



## **MINUTES OF THE POLICY DIALOGUE WITH SPAIN**

### **Home Affairs Multi-annual Financial Framework 2014-2020**

**5 July 2013**

*Venue:* Ministerio del Interior de España  
Calle Amador de los Ríos 7, Salón Imperial

#### **I. OVERALL FUNDING OBJECTIVES / PRIORITIES FOR NATIONAL PROGRAMME**

Both Spain and the Commission acknowledged the importance of the Policy Dialogue prior to the preparation of the national programmes. Based on the Key Issues Paper sent by the Commission on the 17 May and Spain's comments from the 14 June, which confirmed a broad agreement between Spain and the Commission, it was recognised that a frank and open discussion would be extremely useful to jointly identify the priorities for the next multi-annual financial framework and facilitate the implementation of Spain's national programmes for the period 2014-2020.

It was agreed that the discussions would be structured around the Annotated Agenda. As foreseen, the agreed minutes of the meeting would form the basis for the elaboration of Spain's national programmes respectively for the Asylum and Migration Fund and the Internal Security Fund.

It was noted that focus of the discussion should be on what Spain wishes to achieve in the areas of migration and security, having always EU objectives in mind. A strategic approach was necessary, which takes into account Spain's specific situation and vulnerabilities and the impact/added-value of the new Home Affairs Funds in addressing such needs. All this pleaded in favour of focusing on a limited number of priorities/building blocks, with adequate training/capacity building in those priority areas as a cross-cutting element of such strategic approach.

This will require multiannual planning of investment and improved implementation, including the adoption of common indicators, which will need to be addressed in the architecture of the management and control system.

#### **ASYLUM AND MIGRATION FUND**

##### ***1. Common European Asylum System***

Acknowledging the measures Spain has taken in recent years to improve its asylum system and comply with the EU *acquis*, it was agreed that Spain will develop a strategy that identifies clear priorities and the results to be achieved over the 7 years period.

It was agreed that the increase of asylum requests in the first half of 2013 underlined the importance of improving Spain's reception capacities and asylum procedures, and establishing a contingency planning and monitoring system to better identify and address possible shortcomings. As regards resettlement and relocation activities, there was agreement on their

necessity, with Spain noting that its legislation foresees an annual resettlement quota. Support to the above-mentioned areas should be a priority for AMF funding.

### *1.1 Insufficient planning and adaptability in terms of reception capacity, including in case of massive influx*

It was agreed that AMF funding would focus on the development of Spain's reception capacities, adoption of a national contingency planning and setting up of a system of monitoring of the standards and capacity.

#### *Desired outcome:*

- Adoption of a national contingency planning for possible influx of large number of asylum seekers.
- Further development of system of monitoring of the standards and capacity, for better and constantly updated information on the possible gaps and possible necessary adaptation to current or future constraints.
- Setting up of a flexible reception system, easily adaptable to situations of emergency or sudden arrivals.
- Adequate reception conditions ensured to all asylum applicants, including under admissibility and Dublin procedures, with special attention to vulnerable groups.

#### *Funding priorities:*

- Improved access to social and medical services and financial assistance.
- Improvement of capacities for data collection, statistics, indicators, risk and impact assessment and evaluation of the national asylum system.
- Training of staff, in particular in relation to vulnerable persons.
- Provision of legal assistance, translation and interpretation.
- Improvement of reception infrastructures and capacities, including at the airports and in Ceuta and Melilla.

### *1.2 Quality of asylum decision making process / procedures*

Spain and Commission agree that the improvement of its asylum procedures, with special attention to vulnerable groups, the establishment of systems for regular evaluation of those procedures, planning for training, as well as quality monitoring and contingency planning should be priorities for funding under the AMF

#### *Desired outcome:*

- Improvement of the quality and speed of the asylum decision-making.
- Improvement of the information system, data collection and analyses, thus allowing the continuous monitoring and evaluation of the asylum procedures and assistance provided to asylum seekers.
- Continuous improvement of the training, as well as contingency planning, namely to ensure Spain has sufficient qualified staff in case of significant influx of refugees/asylum seekers.
- Adequate identification and assistance to vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied minors and victims of human trafficking, notably through the provision of specific services (e.g. psychological assistance).

*Funding priorities:*

- Strengthening of capacities of competent services to process asylum requests in full compliance with EU *acquis*, including provision of legal assistance, translation and interpretation.
- Identification of vulnerable people and their needs.
- Setting up of efficient contingency planning and an evaluation system based on an appropriate methodology.
- Setting up of a training plan for all the actors (local, regional, central authorities) involved in the asylum process, including assessment of asylum requests at border crossing points and/or reception/detention centres.
- Training of staff, including case handlers, in particular in relation to vulnerable persons.

**1.3**     *Support for voluntary actions related to resettlement/relocation*

It was agreed that the development of the EU Resettlement Programme is a priority and Spain would continue to invest in this resettlement programme. As regards relocation, the need to continue to show solidarity with countries facing disproportionate pressure was also acknowledged.

*Desired outcome:*

- Stronger commitment from Spain to participate in EU resettlement schemes with adequate resettlement conditions and significant increase in number of persons resettled in the country.

*Funding priorities:*

- Setting up structures and systems providing capacity to implement resettlement programmes, including as regards identification, selection, interviewing, and adequate assistance.

**2.**     ***Legal Migration and Integration***

Spain and Commission agreed on the need to give priority to assistance to unaccompanied minors. While acknowledging the good results Spain achieved through its integration policy, it was also agreed that more efforts should be made to ensure good cooperation between local, regional and national administrations and find synergies with other funding sources, notably the European Social Fund as regards access to the labour market. The possibility of using AMF funding to assist persons crossing Spain when travelling for holidays in their countries of origin (*Operación Paso del Estrecho*) was also discussed.

**2.1**     *Assistance to unaccompanied minors*

It was agreed that assistance to unaccompanied minors should be a priority in Spain's future AMF national programme. Attention should also to be paid to cases of "badly accompanied minors" (minors accompanied by the wrong people who use them for their own benefit).

*Desired outcome:*

- General improvement of protection and assistance to unaccompanied minors, including reception conditions, as well as measures regarding legal guardianship, age assessment and family tracing.

*Funding priorities:*

- Assistance to unaccompanied minors in all its components (legislative, institutional, operational).
- Measures ensuring appropriate care conditions in minors' centres, improve conditions of education and integration, age assessment, family tracing, legal guardianship, as well as actions preparing for the moment minors reach 18, to avoid irregularity.
- Inter-institutional cooperation between the regional authorities, the Minors' Prosecutor Office, and the central administration authorities.

**2.2**     *Improvement of integration measures*

Spain and Commission agree that integration of third countries nationals, including asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection, should remain a priority under AMF, in accordance with the European Agenda for Integration and based on Spain's national integration strategy. It was agreed that Spain would look at also articulating the local, regional and national aspects of this strategy. While acknowledging the possibility of using AMF funding as a complement, it was agreed that the normal source of EU funding to support measures directly supporting labour market integration (including vocational training) should rather be structural funds such as the European Social Fund. It was also agreed that for the management of the funds the different implementing modalities allowed by the applicable legislation should be fully exploited, so that those funds can be used in the most efficient and effective manner.

*Desired outcome:*

- Better integration of third-country nationals, including beneficiaries of international protection.
- Strengthened regional and local approaches and sustainable cooperation between relevant authorities and organisations, including cooperation between competent public bodies, NGOs and other actors.
- Reduce the gap between third-country nationals' unemployment and EU nationals' unemployment and increase smooth integration of women which are third country nationals into Spanish social context.
- Better awareness of the general public, local authorities, and migrants themselves, of integration issues, including integration of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection.

*Funding priorities:*

- Basic assistance and services for third country nationals such as language and civic orientation courses, pre-departure integration measures, education and housing, medical and psychological assistance, social counselling, including awareness against gender-based violence and sexual exploitation.
- Retraining courses, information on job and study opportunities, information on recognition of qualifications and diplomas, adult basic skills and literacy courses.
- Specific measures targeting vulnerable persons like women and unaccompanied minors, as well as asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection.
- Training of staff, including case handlers, in particular in relation to vulnerable persons,
- Development and implementation of a communications' strategy to raise the awareness, especially at local level, on integration issues, including of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection.

### **2.3** Assistance to regular immigrants in the EU when crossing Spain for summer holidays in their countries of origin - Operación Paso del Estrecho

Spain raised the issue of using Home Affairs funds to assist around 2.5 million Maghreb immigrants legally residing in the EU who each year cross Spain during the summer period when travelling for holidays in their countries of origin (*Operación Paso del Estrecho, consisting in a series of measures including increased number of ferry crossings, health assistance, information, security, resting areas, first aid & emergency care, etc.*) It was agreed that more information was necessary (presentation of "business case") to assess to what extent AMF or ISF funds could be used to fund activities of such operation. Although there was some connection with migratory flows, a comprehensive view of the operation was necessary to be able to assess the relevance and eligibility of such actions, namely to what extent not only third country nationals but also EU nationals benefitted from such operation, and how such activities could be linked with other integration measures and structures, including migrants' associations, and border management activities supported via ISF-Borders. Consideration should also be given to the possibility of using other EU funds (e.g. Structural Funds), which might also be adequate to support such operation. It was agreed that Spain will submit, along with the proposal of the draft national programmes, the necessary detailed information and documentation explaining or justifying the scope of the actions regarding the "Operation Paso del Estrecho" to be financed by the Home Affairs funds (FAM or ISF).

## **3. Return Policy**

### **3.1** Effective return policy – Strengthening of voluntary return, enhancement of an efficient forced return monitoring system, improvement of conditions in the centres

It was agreed that Spain would further improve conditions in the Centres for the Controlled Stay of Foreigners (CECE), as well as in the temporary reception centres (CETI), and make an increased use of voluntary return, including reintegration measures in the countries of origin. Such voluntary return may include persons who wish to return even though they are under no obligation to leave the territory. As regards actions in third countries, both sides agree that 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. Synergies between the national programmes and Union Actions, implemented through direct management, as well as with other EU funding sources such as external aid instruments - which are the main source of funding of activities in third countries - should be sought, in order to strengthen the return policy in its different components. Activities supported through those funds would be complemented by those supported through Home Affairs funds aiming at fighting irregular migration and increasing border security. In this context, it was also agreed that frameworks for cooperation such as the recently signed Mobility Partnership with Morocco and future Readmission and Visa Facilitation agreements should be fully used. The importance of ensuring an EU dimension in such actions in third countries was also acknowledged. There was also agreement on the need to reinforce the forced return monitoring system established under the supervision of Spain's Ombudsman, as such mechanism is crucial to ensure compliance with EU *acquis*.

*Desired outcome:*

- Improvement of living conditions in the Centres for the Controlled Stay of Foreigners (CECE), as well as temporary reception centres (CETI), in full conformity with Return Directive.
- Strengthening of voluntary return, including reintegration measures in the countries of origin, namely in the framework of Mobility Partnerships with third countries.
- Provision of information on the programmes and conditions of return.

- Improvement of conditions of forced return and implementation of a comprehensive and efficient forced return monitoring system.
- Enhancing cooperation with third countries as a key element in the fight against irregular migration.

*Funding priorities:*

- Improvement of accommodation infrastructures and services and of administrative structures, as well as safety conditions in the Centres for the Controlled Stay of Foreigners (CECE) and temporary reception centres (CETI), including services adapted to the needs of vulnerable persons.
- Assisted voluntary return and reintegration actions/programmes, including joint return and reintegration projects with other EU Member States.
- Capacity building and training of staff, both in the EU and third countries.
- Information on the programmes and conditions of return.
- Measures aiming at improving the conditions of forced return and at reinforcing the forced return monitoring system.
- Measures in or in relation to third countries aiming at increasing the effectiveness of the fight against irregular migration.

**INTERNAL SECURITY FUND - POLICE COOPERATION, PREVENTION AND COMBATING CRIME, AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT**

**1. *Internal security***

It was agreed that Spain will develop a strategy that identifies clear priorities and the results to be achieved over the 7 years period. Such approach will be consistent with Spain's national strategy and the EU Internal Security Strategy and structured around a number of clusters/building blocks such as Drug Trafficking, Fight against Terrorism, with particular focus on anti-radicalisation, or Fight against Cyber-crime. Priority should be given to those areas where EU funds have a particular impact and added value. In addition, cross-cutting activities such as training and information exchange will also be included.

Though there is a substantial budget, the funds are also limited and the goals need to be focused and reasonable. Depending on the individual goal to be reached, it is important that the most appropriate vehicle is used: either the national programme, Union Actions or other EU financial instruments.

This is particularly important in the context of a substantial shift from a project approach (as it is the case under the ISEC/CIPS programmes) towards a programming approach implying a planning for a 7 years period.

The following 6 potential key issues/areas were identified and discussed:

**1.1 *Drug trafficking***

Spain and Commission agree that fight against drug trafficking should be one of the priorities of Spain's national programme for ISF. It was also agreed that cooperation with third countries in this area was extremely relevant, and that it was important to identify the most adequate implementing modalities to cater for needs and priorities in this area: in this context, actions stemming from the support to the Bogota Platform could be considered either under the national programme framework or as Union Actions, to ensure that they fit into a EU wide approach with involvement of several EU Member States and are integrated with other EU initiatives in other regions (e.g. West Africa), as different components of a "knowledge hub".

*Desired outcome:*

- Increased number of seizures, prosecutions and convictions.
- Strengthening of the detection capabilities of drug trafficking by land, sea and air.
- Enhanced cooperation and increased number of joint investigations with other EU Member States and EU agencies, with increased flow of information to Europol.

*Funding priorities:*

- Reinforcement of investigation capacities of law enforcement units, including establishment of multi-disciplinary groups, risk assessment, development of witness protection programmes, detection of new forms and techniques of drug trafficking, including through internet and social media, and asset investigation.
- Reinforcement of the measures focused on the detection of drug trafficking by land, sea and air, including ports and airports, and in particular the expansion of the border surveillance systems to the maritime coastline.
- Exchange of information and joint investigation schemes with other EU Member States or third countries.
- Training, workshops/seminars, capacity building.

**1.2 Radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism**

Spain and Commission agree that the fight against terrorism is a key priority and that further measures are needed to strengthen the national capability, develop national infrastructures and train experts dealing with counter-terrorism, in particular on anti-radicalisation. Issues such as protection of victims of terrorism, exchange of information on terrorism threats and acts, protection of critical infrastructure, fight against cybercrime or trafficking in small arms should also be components of a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy, with ISF funding for those activities obeying to such a strategic approach. Cooperation with third countries in this area was recognised as extremely relevant for the security of the EU and its citizens, and in this context the possibility of implementing Union Actions in third countries, in line with EU security strategy for the Sahel, Horn of Africa and other regions, should be fully exploited. In this context, the possibility of ISF funds supporting joint EU training activities was also positively considered.

*Desired outcome:*

- Increased know-how to prevent, recognise and tackle the phenomenon of radicalisation.
- Establishment and strengthening of partnerships and platforms for knowledge and exchange of experience between practitioners, based on the experience of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN).
- Support to initiatives challenging terrorist propaganda, including initiatives by victims of terrorism and their associations.
- Better protection of victims of terrorism.
- Better prevention and response capacity to crises related to terrorism at national and EU level.

*Funding priorities:*

- Prevention of the radicalization, in particular through: a) exchange of experiences and best practices in the identification and assessment of radicalisation factors; b) development of common methodologies to all Members States for the early detection of radicalisation processes; c) development of regular national field studies to identify and monitor sources of radicalisation; d) training to reach people on the ground; e) connecting people on the ground through platforms to share information; f) countering terrorist propaganda through

education and awareness raising campaigns; g) development of specific programs for disengagement and de-radicalisation.

- Measures promoting investigating and countering terrorism, as well as training of specialists, including for instance support to Special Forces' training centres.
- Development of infrastructure to interconnect centres for crisis coordination, while meeting the security requirements needed to share sensitive or classified information.
- Monitoring of terrorist websites, with due regard for the balance between the need for detection and applicable rights and freedoms.
- Assistance to victims of terrorism, in particular legal aid, psychological, medical and financial support, as well as support to their associations, to improve their capabilities as regards anti-radicalisation measures.

### ***1.3    Insufficient involvement in further development of the information exchange systems: SCEPYLT and EWS***

It was agreed that, the development of exchange information mechanisms should be a priority in the ISF. Together with other transversal issues like protection of critical infrastructure (*see below*), such activities should constitute one of the building blocks of Spain's overall strategy for the ISF-Police.

*Desired outcome:*

- Further development of SCEPYLT and EWS and continuation of active participation in these and other exchange information systems.

*Funding priorities:*

- Further development of SCEPYLT and EWS systems.
- Training on the use of the EWS and SCEPYLT systems.
- Strengthening the capacities of police forces by equipping them with state-of-the-art equipment TEDAX and CBRN, provide training/capacity building on use of such techniques.
- Cooperation with other EU Member States to foster more active use of existing systems.

### ***1.4    Participation of Spain in the fight against serious and organised crime (EU policy cycle)***

It has been acknowledged that Spain has substantially increased its participation in the Policy Cycle, being directly concerned by all nine priority of the 2013-2017 Policy Cycle, of which it is the driver in two priority areas (cocaine and heroin trafficking, and firearms) and the co-driver in another two (illegal immigration and cyber-attacks which is a sub-category of the cyber-crime priority area). Spain and Commission agree that activities related to such Policy Cycle should be a priority under ISF.

*Desired outcome:*

- Stronger engagement of Spain in the Policy Cycle 2013-2017.

*Funding priorities:*

- Reinforcement of national infrastructures for data collection and analysis concerning international organised crime, as well as their transmission to Europol.
- Development of new technologies, establishment of special investigation multi-disciplinary teams, support to joint investigation teams and measures aiming at reinforcing the forensic analysis process.
- Training on fight against THB, improvement of procedures and skills for identification and assistance to victims of human trafficking.



- Development of witness protection programmes.
- Protection of payment systems, money transfers, training on asset recovery.
- Connection of the communications room with other Member States' for emergency, crisis, major events.

### **1.5 Improve capabilities in the fight against cyber-crime at national level and contribute to improvement at EU level**

It is agreed that fight against cyber-crime is a priority under ISF. This key issue should be addressed in line with Spain's national strategy and actions will be prioritised and aligned with the EU Cyber-security Strategy. Considering their relevance for the fight against organised crime in the EU and Spain in particular, it was also agreed to support, preferably under Union Actions, actions of cooperation with third countries in the area of cyber-crime, notably through cooperation with intelligence services from Neighbourhood countries and South America, including training and capacity building actions.

#### *Desired outcome:*

- Enhanced resilience of network and information security systems.
- In line with the European Cyber-security Strategy, improved capacities to prevent, investigate and combat cyber-crime especially payment card and online fraud as well as cyber-attacks and child sexual exploitation on-line.
- Improved exchange of information and cooperation between the different communities involved (including the public sector, private companies, CERTs, law enforcement and academia).
- Active participation and contribution to the European Cyber-crime Centre at Europol (EC3).

#### *Funding priorities:*

- Actions supporting Spain's active participation and contribution to the European Cyber-crime Centre at Europol (EC3).
- Upgrade equipment to improve Network and Information Security and modernise technological infrastructure, especially search engines. Increase capacity of analysis of massive information (big data).
- Increase presence and patrolling of internet, tackle especially payment card, online fraud and child abuse on internet.
- Training for competent authorities in particular law enforcement authorities and judges.
- Setting up, in the law enforcement corps (CNP and Guardia Civil), of a liaison centre in charge of exchanging technical and operational needs with the appropriate cyber security coordination centre.
- Support CNP cooperation with INTERPOL and EUROPOL.
- Raise awareness of general public on cyber-crime.
- Establishment of a CSIRT (Computer Security Incidents Response Team) in the Guardia Civil.
- Improvement of national coordination between relevant stakeholders on cyber-security.

### **1.6 Strengthening of administrative and operational capacity to protect critical infrastructure in all economy sectors**

Spain and the Commission acknowledged the importance of critical infrastructure protection and compliance with EU *acquis* in this area. It was also agreed that a more transversal approach should be pursued, covering new sectors and designating different types of European Critical Infrastructure (ECI).

*Desired outcome:*

- Ensuring adequate protection of critical infrastructure.
- Ensuring adequate implementation of the national legislation on the protection of critical infrastructures.
- Further designation of relevant European Critical Infrastructure (ECI).

*Funding priorities:*

- Costs related to the designation of European Critical Infrastructure (ECI)
- Coordination and exchange of experiences at national, EU and international level.
- Development of planning tools, training plans, tests, awareness raising activities, risk and threat assessments.
- Modernisation of equipment and software, as well as development of information and communication systems.

## **INTERNAL SECURITY FUND - EXTERNAL BORDERS AND VISA**

It was agreed that Spain will develop a strategy that identifies clear priorities and the results to be achieved over the 7 years period also in the areas of border management and Schengen governance.

Spain and the Commission agreed on the importance of supporting actions in or in relation with third countries also in the area of border management and surveillance, whether through the national programme or Union Actions.

The following potential key issues/areas were identified and discussed:

### ***1. Border management and Schengen governance***

#### ***1.1 Use of modern technology at the border***

Spain and Commission 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 for the Internal Security Fund. Spain 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 expanding them to other international airports and external sea borders, with the possibility of extending such systems to Spain's land borders in Ceuta and Melilla also being duly considered. Investments will also be made in the development of other systems which can also be used for the future Registered Travellers Programme (RTP) or the Advanced Passenger Information (API). Spain will continue to invest also in the reinforcement and modernization of the border surveillance systems outside the authorised border crossing points, in particular as regards maritime borders.

*Desired outcome:*

- Enhanced use of interoperable modern technologies in line with European standards such as ABC gates for EU citizens, which can also be used for the future Registered Traveller Programme (RTP).
- Extensive use of ABC at the air, sea and land borders.

*Funding priorities:*

- Actions to expand the implementation of ABC systems at other busy airports, at the external sea border crossing points (BCP) and if possible also at land borders.

- Other modern technologies used for border control (e.g. mobile fingerprint readers, facial recognition systems, equipment for EES/RTP), as well as expansion of Advanced Passenger Information System (API) to other border crossing points.
- Reinforcement and modernization of the border surveillance systems outside the authorised border crossing points.
- Other actions improving conditions at the BCPs and modernising their equipment to make them compatible with Schengen standards, including sensors, maintenance of equipment in ships and planes, or purchase of mobile equipment to conduct inspections at borders.
- Specialized training for border guards, according to the principle of integrated border management.

## *1.2 Development of EUROSUR and Implementation of Schengen acquis*

Spain and Commission broadly agree that support to the development of EUROSUR should be a priority under Internal Security Fund. There was agreement also on the need to strengthen cooperation with third countries in this area, both through Union Actions and under Spain's national programme, in particular as regards the Seahorse Network and in the context of the recently signed Mobility Partnership with Morocco and ongoing Migration and Security Dialogues with other Southern Mediterranean countries.

### *Desired outcome:*

- Further enhancing real-time exchange and cooperation of National Coordination Centre (NCC) with other authorities (e.g. Police, Customs), e.g. by seconding liaison officers to NCC.
- Establishment of analysis layer of national situational picture (NSP).

### *Funding priorities:*

- Enhance information sharing capabilities with EUROSUR, e.g. by interconnecting national systems with EUROSUR
- Upgrade of the NCC and existing Regional Coordination Centres (Algeciras and Valencia).
- Establishment of a third Regional Coordination Centre (Cantábrico/Biscay).
- Interconnection of surveillance and information systems of Spain, Portugal and France.
- Integration of current and future capabilities of the national border surveillance system (SIVE) into the NCC and the EUROSUR network.
- Upgrade of the Seahorse networks for the Atlantic and Mediterranean regions.
- Purchase equipment to participate in FRONTEX lead joint operations, including purchase and maintenance of light aircrafts and vessels (possible specific action).

## 2. *Information Systems*

Spain and Commission agree that support to VIS, SIS and consular cooperation mechanisms constitute one of the main priorities of ISF.

### 2.1 Implementation of Visa Information System (VIS) and increasing the “consular coverage” in Schengen visa issuance

It is agreed that Spain will continue investments in this area. Spain will 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.

*Desired outcome:*

- Full implementation of VIS including VISMAIL available and in operation.
- VIS roll-out in consulates from the third and last set of regions.
- Efficient operations and customer-friendly service to visa applicants.

*Funding priorities:*

- Maintenance and upgrading of national VIS, including VISMAIL.
- Investments in infrastructure, buildings, equipment (including mobile equipment to collect biometric identifiers), including opening and refurbishment of consulates, adaptation of new offices to VIS, acquisition of security equipment or expansion of the existing and adapting areas to security requirements.
- Actions supporting operations, maintenance and evolution of the National Systems.
- Training (including distance learning costs) and staffing.
- Consular cooperation mechanisms with other Member States as regards the lodging of applications and issuing of visas at consulates.

### 2.2 Implementation of Schengen Information System II, including development of backup capability

Spain agrees to continue investments in this area.

*Desired outcome:*

- SIS II available and in operation.
- SIS II disposing of a full disaster recovery/business continuity plan which includes elements such as: full national system redundancy on identified key components/processes, with a stand-by arrangement guaranteeing industry standards, continuity of service, as well as a further fall-back plan, with mechanisms to switch to queries in central SIS II when national queries are no longer available from the national site.
- SIS II accompanied by the security measures ensuring the protection and the integrity of the stored data.

*Funding priorities:*

- Maintain and upgrade of national SIS II and establish an alternative centre (back-up).
- Implementation of disaster recovery / business continuity plan.
- Protection of the SIS II national systems (both physical and against hacking).
- Further development of SIRENE workflow and endowment the SIRENE offices with the new system SIS II.
- Develop Spain's national VIS system to adapt it to the needs and changes required by SIS.

- Adapt the capacity of the communications network in the consular offices to the requirements of SIS II.

## **II. OTHER ISSUES**

### **Intentions for Specific Actions under the AMF and ISF-borders**

Several of the Specific Actions under the AMF and ISF-Borders are of potential interest to Spain, in particular:

- Joint return operations, including joint actions on implementation of Union readmission agreements (AMF 3.1);
- Joint reintegration projects in the countries of origin with a view to sustainable return, as well as joint actions to strengthen third countries' capacities to implement Union readmission agreements (AMF 3.1).
- Setting up consular cooperation mechanisms between at least two Member States resulting in economies of scale as regards the lodging of applications and the issuing of visas at consulates in accordance with the principles on co-operation laid down in the Visa Code, including common visa application centres (ISF 3.1).
- Purchase of equipment which are deemed necessary for the running of joint operations by the FRONTEX Agency.

### **Union actions (direct management) / EU Agencies**

The Commission recalled the possibilities and additional funding available under Union Actions and invited Spain to provide input for possible actions with an EU dimension. It was agreed that a strategic approach was necessary to ensure good coordination with other actions. It was noted that it would be important to avoid duplication and ensure good coordination with Union Actions, EU Agencies activities and actions supported through other EU funding sources such as the external aid instruments.

### **Implementation of the national programme**

The Commission recalled the need for a multiannual strategy, identifying clear priorities to be addressed through the Home Affairs Funds and grouping actions in clusters (building blocks) to avoid fragmentation. A well-functioning management and control system, adapted to the new requirements of the future Funds, will also have to be put in place and full coherence will need to be ensured with funding from other EU financial instruments, in particular the European Structural and Investment Funds and, as far as actions in third countries are concerned, the EU external aid funds.

Spain will reflect on the financial envelopes to be allocated to the various priorities and to define adequate common and programme-specific indicators to measure progress.

It was agreed that Spain's draft national programmes for both Home Affairs Funds should be submitted to the European Commission by mid-November 2013.

## List of participants

### *SPAIN*

#### *For all the Funds*

- Don Francisco Martínez Vázquez, Secretario de Estado de Seguridad (only part of the meeting).

- [REDACTED]

#### *For the dialogue on the Asylum and Migration Fund:*

- Doña Marina del Corral Téllez, Secretaria General de inmigración y Emigración, del Ministerio de Empleo y Seguridad Social

[REDACTED]

#### *For the dialogue on the Internal Security Fund - Police Cooperation, Preventing and Combating Crime, Crisis Management:*

- Doña Sonia Ramos Piñeiro, Directora general de Apoyo a las Víctimas del Terrorismo, del Ministerio del Interior

- [REDACTED]

#### *For the dialogue on the Internal Security Fund –External Borders and Visa*

- Don Miguel Aguirre de Cárcer y García del Arenal, Director General del Servicio Exterior, del Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y Cooperación.

- [REDACTED]

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

[REDACTED]

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