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NOTE

From:	Cyprus delegation
To:	Law Enforcement Working Party
No. prev. doc.:	16825/10 ENFOPOL 343 JAI 995 COSI 76
Subject:	Final report on Joint Police Operation Aphrodite

Delegations will find in the annex the final report on Joint Police Operation Aphrodite, prepared on the basis of the guidelines set out in the Guide for Joint Police Operations (JPOs) (doc. 16825/10 ENFOPOL 343 JAI 995 COSI 76).

The LEWP is invited to approve the recommendations contained in this final report.

Final report on Joint Police Operation Aphrodite

1. Background of the JPO, general description and operational methodology

JPO Aphrodite is aimed at combating illegal immigration, with the focus being on illegal border-crossing, the secondary movements of irregular migrants who enter EU Member States illegally, the routes used and other information regarding smuggling of migrants. JPO Aphrodite is a follow-up to a series of operations initiated by Member States (MS) during their presidency.

The Operation lasted for two consecutive weeks from 22 October to 4 November 2012 with the participation of 26 MS and 2 Schengen Associated Countries (SAC). It involved interceptions of irregular immigrants (illegal entry in the EU, not including overstayers) during the above-mentioned period only.

The method of gathering the information during the operation was through a report template in the form of an Excel spreadsheet which was completed and sent electronically by the participant countries to the Cyprus authorities for every incident involving the interception of an irregular immigrant. It should be noted that the report template did not include any personal data of the intercepted irregular immigrants.

The responsible authority for conducting this JPO was the Statistical Office of the Cyprus Police Aliens and Immigration Unit, where all report templates from all participant countries were gathered, processed, elaborated and analysed.

2. Lead Member State for the operation and coordination structure

JPO Aphrodite was initiated and coordinated by the Cyprus Police (Aliens and Immigration Unit) in cooperation with the Frontex Agency. The operation was conducted on the basis of the operational plan sent out to participants via LEWP before implementation. The operational plan was approved by each Member State.

In accordance with the guidelines laid down in the operational plan, each participant country was requested to appoint a national contact point which was responsible for the coordination of the operation in their respective country as well as for gathering and forwarding the operational data to the Cyprus Presidency project contact point at the Statistical Office of the Aliens and Immigration Unit where all report templates were gathered, processed, elaborated and analysed.

3. Participant countries, authorities and/or organisations

The level of participation was massive, with 26 MS and 2 SAC taking part in the operation (Germany, United Kingdom, Spain, Austria, Poland, Switzerland, Hungary, Italy, Bulgaria, Belgium, Cyprus, Slovenia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Ireland, Romania, Slovakia, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, Estonia, Portugal, Denmark, Finland, Malta, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and Latvia).

The Frontex Agency contributed to the operation by supporting the Cyprus National Coordination Office in collecting operational data and by making its Risk Analysis Unit available to prepare the chapter of the report concerning the illegal border-crossing of migrants at the EU's external borders.

4. Objectives of the operation

The objective of JPO APHRODITE was to collect information from all participant countries concerning illegal migration, in particular the following data:

(a) Interception details:

- Case reference number – each case is to be given a unique number, so that FRONTEX can request further information on any specific case from the Member State's contact person;
- Date and time of detection;
- Location of interception of illegal immigrants;
- Nearest city or town;
- Means of transportation used by illegal immigrants during detection;

- Means of transportation used by illegal immigrants to enter the country:
car/bus/lorry (on the road);
train;
ship (at the seaport/river port);
plane (at the airport);
in the street (or another public/private place);

(b) Intercepted illegal migrants:

- Illegal immigrants' nationality;
- Gender, age;
- First point of entry into the EU;
- First date of entry into the EU;

(c) Routes:

- Main routes followed by illegal immigrants from third countries for entering the EU and Schengen Associated Countries or using the EU or Schengen Associated Countries as transit countries;
- Illegal immigrants' intended final destination;

(d) Modus Operandi:

- False/falsified travel documents used (including nationality of passport);
- Asylum application after or during detection;
- Indications of smuggling of illegal immigrants;
- Facilitator's nationality;
- Modus operandi comment box with free text (some description of modus operandi and facilitation).

5. Summary of the operational results

On the basis of the operational data provided by the participant Member States, the following results were achieved:

Chapter I

1. General description of the results

1.1. Participant countries in JPO Aphrodite

The Operation lasted for two weeks, with a major input from 28 countries resulting in valuable analysis and conclusions.

1.2. Results for each participant country

Overall, during the operational period, 3 692 report templates were received by the Cyprus National Coordinators from all participant countries, reporting 5 298 interceptions of irregular immigrants.

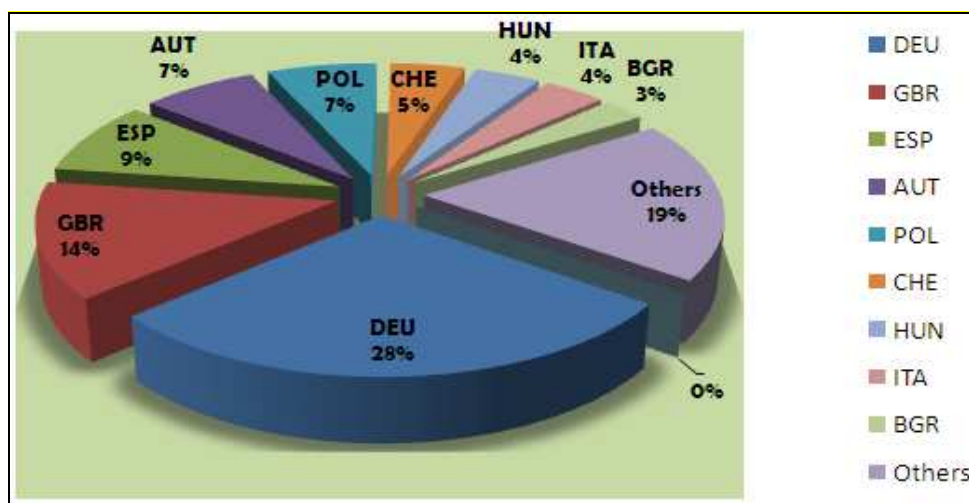
Figure 1: Results of participant countries

Germany	1510	Ireland	89
Unit. Kingdom	728	Romania	88
Spain	468	Slovak Rep.	55
Austria	387	Norway	54
Poland	365	Sweden	54
Switzerland	249	Netherlands	36
Hungary	223	Estonia	35
Italy	207	Portugal	27
Bulgaria	146	Denmark	18
Belgium	135	Finland	5
Cyprus	117	Malta	2
Slovenia	108	Liechtenstein	1
Lithuania	101	Luxembourg	0
Czech Rep.	90	Latvia	0

The largest number of interceptions was reported by Germany, with 1 510 intercepted irregular immigrants, almost 29 % of the total. A considerable number of interceptions took place in the United Kingdom (728 – 13.74 %), Spain (468 – 8.83 %), Austria (387 – 7.30 %) and Poland (365 – 6.89 %).

It is also worth mentioning that, in contrast to the large numbers reported above, some countries such as Luxemburg and Latvia did not report any interceptions for the operational period, while Liechtenstein reported 1 and Malta 2.

Figure 2: Top 10 EU/SAC of Interceptions



1.3. Interceptions of illegal immigrants, broken down by gender

Of the overall number of interceptions (5 298), the data received from the participant countries indicated the gender of 3 792 illegal immigrants, of whom 3 096 (71.57 %) were male, 436 (11.50 %) female and 260 (6.86 %) minors under the age of 18.

The numbers broken down by gender for those who were intercepted were as follows:

- **at border-crossing points:** 1 157 males, 232 females, 82 minors;
- **inland:** 1 327 males, 177 females, 110 minors;
- **outside border-crossing points:** 612 males, 27 females and 68 minors.

2. Participant countries with the largest number of interceptions

The findings of the operation showed that some participant countries are more affected than others by illegal migratory trends. These countries are either used as a final destination or as a stepping stone to the desired destination.

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Chapter II

1. Third country nationals intercepted during JPO

Overall, 130 third countries from all over the world were reported as the country of origin of intercepted persons. **DELETED**

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1.1. Final target destinations

An analysis of the data derived from the debriefing process of the intercepted illegal immigrants concerning their target country indicates that the most popular final target destination is the United Kingdom. Germany is also a favoured destination, followed by Spain, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, France, Ireland, Sweden and Cyprus.

Figure 10: Final target destinations

United Kingdom	872
Germany	672
Spain	440
Switzerland	162
Italy	159
Austria	141
France	129
Ireland	87
Sweden	84
Cyprus	83

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Chapter III

The following analytical report has been prepared by the Frontex Agency's Risk Analysis Unit, and covers its contribution to the Operation regarding the illegal border-crossing of migrants at the EU's external borders.

1. Introduction

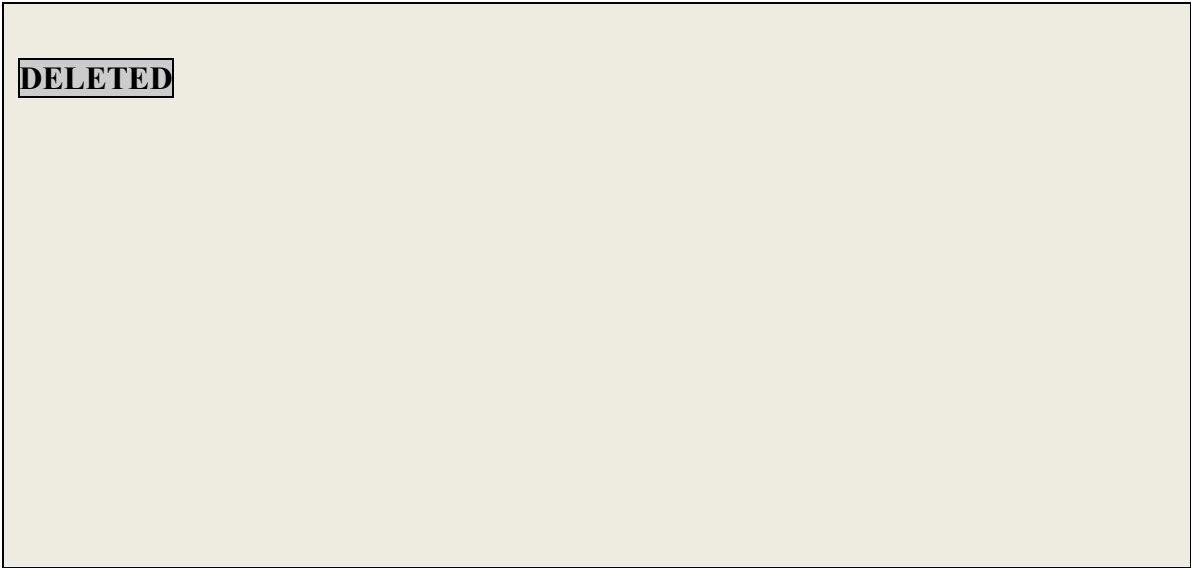
Joint Police Operation (JPO) Aphrodite was organised under the auspices of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union, focusing on illegal border-crossings and secondary movements of irregular migrants after they had entered European Union Member States and Schengen Associated Countries. **DELETED** The Cyprus Presidency shared the data gathered during JPO Aphrodite with the Frontex Risk Analysis Unit.

The aim of this report is to present the situation concerning irregular migration at the EU's external borders before and during JPO Aphrodite. For the purposes of this report (January – September), FRAN data from January to September 2012 was taken into account in conjunction with data from the Poseidon Land, Poseidon Sea, Aeneas, Hermes, Indalo and Focal Points Land JOs for the month of October and the first four days of November 2012. In addition to this data, data from the European Union Document-Fraud Network (EDF) and PULSAR were also used to compile this report.

The time needed to reach destination countries after illegally crossing the EU's external borders is estimated to be from a few weeks up to one year or even longer. Therefore, the number of illegal border-crossings from the beginning of 2012 or from the start of Frontex-coordinated JOs in 2012 were taken into account.

2. Irregular migration

2.1 Highlights



2.2 Irregular migration routes



Figure 16: The map illustrates the total number of arrests in the Eastern Mediterranean from 1 January to 4 November 2012 and 2011. In order to read the statistics properly, the information for the Poseidon Sea JO has been divided into Areas Alpha and Bravo.
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Nationalities of apprehended migrants

Nearly 34 000 arrests for illegal border-crossing were recorded in the framework of all the joint operations coordinated by Frontex in the Eastern Mediterranean during the first nine months of 2012.

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Figure 17: Detections of illegal border-crossings, by nationality, from January to August 2012

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In September and October 2012, 3 680 irregular migrants were apprehended along the Eastern Mediterranean route. **DELETED**

*Figure 18: Detections of illegal border-crossings, by nationality,
from 1 September to 4 November 2012*

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In general the most commonly claimed final destinations were: Italy, Finland, Germany, France and the United Kingdom. For many migrants, Greece is only a stop-over country before they move further to other EU countries either by land, sea or air.

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Air borders

For the purpose of this report the number of identified falsified documents at the EU's air borders in the first three quarters of 2012 was taken into account. During the first three quarters of 2012, a total of 3 035 falsified documents were reported to the EDF from the EU's air borders.

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Chapter IV

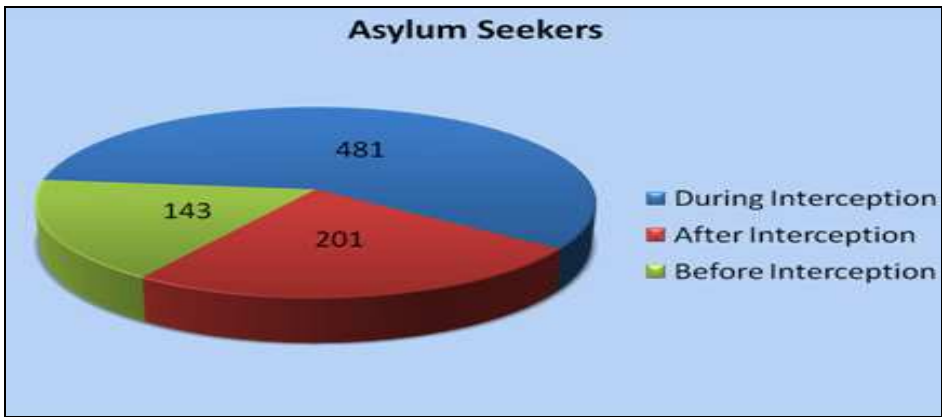
1. Indications of smuggling of illegal immigrants

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2. Asylum seekers

Out of the total of 5,298 interceptions, 481 people applied for international protection upon being intercepted, and 201 applied after being intercepted. It should be noted that 143 of these had applied in the past for international protection in an EU or SAC Member State before their interception.

Figure 22: Asylum seekers



3. False documents

The total number of illegal immigrants who used false travel documents or were involved in imposture cases was 339. **DELETED**

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4. Means of transportation

- **Type of transportation**

Different types of transportation were used by illegal immigrants to effect their entry into the EU.

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- **Illegal immigrants intercepted at air borders (aeroplane)**

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- **Illegal immigrants intercepted in public places**

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- **Illegal immigrants intercepted in lorries**

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- **Illegal immigrants intercepted in trains**

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- **Illegal immigrants intercepted in cars**

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- **Illegal immigrants intercepted in buses**

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5. Costs

The operation was carried out using the available capacity of the Member States and the Frontex Agency, with no additional costs.

6. Evaluation of the operation

6.1 Degree to which the aims and objectives of the JPO were attained

It can be concluded that the aims and objectives of the operation were very largely achieved. The level of participation was massive, involving 26 Member States and 2 SAC. The preparation phase was carried out smoothly with no particular difficulties.

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6.2 General assessment, including the analytical results, the added value and usefulness of the operation (including its cost efficiency), as well as difficulties encountered and lessons learned

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6.3 Recommendation for possible future improvements or best practices and/or further action

- Such an operation should be continued by other Member States running the Presidency or the European Council.

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- It should be possible to analyse operational data sent to Frontex and compare it with operational activities coordinated by Frontex at the EU's external borders for evaluation purposes.
 - The involvement of Frontex Agency is very valuable in the whole process of the operation as well as during the procedure for evaluating of the results.
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