



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL HOME AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF THE POLICY DIALOGUE WITH ITALY

Home Affairs Multi-annual Financial Framework 2014-2020

18 October 2013

Venue:

*Ministry of Internal Affairs
Piazza del Viminale n. 1, Rome*

I. OVERALL FUNDING OBJECTIVES / PRIORITIES FOR NATIONAL PROGRAMME

Both Italy and the Commission acknowledged the importance of the Policy Dialogue prior to the preparation of the national programme. It was agreed that the discussions would be structured around the Annotated Agenda. Both sides agreed that a frank and open discussion would be extremely useful to jointly identify and define the priorities for the multi-annual financial framework for the period 2014-2020, thus facilitating the implementation of Italy's national programme. As foreseen, the agreed minutes of the meeting would form the basis for the elaboration of Italy's national programme respectively for the Asylum and Migration Fund (AMF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF).

The meeting took place in the context of the tragic events that occurred in Lampedusa a few days prior to the Policy Dialogue 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 under the multi-annual financial framework should take duly in consideration and build on the short-term actions being taken in the framework of the recently established Task-Force Mediterranean.

It was noted that the focus of the discussion should be on what Italy wishes to achieve in the areas of migration and security, having always EU objectives in mind, and agreed that a strategic approach for EU funding - which takes into account Italy's specific situation and vulnerabilities and the impact/added-value of the Home Affairs Funds in addressing such needs - was absolutely necessary. Such approach should be consistent with Italy's national strategy and focus on a limited number of priorities/building blocks, with adequate information exchange and training/capacity building in relevant areas as a cross-cutting component of such strategic approach.

The basic aim of the new programming should be to align clearly funding with political objectives, in an output oriented way, leaving at the same time enough room to adapt to new challenges and unforeseen needs, taking in due consideration all different sources of funding. This will require multi-annual planning of investment and improved implementation, including the adoption of outcome oriented common indicators, which will need to be addressed in the architecture of the management and control system.

During the meeting Italy distributed a set of draft documents/tables with indicative financial envelopes per key issue identified and, in some cases, a detailed list of concrete actions to be developed. It was acknowledged that such draft documents constituted a good working basis for the preparation of Italy's national programme.

ASYLUM AND MIGRATION FUND

1. Common European Asylum System

Italy and Commission agreed that support to the implementation and development of a Common European Asylum System should be a clear priority under the Asylum and Migration Fund. Italy indicated that approximately one third of his national allocation under the AMF would be dedicated to actions in this area. Italy and Commission agreed that Italy's reception capacity is under-dimensioned and should be substantially reinforced to be able to cope with the number of applications. Procedures should also be improved, and standards should be the same across the country. Italy's highly decentralised system should therefore be closely monitored and revised to ensure such consistency. It was noted the Special Support Plan recently signed with EASO would be instrumental to attain such objectives.

Possible indicators were also discussed: while acknowledging that the issue of common indicators was still being discussed in the framework of the on-going negotiations on the AMF, Italy and Commission agreed on the need to adopt also "qualitative indicators" that allow to assess quality/policy changes.

1.1 Reception capacity and conditions for asylum seekers

It was agreed that AMF funding would support the development of Italy's reception system with a substantial increase in the number of places available by setting up new facilities (at least one in every region on the basis of a comprehensive strategy) and complementing new SPRAR (protection system for asylum applicants) additional places in case of emergency, improvements in the screening system, monitoring of the standards and capacity, as well as the management of emergencies. The need to ensure consistency in the quality of reception conditions across the country, adopt a robust national contingency planning and set up a system of monitoring of the standards and capacity, was also acknowledged.

Desired outcome/funding priorities:

- Adequate reception conditions ensured to all asylum applicants, including under Dublin procedures.
- Development of a flexible reception system, easily adaptable to situations of sudden arrivals.
- Setting up of a structured screening system to allow identification of vulnerabilities at the early stages of the asylum process, including age assessment, and catering for the specific needs of these vulnerable categories.
- Setting up of a system to monitor the standards and capacity (ensuring constantly updated information on the possible gaps and necessary adaptation to current or future constraints).
- Establishment of national contingency planning for possible influx of large number of asylum seekers.

1.2 Quality of asylum decision making process / procedures and engagement in practical cooperation

Italy and Commission agreed that the improvement of quality and speed of asylum procedures, with special attention to vulnerable groups, the establishment of a national system for continuous monitoring and evaluation of those procedures, planning for training, should be priorities for funding under the AMF. Training and improvement of quality of its Country of Origin Information, notably with the support of EASO, should also constitute a funding priority.

Desired outcome / funding priorities:

- Establishment of a national system of continuous evaluation of the asylum procedures and assistance provided to asylum seekers.
- Commitment to establish a solid COI production capacity in Italy.
- Improvement of the quality and speed of the asylum decision-making process, notably through improved training of Italian officials (decision makers, border guards, judges, etc.), and increased engagement in practical cooperation, notably with EASO.

2. *Integration of third country nationals (including beneficiaries of international protection)*

2.1 *Continuing efforts towards integration of third-country nationals*

Italy and Commission agreed that efforts should continue to be made to pursue an integration policy in accordance with the European Agenda for Integration, with Italy noting that this would be their first funding priority under the AMF, planning to dedicate to it almost half of its AMF national allocation. Consistency and good coordination of the activities developed by local, regional and national administrations, as well as other stakeholders, in particular civil society organisations, is acknowledged as absolutely essential.

Italy and Commission agreed that integration of third countries nationals (TCN), including asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection, should be a priority under AMF. It was agreed that Italy would renew efforts to articulate the local, regional and national aspects of its policy in the area, as well as with other actors such as civil society organisations. The need to pay special attention to vulnerable groups was noted. Indirect discrimination in schools and early school living amongst TCN are also issues that need to be addressed. Italy and Commission agreed also on the need to support pre-departure measures in the countries of origin.

Italy and Commission also agreed on the need to find synergies with other funding sources, in particular the European Social Fund, as regards access to the labour market. In this respect, any possible overlapping between funding instruments should be avoided, giving preference always to more specific and better targeted financial instruments. Accordingly, initiatives aiming directly at easing the employment and socio-economic inclusion of TCN, including possible business incentives to encourage the employment of TCN, should be supported through the ESIF (European Structural and Investment Funds), in particular the European Social Fund. On the other hand, preparatory actions aiming at facilitating the access of TCN to the labour market are eligible for funding under AMF.

Desired outcome / funding priorities:

- In accordance with the European Agenda for Integration, pursue the implementation of policies promoting the integration of third-country nationals, including beneficiaries of international protection, through the promotion of tailor made interventions aimed at socio-economic independence such as language courses and other activities as to facilitate the participation in social, cultural and professional life.
- Preparatory actions aiming at facilitating TCN access to the labour market, such as information on job and study opportunities, retraining courses, skills recognition and better skills matching, promotion of entrepreneurship, as well as more diversity-friendly and TCN-sensitive employability services, with particular regard to vulnerable people including women.
- Facilitation of TCN inclusion in the receiving society, including through actions such as pre-departure language training and civic orientation for TCN in wait for family reunification, complementing regional plans for the implementation of the Integration Agreement.

- Improvement of schooling services, by guaranteeing support and tutoring to both students and teachers, with a view to making these services more sensitive to the specificities of young people with TCN background and thereby reducing the risk of indirect discrimination and early school leaving
- Promoting a genuine and effective access to services (notably health services and housing) of TCN, including beneficiaries of international protection, through linguistic and cultural mediation.
- While maintaining, as appropriate, a horizontal approach at the national level, particular attention should be paid to regional and local approaches, strengthening the involvement and capacities of local authorities and the cooperation between competent public bodies, NGOs and other actors.

3. *Unaccompanied minors*

3.1 Assistance to unaccompanied minors

Italy and Commission agreed on the need to give priority under the AMF to such vulnerable group. Adequate reception conditions, with improved care conditions, in particular as regards health and education, should be guaranteed. Issues such as legal guardianship, age assessment and family tracing should receive appropriate attention. It was noted that inter-institutional cooperation was also essential in this area.

Desired outcome / funding priorities

- Improvement of reception conditions for unaccompanied minors, as well as strengthening of measures regarding legal guardianship, age assessment and family tracing. More specifically, measures should be taken to ensure appropriate care conditions in minors' centres, improve conditions of education and integration, as well as actions preparing for the moment minors reach 18, to avoid irregularity.
- Reinforcement of inter-institutional cooperation between the regional authorities, the Ministry of Labour, the consular authorities, NGOS and International Organisations (e.g. on family tracing), namely by developing tools such as a national IT system for monitoring available reception places for UAM and their compliance with quality standards.

4. *Return Policy*

4.1 Effective return policy – Strengthening of voluntary return and establishment of an effective forced return monitoring system

Italy and Commission agreed on the need to give priority under the AMF to the pursuance of an effective return policy, through the strengthening of voluntary return and establishment of an effective forced return monitoring system. AMF funding should also be used to improve conditions in detention centres, in full compliance with the Return Directive.

Both sides agreed that good cooperation with third countries, notably in the framework of Mobility Partnerships, is absolutely essential for an effective and efficient return policy. In this context, return and reintegration projects and actions strengthening third countries' capacities to implement EU readmission agreements are extremely important. It is noted that actions involving several EU Member States would have a stronger impact and that extra funding could be provided through the AMF for such type of Specific Actions. 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 also be sought, in view of avoiding a fragmented approach and ensuring always an EU dimension in such actions in third countries.

Desired outcome / funding priorities:

- Stronger commitment from Italy to use voluntary returns, including provision of information on the programmes and conditions of return and promotion of reintegration measures in the countries of origin.
- Improvement of return procedures and living conditions in the detention centres, in full conformity with the Return Directive.
- Ensuring efficiency and credibility of the forced return monitoring system.

INTERNAL SECURITY FUND

1. Internal Security

It was agreed that Italy's approach to EU funding on internal security should be strategic, identifying clear priorities and results to be achieved over the 7 years period. This is particularly important in the context of a substantial shift from a call for proposals / project approach (as it is the case under current ISEC/CIPS programmes) towards a programming implying a planning for a 7 years period. Such approach should be consistent with Italy 's national security strategy and the EU Internal Security Strategy. Priority should be given to those areas where it is expected EU funds will have a particular impact and added value.

Starting from the ISF-Police two main objectives, respectively (i) "preventing and combating cross-border, serious and organised crime including terrorism, and reinforcing coordination and cooperation between law enforcement authorities of Member States and with relevant third-countries", and (ii) "enhancing the capacity of Member States and the Union for managing effectively security-related risks and crisis, and preparing for and protecting people and critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks and other security related incidents", such strategic 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.

In this context, Italy noted that greater emphasis should be placed 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. Both sides agreed that fight against mafia activities could indeed be a structuring element of Italy's approach to EU funding in the fight against organised crime.

Training, capacity building and information exchange activities are acknowledged as playing and extremely relevant role. To allow some flexibility in the implementation of such type of activities, it would be advisable to strategically group them together in a cross-cutting cluster encompassing the different key priorities, according to a multi-annual programme with clearly defined objectives. Key issues such as the implementation of the EU Law Enforcement Training Scheme (LETS) would then be covered through this pillar of the national programme.

Italy and Commission agreed that, depending on the individual goal to be reached, it is important that the most appropriate vehicle is used, as part of a comprehensive strategy covering the different funding strands: either the national programme, Union Actions or other EU financial instruments, in particular the Structural Funds, whose potential to support actions in Home Affairs policy areas should not be disregarded.

1.1 Drug trafficking

Italy and Commission agreed that fight against drug trafficking should be one of the priorities of Italy 's national programme for ISF. Both sides agreed that EU funding could be useful to support the investment in advanced technology, notably new information systems aiming at detecting and fighting drug trafficking through the internet. It was also noted the importance of the link between this priority and financial investigation, namely to promote financial investigation in all serious and organised cases to prevent the use of drug trafficking proceeds to penetrate the licit economy and thus achieve a better disruption and dismantlement effect.

Desired outcome / funding priorities:

- Increased number of seizures, prosecutions and convictions.

- Enhanced cooperation with other EU Member States and EU agencies, with increased flow of information to Europol.

1.2 Trafficking in human beings

Italy and Commission agreed on the need to give priority, under the Internal Security Fund, to the reinforcement of the country's capacities to address trafficking in human beings, in line with the EU Directives on the matter, in particular Directive 2011/36/EU, aiming also at considerably reducing, in the short/medium term, demand in all forms of trafficking in human beings. The need of close cooperation between all the different stakeholders involved, both public and private, was also acknowledged, as well the importance of cooperation with third countries on this matter.

Desired outcome / funding priorities:

- Increased number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions of human traffickers.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy or action plan, enhance the collection of data and reporting at national level.
- Enhanced cooperation and training between the different actors, including police, labour inspectors, immigration and asylum officials, border guards, trade unions, NGOs, etc., as well as with other EU Member States and EU agencies, with increased flow of information to Europol.
- Develop a national referral mechanism for better identification and referral of victims of trafficking in human beings, including addressing re-integration and return of victims.

1.3 Implementation of the CBRN Action Plan and Action Plan on the Enhancement of Security of Explosives

Italy and Commission agreed on the need to give priority, under the ISF, to measures supporting the improvement of Italy's capacities to implement the CBRN Action Plan and tackle small-scale CBRN incidents, as well as measures aiming at increasing its cooperation with neighbouring countries.

Desired outcome / funding priorities:

- Active usage of SCEPYLT and EWS as well as active participation in the EBDS community.
- Involvement, as a driving force, in the “lead country” initiatives.
- Ability to tackle small-scale CBRN incidents; ability to cooperate with neighbours.

1.4 Anti-corruption policy - Risks in the area of public procurement, notably at regional/local level

Italy and Commission agreed that anti-corruption measures should be a priority under the Internal Security Fund. The activities supported by the fund would consist essentially in measures aiming at ensuring increased transparency and effective checks for public procurement, protection of whistle-blowers, as well as enhanced cooperation between local administration, external control mechanisms and law enforcement forces.

It was noted that the soon to be published EU Anti-Corruption Report should also provide some useful indications on the groups/areas to be considered the most vulnerable and therefore deserving particular attention.

Desired outcome / funding priorities:

- Implementation of the new anti-corruption bill provisions on ensuring uniform transparency standards for public procurement, including at regional/local level.
- Increased transparency and more effective checks (pre and post award) on public procurement.
- Adequate training of staff, at both management/leadership and technical level on ethical and integrity aspects, as well as on identification of corruption risks and vulnerable areas.
- Developed whistle-blower protection mechanisms for reporting corrupt practices, including at regional/local level.
- Enhanced cooperation among local administration, external control mechanisms and law enforcement for an effective prevention and detection of corrupt practices.

1.5 Develop financial investigation in all serious and organised crime cases to dismantle criminal networks, provide prosecutable evidence before the judge, develop monitoring and detection tools and trace criminal assets

Given the penetration of Italy's licit economy by its organised crime groups, most notably mafia-like organisations, both sides agreed on the need to enhance financial investigation as a means to support criminal investigation in view of better detection and dismantlement of criminal networks beyond the sole front line offenders and national borders, identifying it as a priority area under the ISF. It is also noted that, while asset recovery investigation is to be encouraged and supported, there is a need to enhance a wider financial investigation expertise which, according to the most recent recommendations, should not be limited to asset recovery investigation, so that its disruption effect is maximized, identifying the fullest extent of a criminal (poly)activity and thus enhancing its dismantlement of networks.

Desired outcome / funding priorities:

- Ensure the opening of a financial investigation, as far as possible, in parallel to criminal investigations in all serious and organised crime cases, also by exploiting innovative investigation techniques and means.
- Significant rise in the number of financial investigations developed and increased results.

1.6. Weak implementation of information exchange mechanisms

Italy and Commission agreed on the need to give priority, under the Internal Security Fund, to the implementation of information exchange mechanisms.

Desired outcome / funding priorities:

- Full implementation of the Prüm Decision (2008/615/JHA) by stepping-up investments in technical equipment and training, as well as the administrative, legal and organisational requirements for the exchange of data.
- Transposition of the Swedish Initiative (2006/960/JHA) into national law and integration of its provisions into the workflow processes of relevant Italian authorities.
- Assessment of possibilities to establish a comprehensive and integrated national SPOC (Single Point of Contact) for international information exchange in line with EIXM¹ recommendations.

1.7 EU policy cycle on serious and organised crime - participation of Italy

Italy and Commission agreed on the need for the country to increase its participation in the Policy Cycle, being directly concerned by all of its priorities. Italy and Commission agreed that activities related to such Policy Cycle should be a priority under ISF.

Both sides also agreed that special attention should be paid to the fight against mafia-like organisations as a matter of concern not only for Italy but all EU Member States.

Desired outcome / funding priorities:

- Continued engagement in the policy cycle 2013 -2017, especially considering that all the priorities for this policy cycle are relevant for Italy.
- Reinforcement of national infrastructures for data collection and analysis concerning international organised crime, as well as their transmission to Europol, which are precondition for EU Member States' participation in policy cycle.
- Participation in relevant policy cycle EMPACT projects.

1.8 Improve capabilities in the fight against cybercrime 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 Italy's national strategy and actions will be prioritised and aligned with the EU Cyber-security Strategy. In this context, both sides agreed on the need to pay special attention to issues such as the fight against Child Sexual Exploitation online.

Desired outcome / funding priorities:

In line with the EU Cyber-security Strategy:

- Enhance its network and information security and improve its resilience.
- Identify gaps and further strengthen its capability to investigate and combat cybercrime.
- Use funding to support bodies that make the link between research/academia, CERTs, law enforcement practitioners and the private sector.
- Support programmes that allow for active participation and contribution of Italy to the European Cybercrime Centre at Europol (EC3).
- Foster awareness-raising and information campaigns on cybercrime.

1.9 Implementation of the EU Law Enforcement Training Scheme (LETS)

Italy and Commission agreed on the need to give priority, under the Internal Security Fund, to the implementation of the EU Law Enforcement Training Scheme (LETS).

Desired outcome / funding priorities:

- Improve cross-border law enforcement cooperation. Improve a cross-border minded culture of law enforcement officers.

1.10 Radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism

Italy and Commission agreed that actions aiming at fighting terrorism, and in particular anti-radicalisation measures, should be a priority under the ISF. Both sides acknowledged the need for a comprehensive approach to terrorism comprising preventive, operational and repressive measures, making maximum use of new technologies, including PNR data processing, as well as promoting inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue.

Desired outcome / funding priorities:

- Enhanced awareness of the phenomenon of radicalisation among frontline practitioners.
- Increased know-how to prevent, recognise and tackle the phenomenon.
- Encourage partnerships and platforms for knowledge and exchange of experience between practitioners, based on the experience of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN).
- Support initiatives challenging terrorist propaganda, including initiatives by victims of terrorism.
- Support initiatives to prevent terrorist travels.

2. Border management and Schengen governance

It was agreed that Italy 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.

Italy 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, either through the national programme or through Union Actions, with the Commission noting that actions in third countries aiming mostly at strengthening third countries' border management capacities should rather be implemented through direct management (Union Actions).

2.1 Border surveillance at sea / Development of EUROSUR

Italy and Commission agreed 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 Italy's national programme, in particular as regards the Seahorse Mediterranean 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 / funding priorities:

- Setting up medium/long term strategy for the management of the maritime borders, including as regards cooperation with neighbouring third countries.
- Structural actions to ensure the control of the sea borders and enhance the capacity of the national authorities cooperating in the National Coordination Centre (NCC) to cope with possible increase in the migratory flows/crisis situation.
- Possible deployment of adequate technology to improve border management capacities.
- Further enhancing real-time exchange and cooperation of NCC with authorities not yet fully cooperating with NCC (in particular Customs), e.g. by seconding liaison officers to NCC.
- Upgrading the operational layer of national situational picture (NSP).
- Possibility to make NCC also responsible for border checks and air border surveillance.
- Streamlining and better integrating information from the existing national surveillance systems.

2.2 Use of modern technology at the border

Italy and Commission agreed 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. Italy will continue to invest in the modernisation of the management of its border crossing points, on the basis of a precise assessment for each individual border crossing point and according to the concept of integrated

border management, not only by improving the existing ABC systems but also expanding them to the maritime borders and guaranteeing the interoperability of the existing systems or on-going projects with upcoming developments.

Desired outcome / funding priorities:

- Investment leading to use of interoperable modern technologies in line with European standards where they exist. For example ABC gates for EU citizens should also be able to be used for the future Registered Traveller Programme (RTP) component of the smart borders initiative, by implementing fingerprint readers.
- Italy is encouraged to use ABC not only at airports but also at the sea borders.

3. Information Systems

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

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

It is agreed that Italy will continue investments in this area. Italy 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 / funding priorities:

- Full implementation of VIS including VISMAIL available and in operation.
- VIS roll-out in consulates from the third and last set of regions.
- Preparation for the introduction of fingerprint verifications at the border.
- Efficient operations and customer-friendly service to visa applicants through increased consular cooperation by establishing Common Visa Centres (i.e. representation by/from other MS, or resource pooling with other MS, or joint cooperation with external service providers involving several MS).

3.2 Implementation of Schengen Information System II

Italy and Commission agreed that implementation of Schengen Information System II, including development of backup capability, should be a priority of the Internal Security Fund.

Desired outcome / funding priorities:

- SIS II available and in operation.
- SIS II national system is resilient to cyber-attacks in terms of physical, computer and data security.

II. OTHER ISSUES

Intentions for Specific Actions under the AMF and ISF-borders

Several of the Specific Actions under the AMF and ISF-Borders could be of potential interest to Italy, in particular:

- Joint return operations, including joint actions for the implementation of readmission agreements concluded by the Union and enhanced participation in FRONTEX Joint Return Operations;
- Cooperation with the UNHCR regarding access to asylum procedures, in protection programs for specific groups, or in certain procedures for examining applications for asylum;
- Joint projects of reintegration in countries of origin, joint actions to strengthen the institutional and operational capacities of third countries in the implementation of readmission agreements with the EU and continuity of the projects developed with IOM;
- Setting up consular cooperation mechanisms between at least two Member States resulting in economies of scale as regards the processing 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.

Union Actions / Emergency measures / EU Agencies

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

It was also noted that, under the new Home Affairs Funds, a substantial envelope will be available to support emergency measures, thus better equipping the EU to cope with unforeseen events which require a quick response.

It was also agreed that Italy should work with EU agencies, in particular Home Affairs agencies, in a more strategic manner.

Implementation of the national programme

The Commission recalled that a well-functioning management and control system, adapted to the new requirements of the future Funds, will 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.

Both sides acknowledged the importance of the partnership principle, as well as of an adequate communication strategy to inform European citizens about the measures being promoted at EU level.

Next steps

It was agreed that Italy's draft national programme for both Home Affairs Funds should be submitted to the European Commission by the end of January/early February 2014.

Composition of delegations

Italy

- Chair: Prefetto Luciana Lamorgese - Capo di Gabinetto Prefetto Sandra Sarti - Vice Capo di Gabinetto

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European Commission

Chair - Mr Stefano Manservigi - Director General Home Affairs

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