.

Drug trafficking is a priority for Belgium. The other important areas are **terrorism and violent extremism**, (improve prevention and to foster local initiatives and international cooperation), capacity building and establishment of its national **cyber security** centre, and **LETS** and **training on forensics**.

For the **critical infrastructure protection** specific sectors such as aviation and railway and a quick communication with the public at large in the event of a disaster and improving preparedness are considered essential.

Policy dialogue with Bulgaria - 16 July 2013

Allocation

AMIF 10 M €	ISF-B 40 M €	ISF-P 32 M €	Total 82 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

In the area of asylum and migration, there was a general agreement between COM and Bulgaria on the need for Bulgaria to prepare for a likely further increase in the number of asylum seekers and irregular immigrants in view of its geographical location and planned accession to the Schengen area.

Bulgaria mentioned for **asylum** the importance of the improvement of the quality and speed of the asylum decision-making, including via staff training, as well as contingency planning, reception capacity and conditions. In the area of **return**, Bulgaria will concentrate efforts on an increase of voluntary return and effective returns as part of an effective return policy including improved infrastructure, living conditions and services for temporary accommodation of TCNs. On **integration** of third-country nationals, Bulgaria will focus on implementation of their national integration strategy to ensure basic assistance and services such as language and civic orientation courses social and work-related counselling. In the area of **legal migration** the needs of the labour market should be taken into account as well as awareness raising actions including all relevant actors and the general public and exchange of experience with other Member States.

Internal security – Borders and visa

With respect to border management and Schengen governance, the need for increased cooperation at the land border with Turkey was stressed and Bulgaria gave a detailed account of the state of play of the trilateral cooperation between Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece pointing out that they are realistically optimistic on the conclusion of the agreement. Bulgaria emphasised the need to invest in **maintenance of IT systems**.

Bulgaria and COM agreed on the importance of prioritising **EUROSUR**, the **Smart Borders Package** (on which Bulgaria insisted for a technical solution for cost-efficiency ratio), **ABC gates**, **VIS** (where by the time Bulgaria accedes to Schengen - the roll-out will be almost finished, implying greater responsibility) and a full disaster recovery plan for **SIS II**. Bulgaria already has and will continue to look into cooperation with other MS to increase **consular coverage** especially after the accession to Schengen. COM stressed that the issue should be looked at on the basis of the broader possibilities offered by the Schengen code.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

During the dialogue, COM emphasised the need to frame those within a national strategy for increasing security in line with the Internal Security Strategy at EU level, and within this strategy, prioritise a limited number of cluster issues where EU home affairs funding can add most value added. There is a considerable fragmentation in this area with Bulgaria having a number of national strategies with a myriad of actors having prerogatives in them.

Bulgaria is to further reflect on a more strategic approach, especially in the areas of **anti-corruption** (which is affected by an on-going institutional reform and an optimisation of the legal basis and should take account of CVM recommendations), **radicalisation**, **cybercrime**, **trafficking in human beings** and **countering financial and economic crimes**.

Policy dialogue with Croatia - 11 October 2013

Allocation

AMIF 17 M €	ISF-B 35,5 M €	ISF-P 19,5 M €	Total 72 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

In the area of **asylum**, Croatia will concentrate efforts on implementation of existing legislation to improve the quality of the asylum decision-making, including through its continuous evaluation. Croatia has a geographically very exposed position in the Western Balkans. Contingency planning is a crucial element to be ensured. The improvement of reception conditions especially for vulnerable groups should be addressed.

In the area of **return**, Croatia and COM agree on the importance of an effective return policy with both its voluntary and forced return components, with focus on voluntary one, accompanied by information campaigns. On **integration** of third-country nationals, Croatia will focus on the implementation of its very recently adopted national strategy. Emphasis will be put on Croatian language lessons and to the access to the labour market and to the training of Croatian staff in charge of integration issues, including training to teachers.

Internal security – Borders and visa

In the area of borders and Schengen governance, Croatia emphasised the great importance given to border management. COM underlined that the existing Schengen Facility and the future ISF-B should be seen in an integrated way. Concerning **control of the land borders**, COM stressed that as a candidate to join the Schengen area, Croatia will have to manage two types of borders: borders with third countries, i.e. external borders, and borders with other EU MS, i.e. temporary external borders. As regards the temporary external borders, in line with the eligibility requirements of the ISF/B Regulation (Art. 4.3), COM invited Croatia to invest mainly in mobile equipment which could be redeployed to the external border, once Croatia joins Schengen area. Concerning **EUROSUR**, Croatia indicated the preparation for the establishment of the NCC, the adjustment in the legislation and the request made to Frontex for all the necessary equipment for the centre to be operational. Concerning **VIS** and **SIS II**, Croatia indicated the full dedication to EU visa policy and to be prepared for the VIS, as well as for the SIS II (investment not only in infrastructure and equipment but also in training). Croatia highlighted its participation in Frontex joint operations.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. Croatia presented **cybercrime** and **IT capacities**, including **criminal intelligence**, as its main priority. A holistic strategic approach has to be adopted to link these areas with other priorities, such as combatting **drug trafficking**. An important element of the Croatian internal security is the fight against **corruption** for which the institutional framework has been recently created.

Policy dialogue with Cyprus – 4 October 2013

Allocation

AMIF 32.3 M €	ISF-B 34.5 M €	ISF-P 8.1 M €	Total 74.9 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

In the area of **asylum**, Cyprus indicated that the improvement of the quality of the asylum procedure and of the treatment of vulnerable persons is among the priorities, as well as an increase in and improvement of the reception capacity. On the **integration** of third-country nationals, Cyprus was keen on strengthening the administrative capacity, particularly in relation to residence permits procedures and facilitating the access to the labour market including attention to the situation of domestic workers. Cyprus also mentioned the financing of measures that will increase the acceptance of third-country nationals by the Cypriot society. The role of NGOs was highlighted in this context. In the area of **return** Cyprus will continue to emphasise actions geared towards the increasing of voluntary return. In addition, Cyprus indicated it will consider developing an effective forced return monitoring system in cooperation with an ombudsman and relevant human rights organisations.

Internal security – Borders and visa

Cyprus will use ISF-B to ensure full compliance with the **EUROSUR** requirements, including training programmes for relevant staff working at the National Coordination Centre (NCC). Regarding the use of modern technologies at the border, Cyprus has started a study to assess the feasibility of ABC gates. The development and upgrade of infrastructure and equipment for improving the quality of border control activities were discussed as well, including possible implementation of **ABC gates**. In relation to the IT systems, Cyprus will support the implementation of both **VIS** and **SIS II**. Cyprus furthermore intends to focus on strengthening **consular cooperation** and ensuring effective visa processing.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. Cyprus also agreed on the need to apply a more strategic approach in the area of internal security by focusing on measures to strengthen the administrative capacity and decreasing the level of **corruption** in the public administration. In the area of **organised crime**, Cyprus mentioned measures for eliminating criminal networks, including using modern methods of investigation and best practices used in other MS. Cooperation with other MS and Agencies in the fight against **drug trafficking** is considered to be important. As regards **cybercrime** and cyber-security, Cyprus emphasised the need to improve capabilities to investigate and combat cybercrime, including cooperation with Europol and strengthened capacity building. Cyprus will participate in the **policy cycle** with a focus on increased cooperation with other MS. Cyprus has agreed on the importance of **LETS** and will finance training and promoting cooperation with other MS.

Policy dialogue with the Czech Republic – 16 October 2013

Allocation

AMIF 26 M €	ISF-B 14 M €	ISF-P 17 M €	Total 57 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

In the area of **asylum**, the need to enhance the reception conditions in line with the EU legislation, to promote alternatives to detention, as well as to invest in training of staff involved in reception and asylum procedures and to develop capacity to monitor and evaluate its asylum system was discussed. The Czech Republic will aim at enhancing its **resettlement** programme with a strong emphasis on the integration of resettled persons. **Integration** of third-country nationals is the most important aspect given the relatively high number of residing third-country nationals (4% of the Czech Republic population) and its increasing trend. The Czech Republic will furthermore consider using the EU funding to enhance the concept of Integration Support Centres established in 12 regions with the support of the current Integration Fund. The Czech Republic will also focus on raising awareness among third-country nationals about their rights and obligations and access to integration services. In relation to **return**, the Czech Republic should focus on development of comprehensive and sustainable return policy.

The Czech Republic presented its intentions to apply for additional funding under AMF/Specific actions to establish a centre to facilitate emergency resettlement operations (similar the already existing ones in Romania and Slovakia).

Internal security – Borders and visa

On **EUROSUR**, the Czech Republic plans to use ISF-B to fulfil the requirements, i.e. to establish its National Coordination Centre and to strengthen the cooperation between police and customs in the area of border protection. In relation to the use of modern technologies, the Czech Republic has already installed three **ABC-gates** at the Prague airport and intends to perform necessary modifications to adapt them to the future requirements of the Smart Borders package. As regards **IT systems**, the Czech Republic considers the implementation (maintenance and development) of both, **VIS** and **SIS II**, including back-up capability as a priority. The Czech Republic was encouraged to pool resources with other MS in the area of **consular cooperation**.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. CZ presented its intentions to target some priority areas with ISF-P, i.e. 1) **cybercrime**, including financial aspects; and 2) **drug trafficking**; 3) **police cooperation** and 4) **organised crime**, including using the policy cycle. CZ confirmed that **corruption** is one of the main problems in CZ, stressed the need to adopt the Act on Public Service and recalled its efforts to improve legal framework as regards anonymous ownership of shareholders, increase transparency in public procurement and prevent conflicts of interest. As regards cyber security, CZ is planning to support technical capacities as well as dedicated training of police to fight **cybercrime**. In relation to **firearms**, CZ will reconsider its participation in the policy cycle depending on additional central funding. As regards **drug trafficking**, CZ will focus on synthetic drugs and set up mobile police units (to investigate on the spot evidence) to enhance in particular the fight against methamphetamine and cannabis production. COM encouraged CZ to be more active in its involvement in **the policy cycle**.

Policy dialogue with Germany – 11 July 2013

Allocation

AMIF 208.4 M €	ISF-B 51.7 M €	ISF-P 79.5 M €	Total 339.6 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

In the area of **asylum** and **return**, the responsibilities and roles of the Lander and the Federal authorities are an important factor in the national programme. On **asylum**, the main the issues discussed were: contingency planning, monitoring of the standards for the asylum procedure and reception conditions. Actions on training and improving the process of identification of vulnerable persons will be focal points of the programme. The fund could also be used for the temporary admission of Syrians. On **integration** measures, for labour integration the European Social Fund could be the main source of funding and AMF should be used in complement as appropriate. Complementary actions will focus on social inclusion and language skills. Germany will continue a mixed approach to **return** but concentrate on voluntary measures. **Resettlement** and **transfer of beneficiaries of international protection** will continue to be supported.

Internal security – Borders and visa

As regards ISF-Borders, points agreed included **EUROSUR, Mobility Partnership, consular services** and **common visa centres**. Concerning the use of modern technology at the border, Germany agreed to install more EasyPASS gates based on ePassport biometric means. Issues related to internal Schengen movements were also discussed. An important point was the relationship and actions with the EU agencies, for example to work with eu-LISA and Frontex in the context of Smart Borders. Germany acknowledged the importance of implementing the SIS II.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. The discussion in ISF-Police centred on the different options for actions – either under national programme or as Union actions. There is also the possibility of combinations of actions where there are some actions funded under national programmes (e.g. **policy cycle** domestic preparatory activities) and other complementary actions (e.g. exchanges of best practices or pan-European studies) that would be funded under Union actions.

The intention of Germany is to support measures that include actions on **critical infrastructure, terrorism and extremism, violent travelling offenders, cybercrime, drug trafficking and organised crime**. An important aspect will be to include the technological and procedural means for different police and law enforcement agents to communicate with one another and share information.

Policy dialogue with Denmark-- 8 November 2013

*Allocation**

AMIF n/a	ISF-B 10.3 M €	ISF-P n/a	Total 10.3 M €
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*Denmark participates only in ISF Borders

Internal security – Borders and visa

In the area of borders and visa management, five main issues have been identified as priorities for Denmark: development of **EUROSUR**, **modern technologies at the border**, **implementation of Schengen acquis**, **VIS** and **SIS II**. As Denmark will receive a relatively small allocation, it intends to minimise the administrative burden by focusing its investments on a limited number of projects. It was agreed that Denmark will use ISF-B funding for **VIS** and **consular cooperation** and developing modern technologies at the border. The rest of the priorities will be funded from Danish national budget.

Regarding the development of **EUROSUR**, Denmark intends to fulfil all the requirements, i.e. to establish its National Coordination Centre (NCC), to include all relevant authorities in the NCC, to strengthen the cooperation between the NCC and other authorities. It was agreed that these measures will be financed under the Danish national budget and no ISF-B funding will be used.

Regarding the use of **modern technologies at the border**, Denmark is considering the introduction of ABC gates at the Copenhagen airport and is interested in the compatibility of the ABC with the Smart Borders components. Denmark intends to use ISF-B funding for measures related to Smart Borders, including studies, equipment and technology, software and training programmes.

In relation to the implementation of the **Schengen acquis**, Denmark has already implemented the majority of the recommendations and is now working on the few remaining issues under the follow up procedure. It was agreed that Denmark will use funding from the national budget for these measures.

Regarding the **IT systems**, Denmark will use ISF-B funding for the development, implementation and maintenance of VIS, as well as for measures regarding the **consular cooperation**. Denmark intends as well to apply for Specific Actions in the area of consular cooperation. For SIS II, it was agreed that Denmark will use national funding to address all required measures.

Policy dialogue with Estonia - 17th September 2013

Allocation

AMIF 10 M €	ISF-B 25 M €	ISF-P 16 M €	Total 51 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

In the area of **asylum**, Estonia will concentrate efforts on implementation of existing legislation to improve the quality of the asylum decision-making, including through its continuous evaluation and through training of the staff. Contingency planning is already in place. Alternatives to detention will be further explored. Estonia acknowledged the need to better accommodate vulnerable groups.

In the area of **return**, Estonia and COM agree on the importance of an effective return policy with both its voluntary and forced return components, with focus on voluntary one. On **integration** of third country nationals, Estonia will focus, in line with its national strategy, on the newly arrived third country nationals. The specific group of persons with undetermined citizenship (non-citizens) will be subject of ESF funding. By doing so, the complementarity between different funds will be ensured. Both for asylum seekers and third country national, the figures are relatively low.

Internal security – Borders and visa

In the area of border management and Schengen governance, it was agreed that Estonia will implement all the recommendations as established by the Schengen Evaluation cycle, once it is finalised. Estonia will further develop the implementation of **ABC gates** (including at its land and maritime border crossing points), will implement the relevant **EUROSUR** requirements, and will carry out the full implementation of **VIS** as well as the maintenance of **SIS II** national system and its upgrade/evolution. COM welcomed many Estonian representation agreements.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. In this field, Estonia very well mirrors its participation in two areas of the **policy cycle** (drug trafficking and cybercrime) with its funding priorities. Estonia presented **cybercrime** as its top priority, together with combatting **drug trafficking**. Estonia considers combatting drug trafficking in a cluster with financial investigation in organised crime cases. Estonia introduced two new key issues in the area of internal security: Estonia would like to build a **CBRN** and mine disarming complex and provided related detailed explanation. These priorities will be supported by cross-cutting instruments like the policy cycle, **LETS**, building capacities for effective **financial investigations** and **forensics**.

Policy dialogue with Greece – 30 October 2013

Allocation

AMIF	ISF-B	ISF-P	Total
259.3 M €	166.8 M €	20.4 M €	446.5 M €

The Policy Dialogue took place in the context of the implementation of Greece's Action Plan on Migration and Asylum and the assistance provided by the Task Force Greece. The COM drew attention to serious allegations of cases of "push-back" practices that were claimed to have been carried out by the Greek authorities at sea and land borders, noting that such alleged practices could constitute a violation of the EU Law.

Asylum, migration and integration

On **asylum**, the main axis will be the strengthening of the open reception capacity and living conditions for asylum seekers and add open reception centres, the improvement all aspects of the asylum procedures, with special attention to vulnerable groups, building on the new capacity (e.g. the Asylum Service and Appeals Authority) and the establishment of a national system for continuous monitoring and evaluation. Strengthening of the **integration** of TCNs in accordance with the European Agenda for Integration is an area that needs improvements. Consistency and good coordination of the activities developed by local, regional and national administrations, as well as other stakeholders, in particular NGOs, was acknowledged as absolutely essential. The main funding source to support integration into the labour market will come from the European Social Fund, with which it is important to develop synergies. The need to pay special attention to vulnerable groups was also acknowledged and the need to support pre-departure measures for TCNs. Enhanced culture of acceptance and understanding towards TCN and beneficiaries of international protection among the Greek society in order to reduce xenophobia and promote tolerance is also a priority. Greece will continue to support and develop an effective **return** policy, through the strengthening of voluntary return and of an effective forced return monitoring system. AMIF funding should also be used to improve conditions in detention centres. Return and reintegration projects and actions strengthening third countries' capacities to implement EU readmission agreements were also recognised as extremely important.

Internal security – Borders and Visa

Greece will finalise and adopt a comprehensive integrated national border management strategy which clearly identifies the priorities and results to be achieved by the Fund. The first priority will be to develop a capacity of "first reception" to manage in an effective manner mixed migratory flows, addressing urgent humanitarian needs and the needs of vulnerable groups. The next priority is **EUROSUR**, ensuring interagency cooperation and maintaining the national situational picture both for all borders. Greece will invest in order to consolidate the management of its external land border (in particular the Greek-Turkish border) and to reinforce its capacity at its external maritime borders, which are most exposed to migratory pressure. Greece will also use ISF funding to invest in **modern technology at the border**, **ABC gates** where possible and prospectively compatible with RTP, and support to **VIS**, **SIS II** and **consular cooperation**.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

Greece's approach to EU funding on internal security should be strategic and be consistent with Greece's national security strategy and the EU Internal Security Strategy. Such approach should be structured around a rather limited number of priority areas/sectors which would constitute its main clusters/building blocks, taking also in consideration, as regards **fight against organised crime**, the priorities agreed in the framework of the **EU policy cycle** on serious and organised crime. Priority should be given to areas with particular impact and added value. **Training, capacity building (LETS)** and information exchange activities will constitute one of the pillars of Greece's strategy in this area. Other important areas are **drug trafficking**, **trafficking in human beings**, **anti-corruption**, **financial investigation** as a means to support criminal investigation in view of better detection and dismantlement of criminal networks, fight against **cybercrime**, **fight against terrorism** (in particular anti-radicalisation measures) and **protection of critical infrastructure**.

Policy dialogue with Spain - 5 July 2013

Allocation

AMIF 257.1 M €	ISF-B 195.3 M €	ISF-P 54.2 M €	Total 506.6 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

The increase in **asylum** requests in 2013 underlined the importance of improving Spain's reception conditions and asylum procedures, especially for vulnerable persons and the importance of establishing a contingency planning and monitoring system to better identify and address possible shortcomings. Spain will continue to support resettlement and relocation activities. **Integration** actions, in accordance with the European Agenda for Integration and based on Spain's national integration strategy will be cornerstones of the programme. Local, regional and national aspects of this strategy will be enhanced. The normal source of EU funding to support measures for the labour market integration will be the European Social Fund, AMIF will focus on more targeted specific TCN issues including asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection. Assistance to unaccompanied minors, especially 'badly accompanied minors' (minors accompanied by the wrong people who use them for their own benefit) as well as women will be a priority in Spain national programme. As regards **return** policy, the focus will be on further improvements to the conditions in the Centres as well as in the temporary reception centres and to increase use of voluntary return, including reintegration measures in the countries of origin. Reintegration projects and actions strengthening third countries' capacities to implement EU readmission agreements are extremely important to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of EU Return policy. There was also agreement on the need to strengthen the forced return monitoring system as a mechanism to ensure compliance with EU *acquis*.

Internal security – Borders and visa

As regards the use of modern technology at the border, Spain will invest in the improvement and expansion of the use of ABC gates, including at its maritime borders. Other systems which will also be developed are the future Entry Exit System (EES) and the Registered Travellers Programme (RTP) as well as the Advanced Passenger Information (API). Support will be given to the further development of **EUROSUR** and **cooperation with third countries** in the area of border management and surveillance, whether through the national programme or Union Actions. **VIS and SIS and consular cooperation mechanisms** constitute also one of the main priorities of ISF.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. Cross-cutting actions such as training and information exchange are the most important. More specifically, for Spain, **drug trafficking** and cooperation with third countries is extremely relevant. The other strands of the programme are strengthening the national capability, develop national infrastructures and train experts dealing with counter-terrorism, and **anti-radicalisation**, protection of **victims** of terrorism, exchange of information on terrorism threats and acts (including continuation of Early Warning System and SCEPYLT projects), protection of **critical infrastructure**, and fight against **cybercrime** or **trafficking in small arms**.

Development of **exchange information mechanisms** was also recognised as a priority, together with other transversal issues like **protection of critical infrastructure** and Spain's increased participation in the **2014-2017 Policy Cycle**.

Policy dialogue with Finland – 10 September 2013

Allocation

AMIF 23.4 M €	ISF-B 36.9 M €	ISF-P 15.6 M €	Total 76.1 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

Finland has an immigration strategy in place that provides a framework of actions to be implemented in this field. In this framework, improvement of the quality of **asylum** procedures and the reception conditions through capacity building initiatives, strengthened assistance for asylum seekers and evaluation and monitoring mechanism are prioritised. Finland has an established national **resettlement** programme and will continue it together with actions related to capacity building and exchange of best practices. Regarding **integration** of third-country nationals, Finland considers supporting initial stage integration measures especially at the local level, in cooperation with NGOs. A particular attention should be granted to vulnerable groups, capacity building actions and awareness raising campaigns. In the framework of **legal migration** Finland intends to focus on actions related to administrative capacity building and reducing risks and abuse of legal migration routes. In the area of **return**, Finland stressed the importance of voluntary return and the improvement of removal operations and alternatives to detention. Finland is interested in **Specific Actions** in the fields of return and legal migration.

Internal security – Borders and visa

Regarding the implementation of the **Schengen acquis**, actions related to capacity building, including training for border guards, were discussed. Under the development of **EUROSUR**, Finland agreed to finance measures related to the development and upgrading of the National coordination centre and capacity building, such as upgrading its border surveillance systems, communication infrastructure and equipment. Finland agreed on the need to continue the development of **modern technologies at the border**. It plans to invest in expanding the use of ABC gates as well as in modernising equipment at the BCPs, including measures to implement the Smart Borders package. Finland will invest in the maintenance and development of **VIS** and will improve the '**consular coverage**' in Schengen visa issuance. Finland will use funding for improving the **SIS II** national architecture. Finland introduced an additional priority **related to the promotion of legal immigration** through setting up of a network of liaison officers and prevention activities to reduce risks of abuses of legal routes. Finland is furthermore interested in using the operating support and applying for Specific Actions regarding procurement of equipment for Frontex.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. Finland will use funding to address **serious and organised crime** and **terrorism**, focusing on measures related to capacity building actions, including in the framework of the policy cycle, training including in the framework of **LETS**, equipment, forensics and technologies. Moreover, Finland will finance actions related to **security risks and crisis**, in particular institutional and administrative capacity building, preventive measures, EU cooperation activities and technologies.

Policy dialogue with France – 21 June 2013

Allocation

AMIF 265.5 M €	ISF-B 85 M €	ISF-P 70.1 M €	Total 420.6 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

In the area of **asylum**, the issues discussed included the improvement of the reception capacity in a more decentralised perspective with particular attention to vulnerable groups. The Fund should also contribute to the ongoing reform of the asylum system. Regarding the **integration**, newly arrived third-country nationals should be especially targeted and pre-integration measures should be supported in third-countries. Regarding **return**, France will promote voluntary return and develop alternatives to detention while strengthen coordination and cooperation among relevant services and organisations on forced return. Evaluation and monitoring mechanisms should be developed on asylum, integration and return systems and policies. France intends to maintain and possibly develop **resettlement** activities and eventually implement **relocation** activities. France intends to apply for Specific Actions.

Internal security – Borders and visa

Regarding the use of **modern technologies** at the border, France is keen to develop inter-operability of existing systems with the Smart Borders. France has already implemented the recommendations from the Schengen Evaluation; however, it remains committed to address any future recommendations. For the development of **EUROSUR**, France will use ISF-Border funding for systems of surveillance and exchange of information, as well as on air and maritime equipment. France highlighted the issue of **the detection of illegal crossings** at the borders, with support for observation, detection and traceability equipment and maintaining backup of **SIS II**. **VIS** is already in operation in France and measures under ISF-B include the optimisation of the system. France intends to invest in **consular cooperation**, as well as fighting against document fraud. France has expressed its intention to use **operating support**, as well as to participate in Specific Actions.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. France will focus its efforts to the fight against **serious and organised crime**, including in relation to fight against **drug trafficking, financial crime, cybercrime** and cyber security, **trafficking in firearms**. Special attention is likely to be given to the detection, observation and traceability equipment. Regarding **the fight against terrorism and risks and crisis management**, France will focus on measures against **radicalisation, preventing terrorist attacks** by increasing the capacities of detection, identification and intervention. Beyond equipment, trainings, operational actions and exchange of best practices are among the prioritised categories of funding actions.

Policy dialogue with Hungary - 24th October 2013

Allocation

AMIF 24 M €	ISF-B 41 M €	ISF-P 21 M €	Total 86 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

In the area of **asylum**, Hungary will concentrate efforts on improving the existing legislation in order to ensure the quality of the asylum system, including through its continuous evaluation, training of relevant staff and specific attention to vulnerable persons. Hungary has a geographically very exposed position next to the Western Balkans. Contingency planning is therefore a crucial element to be ensured. The improvement of reception conditions and services especially for vulnerable groups and the promotion of alternatives to detention were discussed. Hungary acknowledged the need to closely cooperate with EASO. In addition, Hungary foresees **resettlement** operations. In the area of **return**, Hungary and COM agree on the importance of an effective return policy with both its voluntary and forced return components, with a focus on voluntary one, accompanied by information campaigns. Concerning **integration** of third country nationals, Hungary will focus on its future national strategy. Emphasis will be put on Hungarian language lessons and on the access to the labour market, taking into consideration the different need of various target groups and by involving in the process public bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and other relevant stakeholders.

Internal security – Borders and visa

In the area of borders and Schengen governance, Hungary emphasised the great importance given to border management, related to **irregular migration**. COM underlined that the future internal border/temporary external border (with Romania and Croatia) should be seen in a prospective way and invited HU to invest, in line with the eligibility requirements of the ISF-Border Regulation (Art. 4.3), predominantly in mobile equipment which could be redeployed to the external border, once Romania and Croatia join the Schengen area. Hungary plans to invest in the further development of **EUROSUR** and in expanding the use of modern technology at the border. In terms of **VIS**, Hungary will consider, when reshaping its consular network, to take into consideration Common Application Centres or **representation arrangements**. Hungary also expressed willingness to participate in Specific actions for purchasing equipment for Frontex.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. Hungary presented **critical infrastructure** as its main priority. A holistic strategic approach has to be adopted to link this area with other priorities. This will enable Hungary to think in terms of a seven-year national security strategy, based on long-term assessment of several pillars such as capacity of the police, capacity of the administration, capacity of law enforcement, an approach that has not yet been developed in the country. The funding activities have to be result-based and driven by a result-oriented redline. An important element of the Hungarian internal security is the fight against **corruption** and **trafficking in human beings**, for which a new institutional framework has been recently created.

Policy dialogue with Ireland - 22 October 2013

Allocation

AMIF 19.5 M €	ISF-B* n/a	ISF-P 9.2 M €	Total 28.7 M €
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*Ireland does not participate in ISF-B.

Asylum, migration and integration

On **asylum**, the main issue is a single procedure for refugee and subsidiary protection and support its implementation via training, legal assistance / representation services and working with UNHCR on training and quality assurance. The time spent by asylum seekers in the Direct Provision systems (reception conditions) should be decreased. Ireland will focus on staff training and update of its child protection policy to improve conditions / services for vulnerable persons including unaccompanied minors. Ireland will continue capacity building and participating in resettlement and relocation activities.

In the area of **integration**, Ireland envisages implementing actions to facilitate access to the labour market for third-country nationals (IT skills, English language training etc.). Another issue which was discussed was the implementation of Ireland's integration policy at local and regional level. Overlap with activities funded by the European Social Fund (access to the labour market) should be avoided. On **return**, Ireland prefers voluntary over forced return and has ongoing cooperation with the IOM. Ireland may apply for additional funding available under Specific Actions for Joint Return Operations.

Internal security – Borders and visa

Ireland does not participate in ISF-Borders.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

COM and Ireland agree on a need for a strategic approach in the ISF-Police national programme possibly combining horizontal priorities (e.g. training) with a limited number of 'vertical' priorities (e.g. cybercrime). Ireland considers **implementation of the Prüm decision** is a priority (ISEC and ISF-Police funding). Regarding **radicalisation and violent extremism**, Ireland is willing to explore how it could share its expertise (JRC, complementarity with Horizon 2020) and exchange best practice with other MS. Ireland may consider investments in hardware and software packages to analyse internet data. Ireland will pursue the fight against **cross-border crime** (cigarette smuggling, drugs). As to training, Ireland is interested in the CEPOL gap analysis and considers carrying out eventually a similar **LETS** gap analysis. Ireland commits to participate fully in the **EU policy cycle** (particularly regarding the counterfeit goods problem, mobile organized crime groups and money laundering). Regarding **cybercrime**, Ireland will continue cooperating with University College Dublin to develop training.

Policy dialogue with Italy – 18 October 2013

Allocation

AMIF	ISF-B	ISF-P	Total
310.3 M €	156.3 M €	56.6 M €	523.2 M €

The Policy Dialogue took place a few days prior to the tragic events in Lampedusa and, in the light of early October EU JHA Council Conclusions, the need to take measures to prevent such tragedies in the future, was present throughout the discussions. The initiatives to be funded should take into consideration and build on the short-term actions being taken by the recently established Task-Force Mediterranean.

Asylum, migration and integration

On **asylum**, Italy's reception system will be reinforced to be able to cope with the number of applications. Procedures should also be improved, including on Country of Origin Information, and standards should be the same across the country. Monitoring and evaluation and contingency planning will also be important. Italy will also work closely with EASO. An **integration** policy in accordance with the European Agenda for Integration will be pursued and be Italy's top funding priority under the AMIF. Consistency and good coordination of the activities developed by local, regional and national administrations, as well as other stakeholders, in particular NGOs, is acknowledged as essential and the need to pay special attention to vulnerable groups. Indirect discrimination in schools for TCN is an issue that needs to be addressed. Italy and COM agreed also on the need to support pre-departure measures in the countries of origin. Good coordination and complementarity with other funding sources, in particular the European Social Fund will be required. Supporting unaccompanied minors, including the means to address their needs, will be a priority. It will continue to pursue an effective **return** policy, through the strengthening of voluntary return and establishment of an effective forced return monitoring system. Improving conditions in detention centres and good cooperation with third countries, notably in the framework of Mobility Partnerships, are essential for an effective and efficient return policy.

Internal security – Borders and visa

Supporting the development of **EUROSUR** should be a priority under ISF-Borders. Strengthening cooperation with third countries in this area, both through Union Actions and under Italy's national programme, in particular as regards the Seahorse Mediterranean Network and signed Mobility Partnerships and ongoing Migration and Security Dialogues with other Southern Mediterranean countries is also very important. Support for the use of **modern technology at the border**, notably installing automated border control (**ABC**) **gates** for EU citizens crossing the external border (adaptable to future Smart Borders), should be another priority. **VIS**, **SIS II** and **consular cooperation mechanisms** will constitute one of the main priorities of ISF, having Italy committed to consider the possibility of increasing consular cooperation with other EU Member-States in view of further exploiting, in close consultation with the Commission, the concept of 'Schengen Houses' in third countries.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation of actions to be implemented using EU funding will be made in the national programmes. The emphasis will be on the fight against mafia-like criminal organizations and their infiltration in the licit economy, an issue which is central to its internal security strategy representing an increasing threat not only to Italy but also to many other EU Member States. Training, capacity building and information exchange activities will play an extremely relevant role and should constitute one of the pillars of IT programme, including the implementation of the **LETS**. Other important areas such as fight against **drug trafficking**, **trafficking in human beings**, improvement of Italy's capacities to implement the **CBRN** Action Plan and tackle small-scale CBRN incidents, **anti-corruption** measures, **financial investigation** as a means to support criminal investigation in view of better detection and dismantlement of criminal networks, fight against **cybercrime** (paying special attention to issues such as the fight against Child Sexual Exploitation online), and **fight against terrorism** (in particular anti-radicalisation measures) should be priorities of Italy's national programme for the ISF.

Policy dialogue with Lithuania – 26 September 2013

Allocation

AMIF 9,6 M €	ISF-B* 24,7 M €	ISF-P 16,1 M €	Total 50,4 M €
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* Additional funding for STS is 154 M €

Asylum, migration and integration

In the area of **asylum**, Lithuania will continue to focus its efforts on ensuring quality and speed of the asylum procedure (including training of border guards), improving reception conditions for asylum seekers and continue providing basic services and material aid. Clear procedures allowing asylum seekers to work in line with the Reception Conditions Directive was also a topic touched upon during the dialogue. In relation to the **integration** of third-country nationals, Lithuania is likely to continue developing its strategy with attention paid also to the local and regional levels and with actions focusing on one-stop-shop migrant information centres, training and awareness-raising. In addition, agreement was reached on **return**, where Lithuania would continue developing voluntary return activities and focus on improving detention conditions.

Internal security – Borders and visa

On **EUROSUR**, Lithuania proposed to focus on the interconnection of the relevant authorities and levels involved in the Nation Coordination Centre as well as on the maintaining and upgrading its land video surveillance systems at the borders with Russia and Belarus. In relation to the use of modern technology at the borders, Lithuania will continue investing in biometric verification systems and has agreed to look at the possibility of implementing a pilot project on ABC systems. Moreover, Lithuania will focus its attention on the implementation and smooth running of the **VIS** (and increasing visa **consular coverage**) and **SIS II** including its back-up capability and protection from cyber-attacks. With respect to the consular coverage, Lithuania expressed its interest in consular cooperation and the possibilities offered by extra funding for Specific Actions. With regard to the implementation of the **Schengen acquis**, Lithuania is expected to address and implement the shortcomings Schengen Evaluation recommendations.

Regarding the **Special Transit Scheme (STS)**, COM stressed that only actions that are directly related to the implementation of the STS and fall within the objectives of the Fund as laid down in the legal basis will be eligible for funding. Actions of a general police character cannot be supported by the STS.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. Agreement was reached on the funding priorities in the **fight against drugs, anti-corruption measures** (raising awareness) and **cybercrime**. In the area of **LETS**, training is considered to be a horizontal priority and as a first step Lithuania would carry out a needs assessment to establish its baseline.

Policy dialogue with Luxembourg – 6 June 2013

Allocation

AMIF 7 M €	ISF-B 5,5 M €	ISF-P 2 M €	Total 14,5 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

There was a broad agreement that Luxembourg will continue to focus its efforts on improving the quality and speed of **asylum** procedures and will develop a national contingency plan in order to be prepared for a possible sudden influx. Luxembourg mentioned the importance of linguistic **integration** of third-country nationals with specific focus on migrant's children and improving TCN's preparedness to access the labour market as well as to promote **legal migration**. Concerning **return**, emphasis will be put on sustainability of return including effective readmission in the countries of origin. Luxembourg is willing to engage more in **resettlement** and the **transfer of beneficiaries of international protection**, but more specific information will be provided at a later stage as the national resettlement programme still needs to be set up.

Internal security – Borders and visa

As for **borders** and **IT systems**, there is no immediate need to plan big investments. Luxembourg is likely to focus mainly on the maintenance of the existing systems and notably on the reinforcement of the SIS II internal communication infrastructure. Other funding priorities will be defined in relation to the needs stemming from the policy developments, i.e. adoption of Smart Borders Package.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. Useful information was provided on the ongoing measures and initiatives to address **financial crime** and also in relation to **police cooperation** and **CRBN**. Although it proved to be still premature to set specific funding objectives, Luxembourg was encouraged to continue with their efforts using the support of ISF-P which offers an opportunity for a long-term strategic planning securing a certain level of EU funding.

Policy dialogue with Latvia – 9 September 2013

Allocation

AMIF 13,7 M €	ISF-B 15,5 M €	ISF-P 16,9 M €	Total 46,2 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

In the area of **asylum** in general but specifically on detention of asylum seekers and access to the asylum procedure, Latvia will focus on training and further capacity building. Regarding reception conditions, Latvia agreed to work towards improved reception condition, especially for vulnerable persons. On **resettlement / transfer of beneficiaries of international protection**, the need for solidarity was stressed and Latvia agreed to consider participating. In the area of the **integration** of third-country nationals, Latvia will build on European Integration Fund accomplishments, with a focus on the regional level and awareness raising as well as on integration measures for repatriates who are third-country nationals and on information measures about naturalization (acquisition of citizenship) for TCNs and non-citizens (who are not EU nationals). On **return**, Latvia agreed to improve detention conditions for all returnees; to support general access of NGO's to detention centres and to further implement the return monitoring system.

Internal security – Borders and visa

On the use of modern technology at the borders, Latvia agreed to continue with the implementation of **ABC gates** at the Riga airport, to possibly test their feasibility at busiest sea and land border crossing points, and to invest in the development of API and AFIS (Automated fingerprint identification system). Latvia agreed to further invest in the development and implementation of EUROSUR. In addition, funding should be reserved to address shortcomings or delays in implementation of possible future Schengen Evaluation recommendations. Latvia expressed interest in **consular cooperation** and the possibilities offered by extra funding for Specific Actions. Regarding **SIS II**, COM stressed that extra efforts were needed to ensure full disaster recovery and protection from cyber-attacks.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation of actions to be implemented using EU funding will be made in the national programmes. **Drug trafficking, cybercrime, policy cycle and forensic** capacity buildings have been identified as main issues for Latvia. On corruption, Latvia proposed to re-focus the key issue from length of court proceedings in criminal cases to ISF support for the setting-up of an 'internal investigation office' within the Ministry of Interior for the investigation of **corruption** in law enforcement bodies. Latvia also proposed a focus on developing technical equipment for civil protection, covering both man-made and natural disasters.

Policy dialogue with Malta – 4 June 2013

Allocation

AMIF 17.1 M €	ISF-B 53 M €	ISF-P 8.9 M €	Total 79 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

In the area of **asylum**, there was a broad agreement between COM and Malta on the need to enhance the reception conditions in line with the EU asylum acquis and invest in training of staff involved in reception and asylum procedures. The use of detention should be reduced with increased use of open centres. **Integration** of third country nationals is increasing in importance and the stress will be on schooling, training and pre-employment opportunities as well as cultural awareness programs. In relation to **return**, Malta will focus on developing more voluntary returns and a more comprehensive return policy and evaluate alternatives to detention of irregular migrants and over-stayers. Relocation and solidarity from other Member States is of high importance to Malta. Identification and treatment of **vulnerable persons** should also be a priority.

Internal security – Borders and visa

On **EUROSUR**, Malta plans to use ISF-B to strengthen the cooperation between police, border agents and other relevant authorities (i.e. air force) in the area of border protection and to further integrate systems in order to improve border surveillance. Malta is assessing the feasibility and added-value of **ABC gates** at the international airport, as well as increasing the use of new technologies for the new requirements of the **Smart Borders package**. For **IT systems**, Malta will use the funding to support the implementation (maintenance and development) of both, **VIS** and **SIS II**, including the back-up capability. The importance of considering **consular cooperation** as a means to expand consular coverage was also mentioned.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. For ISF-Police, Malta would like to focus on **police training** in particular in the sector on **financial and organised crime**, as well as increase the technical capacities of different police departments and agents. **Police cooperation**, including using the policy cycle is very important for Malta. Up-dating and improving obsolete equipment and tools is a priority.

Policy dialogue with The Netherlands – 30 September 2013

Allocation

AMIF 94,4 M €	ISF-B 30,6 M €	ISF-P 31,5 M €	Total 156,5 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

In the area of **asylum** and migration, the main issues for the Dutch are communication between their services and to have the means to respond to sudden changes, including a strand on training and facilities. The Fund can help with the adaptation of some aspects of the Netherlands asylum system to the recast CEAS legislation, including staff training and with the improvement of treatment options for vulnerable persons.

The Netherlands will continue to be active in **resettlement** and will consider participation in **relocation** activities. The Dutch approach to **integration** will be focused mainly on their national policy framework of making migrants more self-reliant. The need to involve the local municipal authorities and those who have to implement integration on the ground was stressed as well as that a strategy for integration also needs to respond to the changing demographics and labour shortages. A good coordination with the Social Funds will also be imperative. **Return** is the area where the Netherlands and COM agree to increase voluntary return and consolidate permanent reintegration measures in the country of origin.

Internal security – Borders and visa

The priorities and desired outcome in ISF-Borders where the aim is to increase mobility of bona fide travellers, prevent irregular migration and make a maximum contribution to **safety** in the Netherlands and the Schengen Area. It was agreed that the Netherlands will invest in the further development and implementation of **EUROSUR** and expansion of the use of **modern technologies at the border**. Other complex areas to tackle include implementing, maintaining and upgrading large scale IT systems such as **SIS II**; combined with many different actors from the border guards to customs officers, police and other specialised services. **Cooperation with other MS on consular issues** was discussed as one of the important issues.

As regards Smart Borders, it was agreed that the right balance will have to be struck between activities implemented under national programmes and those developed via Union Actions or developed by eu-LISA or FRONTEX. Although concrete activities were not discussed in detail, it was agreed and emphasised that inter-operability was key, and tools and facilities should not be technology driven but focus on on-the-ground needs.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. **Drug trafficking** was proposed as a possible funding priority. The other issues raised were: **radicalisation** towards terrorism and violent extremism, **LETS**, participation of the Netherlands in the **EU policy cycle** on serious and organised crime, and the **EU CBRN** Action Plan and the EU Action Plan on the Enhancement of Security of Explosives. New issues which were introduced include: **cyber security**, conducting **financial investigations** (part of the long term training plan), administrative approach to organised crime, European Forensic Science Area 2020 and **victim support** policy.

Policy dialogue with Poland – 6 September 2013

Allocation

AMIF 63 M €	ISF-B 49 M €	ISF-P 39 M €	Total 152 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

In the area of **asylum**, discussion was constructive with Poland side agreeing on the need to continue improving standards of reception capacities, especially for vulnerable persons and to develop alternative to detention. Poland will also focus on preparing for likely increase in number of asylum seekers by setting up a contingency plan and continue in its efforts to improve quality and speed of decision making process. Concerning **resettlement/relocation**, Poland will consider applying for the top up funding for Specific Actions, namely possibility to set up a transit centre. In the field of **integration** of third country nationals, priority is to complete its national concept of integration with focus at local and regional level and quality of integration measures as well as building capacities to support legal migration. On **return**, Poland intends to continue with the emphasis on voluntary return, improving legal assistance for returnees and reintegration in the countries of origin in the framework of a comprehensive national strategy.

Internal security – Borders and visa

Poland agreed to plan resources to address recommendations from Schengen evaluation. Poland is likely to consider investment in the development of **modern technologies at the border**, in particular at its Warsaw International Airport, in order to prepare for fully fledged implementation of Smart Borders package. General agreement between Poland and COM was reached on priorities related to development of **EUROSUR** and implementation of large-scale **IT systems**. Poland will also look at possibilities to pool resources with other MS in the area of **consular cooperation**.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. PL was encouraged to adopt a horizontal/cluster approach in the identification of funding priorities (e.g. training, forensics, capacities, etc.). PL was encouraged to develop its national security strategy based on analysis of its specific situation in the EU context, identification of threats/risks and definition of priorities/outcomes. PL acknowledged relevance of the following key issues: **drug trafficking, firearms, cybercrime, corruption, CBRN, LETS** and the **EU policy cycle**. As regards the **civil protection** proposed by PL, COM clarified the dividing line between the intervention of ISF-Police and the Civil Protection Instrument and pointed out the need for an integrated way of reaction (synergies to be further examined with ECHO instruments and ESIF).

Policy dialogue with Portugal - 23 September 2013

Allocation

AMIF 32.7 M €	ISF-B 18.9 M €	ISF-P 18.6 M €	Total 70.2 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

The recent important increase of **asylum** applications - even if they remain at a low level compared with other Member States - requires special attention, notably by improving Portugal's reception capacities and asylum procedures, including on the identification of vulnerable persons. Solid contingency planning and monitoring systems to better identify and address any shortcomings as well as prepare for emergencies need to be established. It is also important for Portugal to develop and improve cooperation and capacity building with regard to third countries, with particular with dedicated to Mobility Partnerships and to Regional Protection Programmes. Both **resettlement** and **transfer of beneficiaries of international protection** as a solidarity measure are both important issues for COM and Portugal. Portugal will take into consideration the options to resettle a number of persons per year. **Integration** will remain a priority under AMIF, in accordance with the European Agenda for Integration and based on Portugal's third National Plan for Immigrant Integration. Portugal would renew efforts to articulate the local, regional and national aspects of this strategy. Though the main actions for labour market integration will be supported by the European Social Fund, AMIF would be complementary and used for example to support to third country nationals who are in the process of acquiring legal residency. The opportunity of developing actions in third countries aiming at promoting legal migration will also be explored. An effective **return** policy, through the strengthening of voluntary return and establishment of an effective forced return monitoring system will be continued. As regards actions in third countries, reintegration projects and actions strengthening third countries' capacities to implement EU readmission agreements are extremely important to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of EU return policy.

Internal security – Borders and visa

Portugal and COM agreed that the use of **modern technology at the border**, notably automated border control (**ABC**) **gates** for EU citizens crossing the external border, is a priority for the ISF-Borders. Portugal will continue to invest in the modernisation of the management of its border crossing points, according to the concept of integrated border management, not only by improving the existing ABC systems, but also by expanding them to the maritime borders and guaranteeing the interoperability of the existing systems or on-going projects with upcoming developments. Support to the development of **EUROSUR**, including cooperation with third countries, was also agreed upon as a priority, as well as continued investment in **VIS** and **SIS II** and **consular cooperation mechanisms**.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. Portugal's approach will be based on a number of clusters based on the **EU policy cycle** on serious and organised crime and including key priorities such as **drug trafficking**, **financial investigation on serious and organised crimes**, **anti-corruption**, and **fight against cyber-crime**. It was recognised that training and information exchange, in particular the implementation of the EU Law Enforcement Training Scheme (**LETS**), were also extremely relevant. The improvement of tools and methods available for Forensic Science would also be supported. Other equally important areas of interest are the development of an **anti-corruption policy**, tools and methods to **fight against cybercrime** and the protection of **critical infrastructure**.

Policy dialogue with Romania – 27 June 2013

Allocation

AMIF 21,9 M €	ISF-B 61,1 M €	ISF-P 37,1 M €	Total 120,2 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

Regarding asylum and migration, COM stressed the need for a comprehensive and strategic approach. On **asylum**, in view of its geographical location and planned accession to the Schengen area, agreement was reached on the need to ensure contingency planning, to further improve reception conditions and capacities (with special attention to vulnerable persons) and to improve asylum procedures. In the area of **return**, Romania will aim to increase voluntary return and look at top-up funding from Specific Actions to further improve detention conditions and progressively shift towards voluntary return. On **integration** of third-country nationals, Romania will focus more on the implementation of national strategy but also at articulating the local and regional aspects of this strategy and improving knowledge of integration measures and related evaluation methodologies.

Internal security – Borders and visa

In the area of border management and Schengen governance, COM and Romania reached a general agreement on priorities. Romania agreed to implement remaining Schengen Evaluation recommendations, to maintain investments with a view to Schengen accession and to invest in the further development of **EUROSUR**, notably with view to improving the operational cooperation between authorities and the flow of information between the various levels (local, regional and central) with a focus on the Black Sea area. Romania agreed to possibly reconsider testing the feasibility of ABC gates. Romania stressed need to invest in maintenance of large-scale **IT systems** and agreed on importance of full disaster recovery plan for **SIS II**. Romania will also look at cooperation with other MS to increase **consular coverage**, possibly as part of Specific Actions.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. There was a general agreement that RO should fully align the actions under its national strategy with the Internal Security Strategy at EU level, adopting a 'cluster' approach with strands such as **anti-terrorism** and tackling **organised crime** and identifying cross-cutting priorities such as training and information exchange. RO focus was on the prevention and combating of terrorism, PNR data processing and **cybercrime** with COM also stressing the need for RO to step up efforts on the **fight against corruption** and **trafficking in human beings** and implement national/EU strategies. RO will also focus on **drugs and firearms trafficking**, **CBRN** and security of explosives in context of cluster approach in order to avoid fragmentation and keep critical mass.

Policy dialogue with Sweden – 13 November 2013

Allocation

AMIF 118.5 M €	ISF-B 11.5 M €	ISF-P 21 M €	Total 151 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

Sweden has a well-developed **asylum** system; however it faces a considerable variation of the influx of asylum seekers. Sweden will invest in maintaining and further developing the good quality of its asylum system, with focus on vulnerable groups, its reception capacity and contingency planning, as well as the strengthening of its administrative capacity. Sweden has in place a comprehensive **integration** strategy which also provides the framework of policy orientations for the funding. Sweden will use funding for integration measures, including for vulnerable groups, facilitation regarding access to the labour market, awareness raising campaigns. Under legal migration, Sweden will focus on actions to attract skilled third country nationals as well as capacity building. Regarding **return**, the continuation of voluntary return and the development of an effective system for non-voluntary returns are seen as priorities. Sweden has confirmed its commitment to continue **resettlement** activities. Sweden expressed its interest in Specific Actions regarding resettlement, integration and return.

Internal security – Borders and visa

Regarding the implementation of the **Schengen acquis**, Sweden is willing to implement the recommendations of the next evaluation cycle, making use of the financial support. Under the development of **EUROSUR**, Sweden will finance measures related to developing local and regional capacities to exchange information and developing the national situational picture. Sweden agreed on the necessity of **modern technologies at the border** and will consider investing in technology for stationary and mobile border surveillance and control, capacity building measures to implement the Smart Borders package and cooperation with third countries. Sweden will invest in the full implementation of **VIS** and will improve the '**consular coverage**' in Schengen visa issuance. **Consular cooperation** was mentioned as a means to that end. Sweden will use funding for constant maintenance and availability of the **SIS II** national architecture, including the back-up capability. Sweden has expressed its interest for Specific Actions under ISF-Borders.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. The **EU policy cycle** on serious and organised international crime is considered as the main strategic reference framework for future actions. Regarding the **fight against organised crime**, Sweden's efforts will focus on capacity building, forensics investigations, trainings, exchange of information, financial investigations and EU cooperation. Sweden will use funding for measures aimed at **preventing and countering radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism**. **Crisis management** and **protection of critical infrastructure** were discussed and Sweden is interested in investing in a national support system for managing large-scale crisis, training, and cooperation with other MS, public-private cooperation, improvement of cyber resilience.

Policy dialogue with Slovenia – 30 July 2013

Allocation

AMIF 14,7 M €	ISF-B 30,7 M €	ISF-P 9,9 M €	Total 55,3 M €
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Asylum, migration and integration

In the area of **asylum**, the implementation of existing legislation to improve the quality of the asylum decision-making, including through its continuous evaluation was discussed as one of the key priorities. The development of contingency planning was agreed. The improvement of reception conditions and services especially for vulnerable groups will be a priority. Alternatives to detention will be further developed. Slovenia was encouraged to engage in **resettlement** and **transfer of beneficiaries of international protection**. In the area of **return**, Slovenia and COM agreed on the importance of an effective return policy with both its voluntary and forced return components. On **integration** of third-country nationals, Slovenia will continue the implementation of its national strategy with an additional focus on specific target groups and will consider further efforts on pre-departure measures.

Internal security – Borders and visa

Slovenia and the COM agree that support for the use of modern technology at the border, notably automated border control (**ABC**) **gates** for EU citizens crossing the external border, should be a priority. As regards **EUROSUR**, SI will invest in activities aimed at further enhancement of real-time exchange and cooperation of the National coordination centre with other authorities present at sea and Frontex, upgrading the analysis layer of National Situational Picture (NSP) and sharing NSP at sea with neighbouring member states.

Slovenia and COM agreed that Slovenia will prioritise investments related the full implementation of the **VIS** as well as of **SIS II**, including; the maintenance of SIS II national system and its upgrade/evolution and overall security. Slovenia concluded many representation arrangements and will continue its successful practices in this respect.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. Slovenia introduced ten new key issues in the area of internal security. Slovenia agreed to frame all issues within national strategies for increasing security in line with the Internal Security Strategy at EU level, and within this strategy, prioritise a limited number of clusters where EU home affairs funding can add most value added. **Drug trafficking, cybercrime, trafficking in firearms, trafficking in human beings, corruption, anti-terrorism, irregular migration** will be important clusters on which Slovenia will concentrate efforts. These will be supported by cross-cutting issues and instruments like the **policy cycle, LETS**, building capacities for effective **financial investigations, forensics**, gathering of criminal intelligence, etc.

Policy dialogue with Slovakia – 20 September 2013

Allocation

AMIF	ISF-B	ISF-P	Total
11 M €	10 M €	14 M €	35 M €

Asylum, migration and integration

Concerning **asylum**, Slovakia will build on experience and results achieved so far and focus on improving services for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection and strengthening capacities of administration by training of staff involved in reception and asylum procedures, including on identification of vulnerable persons. Slovakia was encouraged to develop alternatives to detention for asylum seekers. Slovakia confirmed to have a national contingency plan in place. Slovakia was encouraged to engage in **resettlement** and **transfer of beneficiaries of international protection** and to envisage building capacities and share best practices with more experienced MS. Slovakia highlighted its importance as a host country for humanitarian transfers providing temporary accommodation to persons waiting for resettlement. In the area of the **integration** of third-country nationals, Slovakia will continue to develop and implement its National Integration Strategy put in place with the support of the European Integration Fund while focusing on the regional and local level, building capacities and raising awareness. On **return**, it was agreed that Slovakia will focus on improving services, support effective and sustainable return operations and build capacities.

Internal security – Borders and visa

Slovakia commented that its busiest land border crossing point with Ukraine has a restricted area which does not allow installing **ABC gates**, however, informed about intentions to build a new major border crossing point between Slovakia and Ukraine (still to be decided). Slovakia will invest in infrastructure and equipment to modernise its border crossing points and to improve border surveillance. Slovakia is willing to support activities related to **EUROSUR** in the future. Regarding large-scale **IT systems**, Slovakia agrees to foresee adequate funding for their maintenance and development. Slovakia envisages launching a feasibility study to look at possibilities to pool resources with other MS in the area of **consular cooperation**. Slovakia expressed its willingness to participate in Specific Actions – purchase of equipment for Frontex.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

In the area of internal security, it was agreed that a strategic approach will be followed and a prioritisation will be made of actions to be implemented with EU funding in the national programmes. Slovakia presented its preliminary national priorities, i.e. 1) to strengthen national capacities for **preventing and combating cross-border, serious and organised crime** and reinforcing coordination and cooperation; and 2) to build and further develop national monitoring and coordination system for **crisis prevention and management**. Slovakia acknowledged relevance the following key issues – **drug trafficking, financial investigation, corruption, cybercrime and trafficking in human beings** – and overall agreed with the need to consider addressing them under the ISF-P.

Policy dialogue with the United Kingdom - 16 July 2013

Allocation

AMIF 370.4 M €	ISF-B* n/a	ISF-P* n/a	Total 370.4 M €
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* The United Kingdom does not participate in ISF.

Asylum, migration and integration

On **asylum**, for the asylum procedure and reception conditions, three areas were discussed where funding would be concentrated: i) Credibility, enhanced system of audits and controls and follow-up actions; ii) the identification of vulnerable persons and ensuring that their needs are met in the system; iii) appropriate and full access to all means and facilities for asylum seekers in the system. Other areas the United Kingdom is interested in pursuing include asylum liaison officers in third countries and MS, the sharing of experiences with other MS and re-admission agreements with 3rd countries by the COM. With regards to **resettlement**, the United Kingdom indicated that it will continue to be active in this field while the United Kingdom is not considering engaging in the **transfer of beneficiaries of international protection**. The United Kingdom is a big supporter of EASO activities, for example, the need for a good early warning system that could support the MS in warning of sudden changes in asylum and migration flows. **Integration** for the United Kingdom will be focused on local actions that will provide: orientation (language and civics); employment skills (including start-up and entrepreneur skill sets); and social inclusion and participation. Through the United Kingdom **return** programme (highest number of voluntary returns in the EU) a range of products from assistance to full reintegration programmes will continue to be supported. They participate in joint return operations with Frontex and other MS.

Internal security – Borders and visa

The United Kingdom does not participate.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

The United Kingdom may or may not opt-in once the regulation is adopted.

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18.09.2014
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