



# Management Plan 2018

Directorate General for  
Migration and Home Affairs



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## INTRODUCTION

In 2018, the European Commission will continue to implement and further develop the comprehensive approach to migration with an emphasis on returns, protecting external borders while preserving the Schengen "acquis", strengthening cooperation and solidarity with Africa, opening legal pathways and modernising the European visa policy.

The mid-term review of achievements under the European Agenda on Migration, which was issued in September 2017 showed that sustained efforts had led to tangible results to restore order to the migration system but that structural changes remained necessary. As a consequence, in December 2017, the Commission submitted a roadmap to EU Leaders, for moving forward on the external and the internal dimension of migration policy<sup>1</sup>.

Given persistent threats and challenges in the area of security, working towards the Security Union. will remain another priority in 2018, with an emphasis on cross-border access by law enforcement authorities to electronic evidence and to financial data, making information systems interoperable, strengthening the rules against explosives precursors, removing terrorist content online, supporting Member States in countering radicalisation and in implementing the action plan on protecting public spaces.

In addressing these priorities, DG HOME will contribute to the general objectives: 'Towards a new policy on migration' and 'An area of justice and fundamental rights based on mutual trust'. These are two of the 10 key political priorities of this Commission. These priorities are reflected in DG HOME's Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and translated into specific objectives, as summarised in the table below.

General objectives		Specific objectives	
1	Towards a new policy on migration	1.1	Reduce incentive for irregular migration.
		1.2	Effective border management: Save lives and secure EU external borders.
		1.3	Enhance protection and solidarity.
		1.4	A new policy on legal migration to address skill shortages in the EU and enhance effective integration.
2	An area of justice and fundamental rights based on mutual trust	2.1	A strong EU response to tackling terrorism and preventing radicalisation.
		2.2	Disrupt organised crime.
		2.3	An effective response to cybercrime.
3	A Union of democratic change	3.1	Enhance citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity, foster European citizenship and improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level.
4	A deeper and fairer internal market with a strengthened industrial base		

DG HOME's activities in 2018 will concentrate in particular on general objectives 1 and 2.

DG HOME will also put forward proposals for the next generation of programmes under the post-2020 Multi-Annual Financial Framework.

DG HOME will continue contributing to the work of the EU Chief Negotiator as well as of the Inter-Service Steering Group on Brexit Preparedness concerning the withdrawal of the UK from the EU, in relation to various strands of relevant justice and home affairs policies.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2017) 820 final

## PART 1. MAIN OUTPUTS FOR THE YEAR

### 1. *Towards a new policy on migration*

#### 1.1. *Reduce incentives for irregular migration*

Under this specific objective, DG HOME intervention in 2018 will contribute to:

- *Addressing the root causes of irregular and forced displacement in third countries*

In 2018, DG HOME will be further involved in developing in cooperating with external **partner countries**. To that end, it will prepare the launch and implementation of comprehensive migration dialogues (e.g. with Egypt, Iraq, Iran) and organise bilateral meetings with priority countries at both political and technical level while taking advantage of global, regional and other fora to hold additional side meetings and events. It will also contribute to monitoring the cooperation processes through making inputs into regular progress reports.

The **European Migration Liaison Officers** (EMLOs) will continue playing a key role in informing policy making regarding migration. In addition to the twelve EMLOs who are already operational<sup>2</sup>, DG HOME will be responsible for recruiting additional ones (e.g. for Egypt, Bangladesh and Morocco). DG HOME will organise a yearly networking/training event in 2018 to strengthen synergies between EMLOs and build their capacity. Furthermore, regular and ad-hoc video conferences will address issues of relevance to EMLOs, provide guidance and strategic and operational steering.

DG HOME will also continue contributing to a variety of wider processes to ensure external protection of EU internal policies. These will include the management of the Prague and Budapest Processes, participation in regional and African Union (AU)/African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) processes (implementation of the Joint Valetta Action Plan, Khartoum, Rabat), and in processes leading to the adoption of UN Global Compacts on migration and refugees.

- *Fighting against smugglers and traffickers*

Based on the conclusions of the evaluation of the current **Immigration Liaison Officers (ILO) Regulation** to be delivered in early 2018, DG HOME will put forward a proposal for the Regulation's revision. The overall aim is to establish a common formal framework and clear mandates of staff posted in third countries to take actions to counter migrant smuggling. Amendments to the current Regulation will allow exploitation of ILO networks' full potential.

To progress in implementing the EU **Action Plan on Migrant Smuggling**, DG HOME will organise expert meetings to implement different priority strands within the action plan. It will also launch cooperation platforms on migrant smuggling (at least one, possibly in Tunisia) to better coordinate EU and Member States activity in priority third countries that are major sources or transit countries for irregular migration. In addition, it will regularly report on achievements and set out the way forward.

With a view to increasing law enforcement cooperation between EU Member States and third countries and strengthening third countries' police and criminal justice responses to smuggling, at least one Joint Investigation Team (JIT) will be set up in third countries with the financial support of ISF-Police.

- *Effective return policies*

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<sup>2</sup> In Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Serbia, Sudan, Tunisia and Turkey.

*People who have no right to stay in Europe must be returned to their countries of origin. This is the only way Europe will be able to show solidarity with refugees in real need of protection.”*

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union Address, 13 September 2017

An effective and fair return policy is an essential part of the EU's approach to reducing the incentives for irregular migration.

The EU remains confronted with unsatisfactory return rates due to inefficient enforcement of existing instruments at EU and national level and a common readmission policy which does not fully deliver.

Whilst progress has been made in the implementation of existing readmission agreements the finalisation of other negotiations remains at a standstill. In 2018, DG HOME will continue leading negotiations of those **readmission agreements/SOP** launched in 2016. With third countries that do not want to engage in formal readmission agreements, DG HOME will seek to improve cooperation through practical arrangements on return and readmission (e.g. standard operating procedures - SOPs). Some such arrangements were finalised with Bangladesh, Guinea and Ethiopia in 2017 while others will be further negotiated with Ghana, the Gambia, and Ivory Coast in 2018.

DG HOME will continue focussing on the implementation of the **Return Directive** 2008/115/EC. It will report on progress and the performance of EU Member States and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCGA) in enforcing returns, in line with the Agency's broad mandate in relation to return.

As part of the **Schengen evaluation mechanism**, DG HOME will perform on-site visits to assess Member States' return practices, foster compliance with the relevant acquis, and achieve more effective return policies.

Finally, addressing pull factors for illegal immigration, DG HOME will produce a report on the implementation of the Employers' Sanctions Directive 2009/52/EC outlining how to step up the fight against employment of illegally resident third-country nationals. In addition, DG HOME will report on Member States' labour inspection efforts to prohibit the **employment of irregular migrants**.

**The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)** will continue supporting the implementation of the European agenda for migration. With respect to specific objective 1.1, actions will be supported to enhance fair and effective return strategies in the Member States with an emphasis on sustainability of return and effective readmission in the countries of origin and transit. In this respect it will support, inter alia, preparatory return operations, assisted voluntary return measures and assistance, forced removals, incentives for reintegration and targeted support to vulnerable persons.

Since AMIF is mainly implemented through shared management based on the National Programmes, DG HOME will continue carrying out with Member States the monitoring process with Member States to ensure the cost-effective implementation, relevance, added value and coherence of actions.

A share of AMIF funding will continue to be managed and monitored directly by DG HOME through Union Actions and emergency assistance. The respective Annual Work Programmes for 2018, serving also as financing decisions, will shape these measures' main priorities and modalities of implementation.

In 2018, DG HOME will also perform an interim evaluation of the implementation of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2014-2020. The lessons learned will contribute to improve the implementation of current EU financial instrument and they will help to shape future policies. The results will be put forward for the preparation of proposals for the next generation of programmes in the framework of the post-2020 Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF).

**General objective 1: Towards a new policy on migration****Specific objective 1.1. : Reduce incentives for irregular migration**

Related to spending programmes Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and Internal Security Fund – Police

**Main outputs in 2018:****All new initiatives and REFIT initiatives from the Commission Work Programme**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Proposal for a revision of the Immigration Liaison Officer Regulation <sup>3</sup> PLAN/2017/2186	Adoption of the proposal by the Commission	Q1 2018

**Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes<sup>4</sup>**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Support and monitoring actions provided to MS to implement the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF) Police	- Number of monitoring visits in MS - Number of events (Committees, informal workshops, conferences, etc) with MS to exchange best practices and ensure performance of implementation	- At least 1 visit to each MS - At least 5 events a year
Programming actions and financing decisions related to direct management of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF) Police – Union Actions and emergency assistance	Adoption of all relevant Annual Work Programmes 2018 under AMIF (Union Actions and emergency assistance) and under ISF Police	Adopted for the full coverage of the budget by Q1 2018
Contracts and grant agreements for Union Actions under AMIF and ISF Police	Completion of the legal commitments to implement actions of the 2017 Work Programmes under AMIF and ISF Police	100% of the available budget committed
Actions funded under emergency assistance AMIF (EMAS AMIF) to cover most pressing emergency needs	Level of actions supported by EMAS AMIF that cover the most pressing emergency needs	100% of actions funded to cover most pressing emergency needs based on the submitted applications
Interim evaluations of the implementation of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and of the Internal Security Fund 2014-2020 PLAN/2017/893 PLAN/2017/891	Staff working document published and Commission report adopted	Q2 2018

<sup>3</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 377/2004 of 19 February 2004

<sup>4</sup> For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the [Draft Budget for 2018](#).

Proposals for the next generation of programmes under MFF post-2020	Adoption of the proposals by the Commission	Q2 2018
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Report on the evaluation of the Immigration Liaison Officer Regulation 2016/HOME/068	Commission report adopted (and Staff working document published)	Q1 2018
Improved management and follow-up of cooperation with partner countries	Meetings organised by DG HOME	At least 1 meeting with each of the partner countries
Monitoring of - The implementation of Partnership Framework - The implementation of EU Action Plan on Migrant Smuggling - The performance of return systems across the EU (EU Member States and EBCGA) - Labour inspections (in line with Directive 2009/52/EC)	Number of inputs to regular progress reports on the European Agenda on Migration with a focus on - Partnership Framework - EU Action Plan on Migrant Smuggling - Returns and readmissions - Labour inspections	- At least 3 inputs on Partnership framework in 2018 - At least 2 inputs on migrant smuggling in 2018 - At least 3 inputs on returns and readmissions in 2018 -At least 1 input on labour inspections in 2018
Management of the Prague Process	Number of senior officials meetings organised by DG HOME	1
Support provided to the regional and African Union (AU)/African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) processes	EU Home Affairs priorities reflected in reports of the AU-EU Summit and ACP-EU dialogue on migration and development	Q1 2018
Support provided to the processes leading to the adoption of the UN Global Compacts on migration and on refugees	EU Home Affairs priorities reflected in meeting reports	Q4 2018
Operational deployment of EMLOs – support through training and monitoring	- Number of training sessions - Number of video conferences - Number of country reports produced by EMLOs	- One 3-day networking/training event Q1 2018 - 4 video conferences - 1 monthly report from each EMLO (12 reports per month)
Implementation of the EU Action Plan on Migrant Smuggling	- Number of expert meetings to implement different priority strands in the action plan - Number of cooperation platforms launched on migrant smuggling in third countries	- 5 by end of 2018  - At least 1
Continuation of negotiations opened in 2016 with a view to concluding readmission agreement	Number of countries with which negotiations are continued in 2018	3 countries
Continuation of dialogues to implement informal readmission arrangements	Number of countries with which dialogues are continued in 2018	6 countries

operational in 2017, and to establish new arrangements.		
Second report on implementation of the Return Directive 2008/115/EC	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2018
Schengen evaluations on return (in line with Regulation 1053/2013) More information on multi-purpose Schengen evaluations, is provided under Objective 1.2	Number of on-site visits	At least 5 Member States
Second report on implementation of the Employers' Sanctions Directive 2009/52/EC	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2018

## 1.2. *Effective border management: Save lives and secure EU external border*

Under this specific objective, DG HOME's intervention in 2018 will contribute to:

### ➤ *Strengthening the protection of the EU's external borders*

The Regulation on the **European Border and Coast Guard** (EBCG), which entered into force on 6 October 2016, was a further step towards a European integrated management of the external borders. In 2018, DG HOME will continue supporting, monitoring and reporting on the operationalisation of the EBCG with contributions to regular progress reports on the European Agenda on Migration.

In line with the mandates given by the Council, DG HOME will also negotiate and partially conclude status agreements with Western Balkans countries, with a view to deploying European Border Guard teams on the territory of these third countries.

DG HOME intends to conclude the negotiations for a **status agreement** with Serbia and with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia during the first half of 2018, and with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro during the second half of 2018. These agreements will allow for the deployment by EBCG Agency of European Border and Coast Guard teams with executive powers in the territory of these third countries.

DG HOME will continue supporting the **hotspot** approach in cooperation with the host Member States (Greece and Italy) relevant EU Agencies and Member State experts. It will coordinate activities, monitor the implementation of hotspots and report on progress, including with respect to the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement.

Using the **Schengen evaluation mechanism**<sup>5</sup>, DG HOME regularly evaluates how Member States apply the Schengen rules in a number of fields, namely management of the external border, return, common visa policy, the Schengen Information System and police cooperation. The **Schengen evaluation mechanism** thus serves multiple specific objectives, in particular specific objectives 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 and 2.2. Schengen evaluations are key instruments to assess Member States' compliance with the relevant acquis, common standards and basic principles and norms. To organise the evaluations, the Commission establishes multi-annual and annual programmes. In the fourth quarter of 2017, the Commission will adopt:

- A programme for announced visits to at least 5 Member States in 2018, to carry out evaluations in the above-mentioned fields
- A programme for carrying out unannounced visits in 2018 to at least 6 Member States and third countries in a number of the above-mentioned fields

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<sup>5</sup> Regulation (1053/2013)



DG HOME will also follow up on the vulnerability assessments carried out by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and in particular the link these have with the Schengen evaluations.

Building on the overall evaluation of the **European border surveillance system** (EUROSUR) the conclusions of which will be published in early 2018, the Commission will put forward a legislative proposal amending the European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR) Regulation. The aim will be to improve the operation and expand the scope of EUROSUR so that it will become the "backbone" of European Integrated Border Management (IBM).

**Travel document security** remains a crucial factor in better border protection and migration management. The Action Plan to strengthen the European response to travel document fraud<sup>6</sup>, which was adopted in 2016, requires the Commission to report on its implementation. DG HOME will produce the report by the end of the first quarter of 2018.

In early 2018 a Communication on the need to revise the **Advance Passenger Information** (API) Directive 2004/82 will be presented. Depending on the results of a study on interactive API, which is planned to be finished by mid-2018, the Commission might table a legislative proposal revising the legal framework for API in 2018/2019.

In 2018, DG HOME will continue editing weekly, restricted **ISAA reports** on the migration and refugee crisis.

➤ *Using IT systems and technologies for Smart Borders to better ensure internal security and facilitate the border crossing of bona fide travellers*

In December 2016, the Commission presented a set of three legislative proposals to enhance the use of the **Schengen Information System** (SIS) following a comprehensive evaluation carried out in 2016. The proposals are in the legislative process with the European Parliament and the Council and DG HOME will continue being involved in inter-institutional negotiation leading to the adoption of these proposals by co-legislators, scheduled to take place in early 2018.

The Commission's High Level Expert Group on Information Systems and **Interoperability** (HLEG) started its work in June 2016. Its mandate was to examine how to maximise the benefits of existing information systems, to address the gaps in the current information systems landscape and to develop an interoperability vision for the next decade that reconciles process requirements with data protection safeguards. Building on the Group's findings, which were presented in May 2017, the Commission adopted a proposal (including an impact assessment) of a Regulation on interoperability of information systems in the field of migration and security in December 2017. It will be negotiated in the Council and the European Parliament in the course of 2018.

The **Internal Security Fund** (ISF) – **borders and visa** will continue supporting actions to ensure an integrated and further harmonised border management system with protection and control measures. In this respect, it will support inter alia the setting up and maintenance of IT systems for the efficient management of migration flows, cooperation actions, training and secondment of staff, reaction capabilities and other equipment.

Since ISF is mainly implemented through shared management based on the National Programmes, DG HOME will continue carrying out with Member States the monitoring process to ensure the cost-effective implementation, relevance, added value and coherence of actions.

A share of the funding will continue to be managed directly by DG HOME through Union Actions and emergency assistance. The respective Annual Work Programmes for 2018 will shape their main priorities and modalities of implementation.

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<sup>6</sup> COM(2016)790 of 8.12.2016

In 2018, DG HOME will also perform an interim evaluation of the implementation of the Internal Security Fund 2014-2020. The lessons learned will contribute to improving the implementation of current EU financial instrument. They will also help to shape future policies. The results will be put forward for the preparation of a proposal for the next generation of programmes in the framework of the post-2020 Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF).

'Secure Societies' Programme under Horizon 2020 will also continue supporting actions to develop technologies, tools and methodologies which contribute to securing EU external borders.

<b>General objective 1. : Towards a new policy on migration</b>		
<b>Specific objective 1.2. : Border management: Save lives and secure EU external border</b>		Related to spending programme ISF Borders and Visa, Horizon 2020
<b>Main outputs in 2018:</b>		
<b>All new initiatives and REFIT initiatives from the Commission Work Programme</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Support to interinstitutional negotiation on the revision of the interoperability proposal aimed at coming to political agreement between co-legislators.	Number of meetings prepared, attended and followed up by DG HOME	At least 10
<b>Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes<sup>7</sup></b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Horizon 2020 Secure Societies Work Programme: Launch of projects	Number of topics	5
	Signature of the Grant Agreements	Q2 2018
	Total amount of EU contribution	EUR 37 million
Support and monitoring actions provided to MS to implement the Internal Security Fund (ISF) – borders and visa	Number of monitoring visits in MS Number of events (Committees, informal workshops, conferences, etc) with MS to exchange best practice and ensure performance of implementation	At least 1 At least 5 events
Financing decisions 2018 under direct management	Adoption of all relevant Annual Work Programmes 2018 under ISF Borders and Visa (Union Actions and emergency assistance)	Adopted for the full coverage of direct management budget by Q1 2018

<sup>7</sup> For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the *Draft Budget for 2018*.

Contracts and grant agreements under direct management	Completion of the legal commitments to implement actions of the 2017 Work Programmes for ISF Borders and Visa	100% of the available appropriations
Actions funded under emergency assistance (EMAS) for ISF Borders covering most pressing emergency needs	Level of actions funded under EMAS ISF Borders that cover the most pressing emergency needs	100% of actions funded covering most pressing emergency needs based on the submitted applications
Evaluation of Schengen Facility for Croatia PLAN/2017/2172	Staff working document published and Commission report adopted	Q4 2018
Interim evaluation of the implementation of the Internal Security Fund 2014-2020 PLAN/2017/891	Staff working document published and Commission report adopted	Q2 2018
Proposal for the next generation of programmes under MFF post-2020	Adoption of the proposals by the Commission	Q2 2018

#### Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Support to inter-institutional negotiation of revised proposal for Regulations on the establishment, operation and use of the Schengen Information System in the fields of police cooperation, and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, border checks and the return of illegally staying third-country nationals.	Number of meetings prepared, attended and followed up by DG HOME	At least 10
Overall evaluation of the European border surveillance system (EUROSUR) 2016/HOME/1791	Publication of the evaluation report	Q1 2018
Legislative proposal amending the European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR) Regulation PLAN/2017/1791	Adoption of the proposal by the Commission	Q2/2018
Monitoring of the operationalisation of the European Border and Coast Guard	Number of inputs to the regular progress reports on the European Agenda on migration	At least 3
Conclusion of status agreements with 5 Western Balkan Countries	Conclusion of status agreements with Serbia and FYROM	Q2/2018
	Conclusion of status agreements with Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro	Q3-Q4 2018
Strengthening and further developing the Commission coordination and facilitation role	- Number of meetings of the EU Regional Task Force involving EU Agencies chaired by DG HOME	- Weekly (IT) Bi-monthly (EL)

in hotspot areas, in close cooperation with EU agencies and taking into account the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) regulation	- Participation, where relevant, in coordination mechanisms between EU agencies, national authorities and other stakeholders (e.g. UNHCR, IOM, NGOs) at central or local hotspot levels	- 100% participation, where relevant
Regular monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the hotspot approach and migration management support	- Release of daily reports  - Contributions to reports or ad hoc publications - Number of inputs on the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement included in the regular progress reports on the European Agenda on Migration	- Daily reports (IT) Contributions to daily reports (EL) - At least 4  - At least 3
Commission Implementing Decision establishing the 2018 programmes for Schengen evaluations (announced and unannounced visits). PLAN/2017/1922 PLAN/2017/1923	Adoption by the Commission	2018
Schengen evaluation reports (Commission Implementing Decisions) and proposals for recommendations (Commission proposal for a Council Implementing Decision) concerning announced and unannounced on-site visits to Member States	Number of reports and number of proposals for recommendations adopted by the Commission	At least 25 reports and 25 recommendations
Horizontal report on the Schengen evaluation mechanism	Adoption of the report	Q3 2018
Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and Council on the implementation of the 'Action Plan to strengthen the European response to travel document fraud'.	Adoption of report	Q3 2018
Commission Communication analysing the need to revise the Advance Passenger Information (API) Directive PLAN/2017/0021	Adoption by the Commission	Q1 2018
- Integrated Situational Awareness and Analysis reports in the framework of the European Union Integrated Political Crisis Response arrangements	Reports transmitted to the Council	Weekly reports (due every Tuesday)

### 1.3. Enhanced protection and solidarity

*Europe is and must remain the continent of solidarity where those fleeing persecution can find refuge.*

Under this specific objective, efforts will continue to guarantee equal treatment of asylum seekers across

➤ *Strengthening the Common European Asylum System*

In 2016, the Commission presented key proposals to reform the **Common European Asylum System** (CEAS), including the Dublin system. All the proposals (Dublin system, Eurodac, EASO, Asylum procedures, Qualification, Reception Conditions and Resettlement) are in the legislative process involving the European Parliament and the Council. Their adoption is essential to ensure a fair sharing of responsibilities between Member States and establish a common procedure for international protection as well as uniform standards for the rights granted to refugees. To this end, the Commission urged Member States, in December 2017, to intensify their work and proposed a roadmap<sup>8</sup> for the adoption of EU-Asylum Agency and Eurodac proposals by March 2018 and to reach political agreement on the overall reform of the Common European Asylum System, in the June 2018 European Council. In 2018, DG HOME will continue to pro-actively facilitate discussions among Member States with a view to reaching a common position in the Council on the remaining files (Dublin and Asylum Procedures Regulation). DG HOME will also further support the inter-institutional negotiations leading to the adoption by co-legislators of all proposals in the course of 2018.

In parallel, DG HOME will continue monitoring the infringement cases that have been initiated since 2013 in relation to the transposition and implementation of the current CEAS rules. DG HOME will also continue working with EASO to support Member States under pressure while facilitating and strengthening practical cooperation among Member States.

➤ *A structured EU system on resettlement*

Pending the adoption of a permanent EU Resettlement Framework as part of the reform of the CEAS, the Commission presented an ambitious **resettlement** plan in September 2017. The plan proposed at least 50 000 resettlement places for particularly vulnerable persons in need of international protection, who would be admitted by EU Member States by May 2019. The latter have been invited to pledge these resettlement places by February 2018.<sup>9</sup> DG HOME will monitor the implementation of the scheme and report on its achievements in the regular progress reports on the implementation of the European Agenda on Migration.

The **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund** (AMIF) will continue supporting actions to implement, strengthen and develop the common policy on asylum. In this respect, it will support, inter alia, capacity-building measures in Member States, reception conditions for asylum seekers, support services, relocation and resettlement operations, and the Humanitarian Legal Admission from Turkey.

The operation of this multi-purpose Fund is presented under specific objective 1.1.

**General objective 1. : Towards a new policy on migration**

**Specific objective 1.3. : Enhanced protection and solidarity**

Related to spending programme Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

**Main outputs in 2018:**

<sup>8</sup> COM(2017) 820 final

<sup>9</sup> COM(2017) 8020 final

Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes <sup>10</sup>		
Output	Indicator	Target
AMIF outputs, indicators and targets have been specified under specific objective 1.1		
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Support to inter-institutional negotiation of the proposals for the CEAS reform with a view to the adoption of the EU-Asylum Agency and Eurodac proposals by March 2018 and the reaching of a political agreement on the overall reform of the Common European Asylum System in June 2018.	Number of meetings prepared, attended and followed up by DG HOME	At least 10
Implementation of the Council Decisions on relocation and recommendation on resettlement- Regular monitoring and reporting	Number of inputs on relocation and resettlement included in regular progress reports on the European Agenda on Migration.	At least 3 on relocation and 3 on resettlement
Monitoring infringement cases initiated since 2013 in relation to the transposition and implementation of the current CEAS rules (Dublin, Eurodac, EASO, Asylum Procedures, Qualification, Reception Conditions)	Number of monitored infringement cases in relation to failure to communicate measures for the transposition of one of the CEAS Directives (non-coms)	At least 50 non-com cases.
	Number of monitored infringement cases in relation to systematic breach of the current CEAS rules.	At least 12 cases
Monitoring EASO activities to ensure that continued operational support is provided to Member States subject to particular pressure while facilitating and strengthening practical cooperation among Member States.	Number of support measures implemented in accordance with Operational Plans and Special Support Plans according to EASO reporting to the Management Board.	At least 50 % of proposed measures.

#### 1.4. A new policy on legal migration to address skill shortages in the EU and enhance effective integration

Under this specific objective, DG HOME's intervention in 2018 will contribute to:

- *Well-managed legal migration and visa policy*

<sup>10</sup> For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the *Draft Budget for 2018*.

*"Legal migration is a necessity for Europe as an ageing continent. This is why the Commission made proposals to make it easier for skilled migrants to reach Europe with a Blue Card."*

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker,  
State of the Union Address, 13 September 2017

The EU faces significant labour shortages in certain sectors, which have the potential to limit growth and competitiveness – a challenge that will become more and more pressing due to Europe's ageing demographic profile. This is why, in June 2016, the Commission proposed a **new EU Blue Card** to improve the EU's ability to attract and retain highly skilled workers.

The new Blue Card will make it easier and more attractive for highly skilled workers to come to the EU, strengthen the rights of workers and their families, and provide for more flexible rules so that Member States can attract the workforce they need, when they need it.

An evaluation of the **legal migration acquis** will identify gaps, problems and inconsistencies and consider possible ways of simplifying and streamlining the legal migration framework. The results of this fitness check will be known at the beginning of 2018. On the basis of these results, a Staff Working Document will be prepared and should be published in the second semester 2018.

Based on consultations of Member States and the European Parliament and other stakeholders, the Commission will present its ideas on how the common **visa policy** should be brought up to speed with the changed migration and security developments as well as with the new future border management systems (EES and ETIAS) and IT developments (digitisation of visa procedures). A modernised visa policy will contribute to better migration management, strengthen security, and improve control of external borders. The objective is also to better use visa policy in the EU's cooperation with third countries, and to ensure a better balance between migration and security concerns, economic considerations and general external relations.

Based on consultations with Member States and the European Parliament and other stakeholders, the Commission will come forward, in early 2018, with a proposal (including a limited impact assessment) for a Council Regulation amending the **Visa Code**. The aim is to enhance harmonisation of visa-issuing practices between Member States and link visa facilitation more closely to third countries' level of cooperation on readmission.

Furthermore, in May 2018, the Commission will propose to revise the legal framework of the **Visa Information System (VIS)**. This proposal will build on an evaluation of VIS that was carried out in 2016, several studies and public consultations that will deliver their conclusions by early 2018 and an impact assessment that will be completed in the second quarter of 2018.

Negotiations on visa facilitation will continue with Belarus, Tunisia and China and may be relaunched with Morocco.

As part of the **Schengen evaluation mechanism**, DG HOME will perform on-site visits to assess Member States' practices and foster compliance with the relevant acquis regarding the common visa policy.

#### ➤ *Effective integration*

In the field of integration, DG HOME will continue organising mutual learning activities for Member States:

- in the context of the **European Integration Network**, two study visits are planned in 2018: one in Portugal (May/June) and one in Norway (Autumn 2018). In addition, a learning session of two days will be organised for local and regional politicians/officials on the topic of immigration
- Circular migration is one of the topics that will be addressed at the third edition of the **European Dialogue on Skills and Migration**, the annual discussion forum between the Commission and social and economic partners
- On 6 and 7 March 2018, the **European Migration Forum** will bring together 200 representatives from NGOs to discuss integration in the labour market and the future Multi-Annual Financial Framework

DG HOME will also prepare a report on the implementation of the Action Plan on integration, 2 years after its adoption.

Within the framework of the **European semester**, DG HOME will provide further analytical input and policy suggestions regarding the integration of third-country nationals for the Member States where this issue is relevant.

➤ *Maximising the development benefits for countries of origin*

*We must show solidarity with Africa.  
We will work on opening up legal pathways.*  
European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union Address, 13 September 2017

In 2018, DG HOME will continue promoting a comprehensive approach on migration and mobility with third countries in line with the Partnership Framework. In particular, through the **Mobility Partnership Facility (MPF)**, DG HOME will provide strategic guidance.

As announced in the Communication on the delivery of the European Agenda on Migration adopted in September 2017, the Commission will coordinate and support pilot projects between third countries and Member States through which Member States will commit to receiving a number of migrants coming through legal migration channels, in particular for economic purposes. In line with the December 2017 migration roadmap<sup>11</sup>, the first pilot projects will be launched in May 2018.

The Commission will also provide support to EU Member States for practical actions on asylum (e.g. updates to the legislative framework, exchange of experience), and irregular migration (e.g. actions to build border management capacity) – supporting the implementation of the Mobility Partnerships (MPs) and the Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMMs). The MPF can benefit only those areas that receive no financial support from the EU Trust Funds or other EU instruments such as the European Neighbourhood Facility, Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) and Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection managed by DG ECHO.

Furthermore, DG HOME will continue informing migrants and asylum seekers about the main rules and procedures on asylum and migration in the EU, as described in more detail in the section on external communication.

The **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)** will continue supporting actions to develop legal migration to the Member States in accordance with their economic and social needs, and to promote the effective integration of third-country nationals. In this respect, it will support inter alia integration actions involving regional and local actors, education and training, including language classes, civic orientation courses, cooperation with third countries, capacity-building actions and other self-empowerment initiatives to enable third-country nationals to provide for themselves.

The operation of this multi-purpose Fund is presented under specific objective 1.1.

<b>General objective 1.: Towards a new policy on migration</b>		
<b>Specific objective 1.4. : A new policy on legal migration and integration</b>		Related to spending programme Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
<b>Main outputs in 2018:</b>		
<b>All new initiatives and REFIT initiatives from the Commission Work Programme</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Inputs to progress reports on European Agenda on	Number of inputs to the progress reports	At least 3 in 2018

<sup>11</sup> COM(2017) 820 final



Migration relating to achievements and the way forward under this specific objective		
Staff Working Document (SWD) on legal migration fitness check 2015/HOME/235	Publication of the SWD	Q3 2018
Modernisation of the common visa policy 2017/HOME/2045	Adoption of Communication	Q1 2018
Proposal (incl. impact assessment) for a Council Regulation amending the Visa Code 2017/HOME2083	Adoption of the proposal	Q1 2018
Proposal (incl. impact assessment) to amend Regulation 767/2008 concerning the Visa Information System (VIS) and the exchange of data between Member States on short-stay visas and Regulation 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on visas (the Visa Code) on VIS related aspects 2017/HOME/208	Adoption of the Proposal	Q2 2018
<b>Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes<sup>12</sup></b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
AMIF outputs, indicators and targets have been specified under specific objective 1.1		
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Commission Proposals for Council Decisions on the signing and conclusion of the amended visa waiver agreements with Brazil 2016/HOME/041	Adoption of the proposals by the Commission	Q2 2018
Commission proposals for Council Decisions on the signing and conclusion of the agreement on the facilitation of the issuance of visas between the European Union and Belarus PLAN/2017/2096 and PLAN/2017/2095	Adoption of the proposals by the Commission	Q2 2018
Commission proposals for Council decisions on the signing and conclusion of the	Number of negotiation rounds	At least one in 2018

<sup>12</sup> For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the *Draft Budget for 2018*.

agreement on the facilitation of the issuance of visas between the European Union and China 2016/HOME/195		
Schengen evaluations on the common visa policy More information on multi-purpose Schengen evaluations, is provided under Objective 1.2	Number of on-site visits	At least 5 Member States
Support to interinstitutional negotiation on the revision of the Blue Card directive which could lead to a political agreement between co-legislators	Number of meetings prepared, attended and followed up by DG HOME	At least 10
Report on the implementation of the Action Plan on integration (integrated into regular report on the implementation of the European Agenda on migration)	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2018
Under the European Integration Network, mutual learning activities for Member States in order to share experience and exchange best practices relating to integration	Number of study visits Number of workshops	At least 2 study visits by end 2018 and one 2-day training session organized by end 2018
Third European dialogue on skills and migration	Organisation of the third European dialogue on skills and migration	Second half of 2018
European Migration Forum with the participation of 200 representatives from NGOs to discuss asylum, migration and integration-related issues	Organisation of the event	6 and 7 March 2018
Implementation of pilot projects on labour migration	Number of pilots projects	At least 3

## 2. *An area of justice and fundamental rights based on mutual trust*

### 2.1. *A strong EU response to tackling terrorism and preventing radicalisation*

*The European Union must be stronger in fighting terrorism*

European Commission  
President Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union Address, 13 September 2017

In October 2017, DG HOME presented a **Counter-Terrorism Package**, comprising a set of operational and practical measures to better defend EU citizens against terrorist threats and deliver a Europe that protects. The measures will support Member States in **protecting public spaces** and help deprive terrorists of the means to act. DG HOME will work throughout 2018 on the implementation of the Package.

In 2018, DG HOME will continue reporting at regular intervals on progress towards an effective and genuine Security Union. These progress reports will include sections on the main achievements in tackling terrorism and preventing radicalisation.

The prevention of **radicalisation** will remain at the core of the EU's counter terrorism policies. With its Communication adopted in June 2016, the Commission has taken a holistic approach to address this phenomenon, outlining actions in seven areas where cooperation at EU level can support Member States in preventing and countering radicalisation. In 2018, the Commission will further support prevention and counter-

radicalisation at EU, national and local level, notably through the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) working with local practitioners at community level. To **counter radicalisation online**, the Commission will continue working with internet platforms to address terrorists' exploitation of the internet and protect online users as part of the EU Internet Forum. This work strand will continue feeding into the wider Commission work to strengthen its response to illegal content online. On 27 July 2017, the Commission set up a High-Level Expert Group on Radicalisation (HLCEG-R), which involves the main stakeholders at European and national level. Building on actions taken in 2017 (e.g. the Radicalisation Awareness Network Centre of Excellence and the EU Internet Forum), the Commission will further support prevention and counter-radicalisation at national and local level, taking into account the recommendations formulated by the HLCEG-R, and through the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) working with local practitioners at community level. This may include further work on creating the appropriate structures for the prevention of radicalisation.

Cutting off sources of terrorist financing will remain a priority in 2018. The 2016 Action Plan on terrorist financing announced an analysis of the need for possible additional measures to track terrorism-related transactions – notably intra-EU payments in euro – that may not be possible to track otherwise. In October 2017, the Commission presented an update on its analysis and announced that stakeholder consultations would continue to examine the necessity, technical feasibility and proportionality of possible new measures. Depending on the outcome of the ongoing discussions between the co-legislators on the Commission proposal for a Directive on countering money laundering by criminal law, DG HOME will also assess when to present a proposal for a Council Decision on the Conclusion of the Council of Europe Convention no. 198 on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism, that the EU has signed on 2 April 2009.

Work will also continue in 2018 to restrict access to dangerous substances that can be used as **explosives** by terrorist networks. In 2017, the Commission issued a report on the application of the Regulation (EU) 98/2013 on the marketing and use of explosives precursors. It identified both good progress and a number of remaining challenges linked to the evolving terrorist threat in the EU and in particular the continuous evolution of the threat posed by home-made explosives. On 18 October 2017, the Commission issued a Recommendation on immediate steps to prevent misuse of explosives precursors<sup>13</sup>. The Commission has also launched an evaluation in parallel with an impact assessment in order to examine ways to clarify the obligations imposed on the chemical supply chain and to increase the level of security in Europe against explosives precursors and home-made explosives. DG HOME is working towards a proposal for revising the Regulation by April 2018.

The 9th Security Union progress report that was adopted on 26 July 2017 presented the results of a comprehensive assessment of the EU's security policy from 11/09/2001 to 30/06/2017. The assessment concluded that the current Directive<sup>14</sup> on the identification of **European critical infrastructures** and the assessment of the need to improve their **protection** is a useful but insufficient tool and that there may be scope for new initiatives. DG HOME will, inter alia, support the work on further measures to improve passenger railway security.

Building on the findings of the High Level Expert Group on Information Systems and **Interoperability** (HLEG), the Commission adopted a proposal (including an impact assessment) of a Regulation on interoperability of information systems in the field of migration (see specific objective 1.2) and security in December 2017. It will be negotiated in the Council and the European Parliament in the course of 2018. In parallel, DG HOME will continue to work on maximising the benefits of existing information systems.

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<sup>13</sup> C(2017) 6950 final.

<sup>14</sup> 2008/114/EC of 8 December 2008.

The exchange of **Passenger Name Record** (PNR) data among law enforcement authorities remains crucial, not only within the EU, but also with recognised international partners, to fight terrorism and organised crime. On 26 July 2017, the European Court of Justice issued an opinion on the envisaged EU Canada PNR Agreement with EU Law, observing that the agreement could not be concluded in its proposed form because several of its provisions were incompatible with the fundamental rights recognised by the EU, in particular the right to data protection and respect for private life. On 7 December 2017, the Justice and Home Affairs Council gave mandate to the Commission to negotiate a new agreement with Canada, in line with the requirements formulated by the Court. Negotiations will start in 2018 as soon as Canada has its own mandate.

The Court's Opinion has no direct implications on Member States' obligation to implement Directive (EU) 2016/681 on the use of PNR data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime by 25 May 2018. DG HOME will continue to support Member States in the implementation of Directive 2016/681.

DG HOME will continue contributing to a study<sup>15</sup> coordinated by DG JUST on EU policy options to improve the security of EU citizens' ID cards and the residence documents of EU citizens residing in another Member States and of their non-EU family members. In addition to improving the overall security of documents in the EU (including their issuing procedures), this study is crucial to limit the risk of fraud and forgeries and to facilitate free movement. Policy options span from soft law measures, to improving the security features in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards (machine readable and/or biometric features),

The **Internal Security Fund** (ISF) – Police will continue supporting actions to prevent and fight terrorism and radicalisation to ensure a high level of security in the Union. In this respect, it will support inter alia cooperation and coordination actions between security and law enforcement authorities and services, prevention activities, IT systems and other forms of information exchange, training schemes, equipment, sharing of best practices and development of risk assessments.

Since ISF is mainly implemented through shared management based on the National Programmes, DG HOME will continue carrying out the monitoring process with Member States to ensure the cost-effective implementation, relevance, added value and coherence of actions.

A share of the funding will continue to be managed directly by DG HOME through Union Actions and emergency assistance. The Annual Work Programme for 2018 will shape their main priorities and modalities of implementation.

In 2018, DG HOME will also perform an interim evaluation of the implementation of the Internal Security Fund 2014-2020. The lessons learned will contribute to improving the implementation of current EU financial instrument. They will also help to shape future policies. The results will be put forward for the preparation of a proposal for the next generation of programmes in the framework of the post-2020 Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF).

'Secure Societies' Programme under Horizon 2020 will also continue supporting actions to develop technologies, tools and methodologies that contribute to the fight against terrorism.

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<sup>15</sup> CSES: 'EU policy initiatives on residence and identity documents to facilitate the exercise of the right of free movement', August 2017.

**General objective 2. : An area of justice and fundamental rights based on mutual trust**

**Specific objective 2.1.: A strong EU response to tackling terrorism and preventing radicalisation**

Related to spending programme Internal Security Fund and Horizon 2020

**Main outputs in 2018:**

**All new initiatives and REFIT initiatives from the Commission Work Programme**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Inputs to progress reports on Security Union relating to achievements in tackling terrorism, preventing radicalisation, disrupting organised crime and fighting cybercrime.	Number of inputs to the progress reports	9 in 2018
Proposal for a revision of the Regulation (EU) 98/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the marketing and use of explosives precursors 2016/HOME/505	Adoption of the proposal by the Commission	Q2 2018
Support to interinstitutional negotiations on the revision of the interoperability proposal aimed at coming to political agreement between co-legislators	Number of meetings prepared, attended and followed up by DG HOME	At least 10

**Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes<sup>16</sup>**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Horizon 2020 Secure Societies Work Programme: - launch of projects	Number of topics  Signature of the Grant Agreements  Total amount of EU contribution	4  By end March 2018  EUR 22 million
Support and monitoring actions provided to MS to implement the Internal Security Fund (ISF) – police	- Number of monitoring visits in MS  - Number of events (Committees, informal workshops, conferences...) with MS to exchange best practices and ensure performance of implementation	- At least 1 monitoring visit to each MS - At least 5 events
Financing decisions 2018 under direct management	Adoption of all relevant Annual Work Programmes 2018 under ISF – Police (Union Actions and Emergency	Adopted for the full coverage of direct

<sup>16</sup> For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the *Draft Budget for 2018*.

	Assistance)	management budget by Q1 2018
Contracts and grant agreements under direct management	Completion of the legal commitments to implement actions of the 2017 Work Programmes for ISF Police	100% of available appropriations
Interim evaluation of the implementation of the Internal Security Fund 2014-2020 PLAN/2017/891	Staff working document published and Commission report adopted	Q2 2018
Proposal for the next generation of programmes under MFF post-2020	Adoption of the proposal by the Commission	Q2 2018
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Proposal for a Council Decision authorising the Member States to become party, in the interests of the European Union, to the Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security, and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (CETS No. 218) PLAN/2017/1938	Adoption of the proposal by the Commission	Q1 2018
Support to the implementation of the action plan on protecting public spaces	Number of projects supporting the protection of public spaces  Number of tools (e.g. guidance materials) to support the protection of public spaces	3  3
Communication - Updating the global approach to transfers of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data to third countries (2016/HOME/059)	Adoption of the Communication	Q3 2018 TBC
Agreement between the EU and Canada on the processing and transfer of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data by air carriers	Adoption of the proposal for the signature of the Agreement  Adoption of the proposal for the conclusion of the Agreement	Q3 2018  Q4 2018
Agreement between the EU and Mexico on the processing and transfer of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data by air carriers – (2015/HOME/235 2015/HOME/236)	Adoption of the proposal for the signature of the Agreement (2015/HOME/236)  Adoption of the proposal for the conclusion of the Agreement (2015/HOME/235)	Q3 2018

## 2.2. *Disrupt organised crime*

In 2018, DG HOME will maintain its focus on preventing money laundering, combatting corruption and fighting against trafficking in human beings, in line with the priorities highlighted in the European Agenda on Security. DG HOME will continue reporting on the main achievements in disrupting organised crime in the regular progress reports on the Security Union.

DG HOME is planning to adopt a proposal for a common EU position on the scheduling of new psychoactive substances under the applicable UN Conventions for the 61<sup>st</sup> session of Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Such a common EU position is important as changes to the schedules of the UN Conventions have direct repercussions for the scope of application of Union law in the area of drug control for all Member States (see Article 1 of Council Framework Decision 2004/757/JHA). In addition, the Commission will continue to schedule the most dangerous new psychoactive substances under the EU framework based on a risk assessment prepared by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

Efforts will also concentrate on improving the sharing of information between law enforcement authorities and other competent authorities and services.

Providing law enforcement with the information they need to carry out investigations is critical for disrupting serious and organised cross-border crime. Centralised registries at national level provide all national bank accounts listed to one person. The proposal, to be adopted in April 2018 as part of the Security Package, for a **Directive on broadening law enforcement access to centralised bank account registers and electronic data retrieval systems** to other authorities than the Financial Intelligence Units and the authorities in charge of preventing **money laundering and terrorist financing** will help to improve the exchange of information, particularly relevant in serious and organised crime cases, and will also allow authorities to more easily share such information with their counterparts in other Member States.

A comprehensive evaluation of the use of the **Schengen Information System (SIS)** was carried out in 2016 to examine how the system could be strengthened in the fields of police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters besides those mentioned above (border checks and the return of illegally staying third-country nationals). To this end, in December 2016, the Commission presented a set of three legislative proposals. In 2018, DG HOME will remain involved in inter-institutional negotiation until the proposals' adoption by the co-legislators, scheduled to take place in early 2018.

The exchange of **Passenger Name Record** data among law enforcement authorities is crucial to fight not only against terrorism (see section 2.1. above), but also against organised crime. As explained above, it will be necessary to renegotiate the EU-Canada agreement given the European Court of Justice's opinion on the envisaged PNR Agreement with Canada.

In order to strengthen **Europol's** role in fighting against cross-border crime, DG HOME will prepare negotiating directives to be proposed to the Council to allow the Commission to negotiate agreements between the European Union and a number of countries to establish their cooperation with Europol. DG HOME will also support the work on technical solutions to improve the sharing of information with Europol.

As part of the **Schengen evaluation mechanism**, DG HOME will perform on-site visits to Member States aiming, among other issues, to assess how they conduct cross-border police cooperation and use the related instruments, in particular joint patrols, hot pursuits and cross-border surveillance. As set out in the Twelfth progress report towards an effective and genuine Security Union, DG HOME will elaborate a set of best practices and lessons learned from the Schengen evaluation mechanism that provide added value across Member States to improve the application of existing information systems. Moreover, in order to enhance security within the Schengen area, DG HOME will support Member States in the implementation of the Commission Recommendation on proportionate police checks and police cooperation in the Schengen area.

Preventing diversion from the legal trade to the black market remains a priority in international trade, and legislation needs to be adapted to current threats (for instance

the increasing use of deactivated firearms). DG HOME will collect evidence on the possible options for the review of Regulation 258/2012 on import, export and transit authorisations of **firearms** and their respective impacts. The purpose of this study is to provide the Commission with a cost-benefit assessment of various policy options to improve the implementation of Article 10 of the United Nations Firearms Protocol in relation to export authorisations and import and transit measures for firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. In parallel, DG HOME will work to enhance the effective application of Regulation 258/2012.

In 2018, DG HOME will contribute to a third report on the implementation of the Council Framework Decision on combating **corruption** in the private sector<sup>17</sup>. Two implementation reports were already published in 2007<sup>18</sup> and 2011<sup>19</sup>. The third implementation report will summarise the data received from Member States in 2016. In addition, DG HOME will continue contributing to the European Semester chapters on fighting corruption. Furthermore, it will organise four workshops as part of the experience-sharing programme that was launched by the Commission in 2015 to support Member States, local NGOs and other stakeholders in addressing specific challenges identified in the EU Anti-Corruption Report<sup>20</sup>.

Efforts to address **trafficking in human beings** will continue in 2018. The key outputs to be delivered by DG HOME are covered in the 2017 Communication "Reporting on the follow-up to the EU Strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings and identifying further concrete actions"<sup>21</sup>. They will include statistics on the scale of the offence in the EU (including victims, traffickers, investigations and convictions), as well as awareness raising and networking activities (e.g. meetings of the EU Civil Society Platform against trafficking in human beings consisting of 100 NGOs and of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms).

Furthermore, the Commission will issue a second report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings, including on the implementation of the Directive 2004/81.

The **Internal Security Fund** (ISF) – police will continue supporting actions to prevent and fight organised crime with a view to ensuring a high level of security in the Union. In this respect, it will support inter alia cooperation and coordination actions between security and law enforcement authorities and services, prevention activities, IT systems and other forms of exchange of information, training schemes, equipment, sharing of best practices and development of risk assessments.

The operation of this multi-purpose Fund is presented under specific objective 2.1.

**General objective 2.: An area of justice and fundamental rights based on mutual trust**

<b>Specific objective 2.2.: Disrupt organised crime</b>	Related to spending programme Internal Security Fund and Horizon 2020
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**Main outputs in 2018:**

**All new initiatives and REFIT initiatives from the Commission Work Programme**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Inputs to progress reports on Security Union relating to	Number of inputs to the progress reports	9

<sup>17</sup> 2003/568/JHA of 22 July 2003.  
<sup>18</sup> (COM (2007) 328 final  
<sup>19</sup> (COM(2011) 309 final.  
<sup>20</sup> (COM(2014) 38 final.  
<sup>21</sup> COM(2017) 728 final



achievements in disrupting organised crime and the way forward		
<b>Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes<sup>22</sup></b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Horizon 2020 Secure Societies Work Programme: - launch of projects	Number of topics  Signature of the Grant Agreements  Total amount of EU contribution	4  By end March 2018  EUR 22 million
Outputs, indicators and targets relating to Internal Security Fund (ISF) – police have been specified under specific objective 2.1		
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Proposal for a Directive on law enforcement access to centralised bank account registries and electronic data retrieval systems PLAN/2017/760	Adoption of the proposal	April 2018
Support to inter-institutional negotiation on proposal for Regulations on the establishment, operation and use of the Schengen Information System in the fields of police cooperation, and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, border checks and the return of illegally staying third-country nationals.	Number of meetings prepared, attended and followed up by DG HOME	At least 10
Communication - Updating the global approach to transfers of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data to third countries (2016/HOME/059)	Adoption of the Communication	Q3 2018 TBC
Agreement between the EU and Canada on the processing and transfer of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data by air carriers	Adoption of the proposal for the signature of the Agreement	Q3 2018
	Adoption of the proposal for the conclusion of the Agreement	Q4 2018
Agreement between the EU and Mexico on the processing and transfer of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data by air carriers (2015/HOME/235 2015/HOME/236)	Adoption of the proposal for the signature of the Agreement (2015/HOME/236)	Q3 2018
	Adoption of the proposal for the conclusion of the Agreement (2015/HOME/235)	
8 agreements between the EU and	Adoption of the proposal for	TBC Q4

<sup>22</sup> For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the *Draft Budget for 2018*.

respectively Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey on cooperation with the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) PLAN/2017/???	the signature of the agreements	
Schengen evaluations on police cooperation - Visits to Member States More information on multi-purpose Schengen evaluations, is provided under Objective 1.2	Number of visits to Member States	5
Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the 61 <sup>st</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the scheduling of substances in March 2018 (PLAN/2017/1943)	Adoption of the proposal and subsequent adoption by the Council ahead of the 61 <sup>st</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs	Q1 2018
Study to support the impact assessment on the review of Regulation 258/2012 on import, export and transit authorisations of firearms	Publication of the final report	By December 2018
Workshops within the framework of the anti-corruption experience-sharing programme	Number of workshops	4
Report on the implementation of the Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA of 22 July 2003 on combating corruption in the private sector	Adoption by the Commission	Q2 2018
Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings (THB)	Adoption by the Commission	Q3 2018
Study on the economic, social and human costs of trafficking in human beings	Adoption of study	Q4 2018
EU-wide awareness raising activities on THB	Number of involved countries Number of major themes addressed	28 At least 3
Support to stakeholders to fully implement Directive 2011/36/EU	Number of annual meetings of the EU Civil Society Platform against trafficking in human beings consisting of 100 NGOs  Number of annual meeting with the EU Network of National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms  Event marking the EU Anti-Trafficking day	2 meetings in Q2 and Q4  2 meetings in Q2 and Q4  Q3 2018

### 2.3. An effective response to cybercrime

*Cyber-attacks can be more dangerous to the stability of democracies and economies than guns and tanks.*

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker,  
State of the Union Address, 13 September 2017.

In 2018, DG HOME will increase its efforts to fight against cybercrime and will report on progress in its regular reports on the Security Union.

In 2016, the Council called on the Commission to develop a common EU approach to improve cooperation with service providers, make mutual legal assistance more efficient, and propose ways of enforcing jurisdiction in cyberspace. At the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 8 June 2017, the Commission was asked to come forward with concrete legislative proposals on using digital evidence for ensuring effective criminal investigations and prosecutions. Building on an inception impact assessment that was published in August 2017, DG HOME will elaborate a legislative proposal on **cross-border access to electronic evidence** for investigating cyber-enabled crimes in cooperation with DG JUST. The proposal will be presented in early 2018 and DG HOME will remain involved in inter-institutional negotiation after the adoption of the proposal by the Commission.

In parallel, DG HOME will continue coordinating the implementation of a number of practical measures to ensure full use of existing instruments for police and judicial cooperation, including standardised forms, an electronic platform, and training.<sup>23</sup>

Another major initiative relates to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, which is a Council of Europe Convention and the first international treaty on crimes committed via the Internet and other computer networks. The Parties to the Budapest Convention have decided to negotiate a **second additional Protocol to the Convention** to better address procedural obstacles. This Protocol will aim at improving cross-border access to electronic evidence for criminal investigations, e.g. through production orders for service providers or direct access to information. The Protocol may include elements that are already covered by existing acquis at EU level, including on Mutual Legal Assistance or in relation to the European Investigation Order. Its scope may also reflect the above-mentioned work on cross-border access to electronic evidence. Once the Commission is given the negotiation mandate, DG HOME will participate in drafting and negotiation sessions.

Furthermore, DG HOME will monitor and support the implementation of the 2013 **Cybersecurity Strategy** and the recent complementary Communication on Cyber Resilience, Deterrence and Defence<sup>24</sup> that was released in September 2017 (in cooperation with DG CNECT) and of existing Directives on attacks against information systems and on combating child sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and child pornography.

In the Joint Declaration made by the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission, and the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation in July 2016 there is a strong accent on the development of coordinated procedures that will contribute to implement joint efforts in particular on addressing hybrid threats (with a cyber component). Cyber security is considered an area where the cooperation is a strategic priority. One of the main declared targets is to step up coordination on exercises in particular the parallel and coordinated exercises that took place in 2017 and will continue in 2018. The Council conclusions adopted on 6 December 2016, 19 June 2017 and on 5 December 2017 insisted on the cooperation in the already mentioned strategic areas and on the importance of the parallel and coordinated exercises.

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<sup>23</sup> Further information is available at [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/e-evidence\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/e-evidence_en).

<sup>24</sup> JOIN(2017) 450.

In addition, DG HOME will commission a Special **Eurobarometer on Cybersecurity** in the third quarter of 2018. It will show how the perception and actions of EU residents have changed over a year in dealing with the advantages and drawbacks of cyberspace.

Finally, DG HOME will also remain involved in inter-institutional negotiations on the Directive COM(2017)489 on **combating fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment** and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/413/JHA.

The Internal Security Fund (ISF) – police and the 'Secure Societies' Programme under Horizon 2020 will continue supporting actions to prevent and fight cybercrime and therefore to ensure a high level of security in the Union. In this respect, it will support inter alia cooperation and coordination actions between security and law enforcement authorities and services, prevention activities, IT systems and other forms of exchange of information, training schemes, equipment, sharing of best practices and development of risk assessments.

The operation of the multi-purpose ISF - police is presented under specific objective 2.1.

<b>Relevant general objective 2. : An area of justice and fundamental rights based on mutual trust</b>		
<b>Specific objective 2.3. : Fighting cybercrime</b>		Related to spending programme Internal Security Fund and Horizon 2020
<b>Main outputs in 2018:</b>		
<b>All new initiatives and REFIT initiatives from the Commission Work Programme</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Inputs to progress reports on Security Union relating to achievements in fighting cybercrime and the way forward	Number of inputs to the progress reports	9 in 2018
Cross-border access to electronic evidence – legislative proposal (incl. impact assessment) PLAN/2017/1416	Adoption of legislative proposal	Q1 2018
Support to interinstitutional negotiation on legislation on cross-border access to electronic evidence	Number of meetings prepared, attended and followed up by DG HOME	At least 5
<b>Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes<sup>25</sup></b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Horizon 2020 Secure Societies Work Programme: - launch of projects	Number of topics	2
	Signature of the Grant Agreements	By end March 2018
	Total amount of EU contribution	EUR 10 million
Outputs, indicators and targets relating to Internal Security Fund (ISF) – police have been specified under specific objective 2.1		

<sup>25</sup> For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the *Draft Budget for 2018*.

Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Monitoring implementation of the updated Cybersecurity Strategy <sup>26</sup>	Number of updated progress tables Number of meetings of Task Force Security Union sub-group on cybersecurity	4 in 2018 4 in 2018
Fostering implementation of Directive 2011/93/EU on combating child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation and child pornography	Number of infringement proceedings launched  Number of expert meetings	EU Pilot and/or infringement proceedings launched against 27 Member States  2 expert meetings
Fostering implementation of Directive 2013/40/EU on attacks against information systems	Number of infringement proceedings launched  Number of expert meetings	EU Pilot and/or infringement proceedings launched against 12 or more Member States  2 expert meetings
Planning and conducting the PACE18 (parallel and coordinated exercise) with NATO as the leading DG from the Commission side	Number of meetings organised within DG HOME, as well as with relevant DGs and other institutional stakeholders such as the EEAS, the Council General Secretariat and NATO	At least 30
Special Eurobarometer on Cybersecurity	Publication of Report	Q3 2018
Support to the interinstitutional negotiation of Directive COM(2017)489 on combating fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/413/JHA	Number of meetings prepared, attended and followed up by DG HOME	At least 5

### 3. A Union of democratic change

3.1. *Enhance citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity, foster European citizenship and improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level*

In 2018, DG HOME will continue to steer the **Europe for Citizens programme**, to define its objectives, strategies and priority areas of action, to monitor its general implementation by the **Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency** (EACEA), and to evaluate the programme results at European level. The main output will

<sup>26</sup> JOIN/2017/450

relate to supervising EACEA to ensure that the Agency delivers 408 projects and 37 operating grants in the two strands of the programme, namely "European remembrance" and "Democratic engagement and civic participation". Corresponding tasks entrusted to the Agency under DG HOME's supervision will include drawing up calls for proposals, selecting projects in cooperation with DG HOME and signing Grant Decisions/Agreements, financial management, monitoring of projects, and communication with beneficiaries.

The projects and activities that will be funded by the programme will contribute to the Commission's objective of "a Union of Democratic change". They will help to progress towards the specific objective of enhancing citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity, foster European citizenship and improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level. They will foster participatory and informed citizenship by giving citizens an opportunity to make their voice heard and to participate in shaping a more open, tolerant and inclusive society with less prejudice. Projects on Europe's shared history will focus in particular on promoting a sense of belonging and the fundamental values upon which the Union is built, such as tolerance, solidarity, non-discrimination and mutual understanding. In the framework of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, projects will also be supported with grants in order to promote the role of European cultural heritage as a pivotal element of cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and local heritage linked to European memory.

In 2018, DG HOME will also organise three events:

1. A holocaust remembrance event to raise awareness about the Holocaust and highlight new ways to reach out, especially to younger people;
2. An event allowing for a dialogue between the European Commission and civil society representatives;
3. A remembrance networking meeting gathering beneficiaries of the Europe for Citizens programme from all over the European Union to share experiences and best practices.

Finally, building on the findings of the mid-term evaluation of the "Europe for Citizens" programme 2014-2020, to be published early 2018, DG HOME will be involved in preparing a proposal to follow up on the programme under the post 2020 Multi-annual Financial Framework.

<b>Relevant general objective 3.: A Union of democratic change</b>		
<b>Specific objective 3.1.: Enhance citizens' understanding of the Union, its history and diversity, foster European citizenship and improve conditions for civic and democratic participation at Union level</b>		Related to spending programme Europe For Citizens
<b>Main outputs in 2018:</b>		
<b>Important items from work programmes/financing decisions/operational programmes<sup>27</sup></b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Contribution to a proposal for following up on the Europe for Citizens programme under post 2020 MFF	Adoption of the proposal by the Commission	Q2 2018
Supervision of the implementation of the Europe for Citizens programme by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)	Number of Remembrance projects	44
	Number of Town-Twinning projects	295

<sup>27</sup> For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the *Draft Budget for 2018*.

	Number of Networks of towns projects	38
	Number of Civil society projects	31
	Number of support structures in the Member States	33
	Number of multi-annual operating grants awarded under of the Europe for Citizens programme	37
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Civil dialogue with stakeholders	Number of meetings	1
Networking meetings with European remembrance organisations	Number of meetings	1
Holocaust remembrance event	Number of meetings	1
Mid-term evaluation of the "Europe for Citizens" programme 2014-2020 2017/HOME/175	Staff Working Document published and report adopted	Q1 2018

#### 4. *A Deeper and Fairer Internal Market with a Strengthened Industrial Base*

In 2018, DG HOME will continue contributing to efforts to make the EU security industry more competitive and to ensure the proper functioning of the EU internal market for security solutions.

## **PART 2. MAIN ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT OUTPUTS FOR THE YEAR**

### *a. Human resource management*

In 2018 DG HOME will continue its work in line with its Strategic Plan 2016-2020<sup>28</sup>.

In its meeting on 19 July 2017, the College adopted quantitative targets of first female appointments to be made per directorate general and service at middle management level by 1 November 2019, while continuing to pursue the general objective of having minimum 40% of female middle managers across the organisation<sup>29</sup>. With currently half of its middle managers being female, DG HOME's target is to appoint one new female middle manager by November 2019.

Regarding staff engagement and staff well-being, DG HOME will continue its work set out in the Action Plan following the latest staff survey of 2016. This plan was drawn up in the context of the considerable staff increase related to the management of the migration crisis, a series of reorganizations and of less positive staff survey results compared to 2014, in particular regarding staff's perception of the DG' well-being policy. The Action Plan was endorsed by the management of DG HOME and presented to its staff in 2017.

In addition, DG HOME is committing for 2018 to start working on a comprehensive HR policy, in line with the recommendations of the internal audit on its HR management and staff allocation carried out in 2017 by the IAS.

The HR Modernisation project as laid down in the [Communication on Synergies and Efficiencies](#) continues to be rolled out in the Commission. HR services for DGs are now

<sup>28</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/strategic-plan-2016-2020-dg-home\\_may2016\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/strategic-plan-2016-2020-dg-home_may2016_en.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> SEC(2017)359

delivered by the Account Management Centres (AMCs). Within each DG, the HR Business Correspondent<sup>30</sup> coordinates strategic HR matters and prepares the related decisions of the DG's management.

DG HOME intends to pursue the following priority actions during 2018:

- DG HOME will pursue the new target as regards first appointments of female middle managers by actively encouraging its female staff to apply when management positions are vacant and by encouraging participation in a new HR project aiming at facilitating access of women to management positions;
- On staff engagement, DG HOME will continue its efforts to address the areas that the Staff Survey 2016 identified as critical issues for staff working in the DG, by continuing the actions defined in the Action Plan 2017;
- Well-being is an area where the activities developed over the last years (yoga and pilates classes, silence pauses and mediation sessions, offer of organic products) will continue in close collaboration with DG HR;
- The existing system of matching human resources to the needs and priorities of DG HOME will be further developed; efficient measures for mobility of staff will be defined;
- A comprehensive Learning and Development Plan 2018 will be presented.
- A comprehensive HR policy/strategy will be developed to set out the DG's main objectives in relation to HR Management, supported by relevant indicators, including measures to maintain or increase staff performance through sustainable people management.

**Objective: The DG deploys effectively its resources in support of the delivery of the Commission priorities and core business, has a competent and engaged workforce, which is driven by an effective and gender-balanced management and which can deploy its full potential within supportive and healthy working conditions.**

**Main outputs in 2018:**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Activities to encourage female representation in middle and senior management positions	Female representation percentage in middle management (for first appointments - mandatory targets set until 2019 <sup>31</sup> ) and in senior management	At least one female middle manager to be appointed by 2019, if possible already in 2018. A balance between male and female representation at the level of middle and senior management.
Design and implement a Learning and Development Plan 2018	Number of actions for talent management in DG HOME	Increase the number of actions as compared to previous years.
Activities to improve the integration of newcomers  Newcomers' sessions	Number of sessions for newcomers.	At least 2 newcomers' sessions organised in 2018
Continuation and reinforcement of	Number of well-being activities offered in DG	At least maintain the number of activities offered.

<sup>30</sup> BC team of DG HOME is composed of three persons (3 FTE) - 30.11.2017

<sup>31</sup> SEC(2017) 359 final



existing activities in the area of well-being	HOME.	
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*b. Financial Management: Internal control and Risk management*

**Objective 1: Effective and reliable internal control system giving the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and the regularity of the underlying transactions**

In 2018, DG HOME will implement a number of assurance-related activities on the expenditures from Union funds under DG HOME's responsibility. The aim is to guarantee the legality of the expenditures and to minimize regularity risks, by continuing to ensure that appropriate preventive and corrective mechanisms are in place as a matter of high priority. The achievement of this objective will be mainly supported by the following actions:

- **Audits, both as desk work and on-the-spot**, with an increased focus on risks. These activities aim at providing assurance of the legality and regularity of the expenditures declared to the Commission, while keeping an efficient use of audit resources.
- **The application of financial corrections**, when needed.
- **The implementation of internal audit recommendations** on the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.

As regards the 2007-2013 programming period, in 2018 DG HOME will complete the closure of the Annual Programmes for which the final payment has not been made yet. This is consistent with the principle of sound financial management, and focuses on timely processing and closure of open irregularities. Through the ex post audits DG HOME will keep working with the aim to reach a rate of residual risk on the total declared expenditures below the materiality level of 2%.

As regards the 2014-2020 programming period (in total 58 AMIF and ISF programmes) the specific audit approach will be continued, including the review of the control systems. This review may be done through desk review, system review meetings or system audits on the spot. Furthermore, system audits based on an updated risk assessment will be conducted with a twofold aim: to assess the functioning of the management and control systems put in place by the national authorities and to gain assurance on the work of the national Audit Authorities.

In 2017, DG HOME had many late payments for which measures were put in place to absorb this delay. In 2018, DG HOME will continue to sustain the good progress made in 2017 on clearing the late payments.

DG HOME will continue the negotiation with the external contractor on the cost of missions at the level of specific contract and optimise the mission plan (e.g. by auditing 2 project in 1 week where possible, merging the destinations and/or beneficiaries, etc.) to contribute to the delivery of the expected results and to reach the target of the cost-effectiveness of controls.

**Objective 1: Effective and reliable internal control system giving the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and the regularity of the underlying transactions.**

**Main outputs in 2018:**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Ex-post (financial) audits of direct management grants	Audit coverage for direct management grants	10%
Legality and regularity of direct management	Error rate – direct management	Error rate below 2%

expenditure	Error rate – direct management: procurement	Error rate below 2%
Legality and regularity of indirect management expenditure	Error rate – indirect management	Error rate below 2%
Legality and regularity of shared management expenditure	Error rate – shared management	Below 2%
System reviews of designated authorities in Member States	% of systems reviewed on full designations submitted by MS	100%
System audits of the AMIF - ISF funds	Number of Funds audited in Member States	Audit Work Plan 2018: Up to 5 Funds (AMIF-ISF)
Ex-post audits of shared management Annual Programmes (SOLID)	Number of Funds audited in Member States	Audit Work plan 2018: Minimum 12 Funds (SOLID)
Closure of the 2007-2013 programmes	% of 2007-2013 Programmes closed out of the total (combined responsibility – with MS)	100% excluding judicial proceeding or OLAF follow-up
Clearance decisions for shared management (national programmes under AMIF/ISF)	1. Percentage of adoption of the clearance decisions regarding the accounts 2017 for the national programmes under AMIF 2. Percentage of payment of balance under AMIF/ISF within regulatory deadlines.	1 to 2. 100%
Obtain reasonable assurance that the expenditures declared are legal and regular	Number of 2014-2020 programmes for which expenditure has been declared Implementation of the audit plan	100% Full implementation of the audit plan

***Objective 2: Effective and reliable internal control system in line with sound financial management.***

**Internal control** is noted in the context of the Commission’s fundamental budgetary principles and associated with sound financial management. Internal control is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance of achieving objectives.

On 19 April 2017, the Commission adopted a revised Internal Control Framework which moves away from a compliance-based to a principle-based system, in line with international best practices and in particular with the 2013 COSO framework (Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission). The new framework will be fully applicable as from January 2018. In this area, the priority for 2018 will be to ensure a swift implementation of the new internal control framework. This will reflect the specific challenges and risks of the DG, and include the assessment of the effectiveness of the system in accordance with Internal Control Principle 16 (*"The Commission selects, develops, and performs ongoing and/or separate assessments to ascertain whether the components of internal control are present and functioning"*).

The legality and regularity of payments are ensured through the controls throughout the management of transactions: negotiations, contracting, payments, etc.

Sound financial management is measured mainly through indicators defined in the Financial Regulation and reported in the Annual Activity Report, such as time-to-inform, time-to-grant and time-to-pay. In addition, DG HOME will continue to pay attention to the effectiveness of the ex ante controls and to the efficiency of the transactions process.

**Objective 2: Effective and reliable internal control system in line with sound financial management.**

**Main outputs in 2018:**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Correctness of transactions following ex ante controls	Number of exceptions	< 0.1% of total transactions
Efficiency in the transaction processing	Time to inform (Art. 128.2 a FR), time-to-grant (Art. 128.2 b FR) and time to pay (Art. 92 FR)	Monitor the deadlines in order to comply with the provisions of the Financial Regulation.
Appropriateness and satisfaction of the Internal Control Principles	iCAT Survey Participation rate iCAT Survey Satisfaction rate <i>(iCAT = tool for gathering data about soft controls in a DG, complementing the hard statistics)</i>	65% (staff and management) 60% (expressing good and above judgement)

**Objective 3: Minimisation of the risk of fraud through application of effective anti-fraud measures, integrated in all activities of the DG, based on the anti-fraud strategy (AFS) of the DG aimed at the prevention, detection and reparation of fraud.**

DG HOME's anti-fraud strategy of is currently being reviewed, based on the updated methodology provided by OLAF, in order to reflect the new structure of the DG, and will be monitored throughout the period until 2020. The priorities for 2018 will be to ensure a swift implementation of the new strategy and the corresponding action plan, to monitor the review of the Commission's Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS) currently performed by OLAF (to be completed by June 2018) and to adjust DG HOME's strategy as appropriate.

DG HOME will promote awareness of fraud prevention and detection within the DG through specific training courses. Follow-up and implementation of OLAF recommendations will also be assured.

**Objective 3: Minimisation of the risk of fraud through application of effective anti-fraud measures, integrated in all activities of the DG, based on the DG's anti-fraud strategy (AFS) aimed at the prevention, detection and reparation of fraud.**

**Main outputs in 2018:**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Implementation of OLAF recommendations	% of recommendations issued by OLAF implemented/closed by DG HOME within deadlines	100%
AFS adjusted as/if appropriate	Monitoring and analysis of the new CAFS and adjustment of the AFS, if need be	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2018
Increased level of awareness on anti-fraud measures	Number of participants attending the training sessions on anti-fraud measures	60 persons of DG HOME staff

### *c. Better Regulation*

The main planned outputs linked to the Better Regulation objective in the Strategic Plan are listed in Part 1 under the relevant specific objective in the tables. They are presented in the tables under the headings "All new initiatives and REFIT initiatives from the Commission Work Programme" and "other important items" and in the Evaluation Plan.

### *d. Information management aspects*

DG HOME will in September 2018 have its third annual statistical compilation. Divided in two parts, it will include most up-to-date migration and mobility statistics, as well as security and crime statistics. Data will be gathered from a variety of sources: including from Member States, Eurostat, EU Agencies. In 2018 again, the compilation will be made available online in the DG HOME intranet. The compilation is a product of the statistics task force, which gathers experts within DG HOME to share data, knowledge and best practice in both migration and security.

In 2018, DG HOME will consider as to whether to revise Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection, pending discussions with Eurostat.

Furthermore, in 2018, DG HOME will continue using its intranet for the dissemination and documentation of daily press and media alerts, weekly interinstitutional notes and other newsletters. The intranet will remain the repository for documentation on internal rules for briefings, workflows financial workflows and strategic planning and programming.

In 2018, DG HOME will work to create a new information portal on the intranet, where data, reports, and publication on migration can be easily accessible.

Moreover, Basis will continue being used to manage and archive all briefings prepared for Commissioners, the Director General and the Deputy Directors General, making them available for relevant staff members.

DG HOME moved to paperless workflows as of April 2017. There are financial documents for which original blue ink signature is still needed. However, even in this case, the paper circulation was avoided as the documents to be signed are printed only when the electronic workflow reached the person required to sign. The filing plans were revised end of 2016 to reflect the new organization chart of DG HOME. The number of ARES files open for consultation to the entire Commission has reached 8%, slightly lower than the target set last year at 10%. It is expected that this figure is to be reached still by the end of 2017.

In addition, DG HOME will organise at least two lunchtime conferences for its staff a month, to share information about internal procedures, workflows and policy areas.

Building on the existing practices and in line with the Communication<sup>32</sup> on data, information and knowledge management at the European Commission, DG HOME will move towards managing information in a more strategic way in 2018. More specifically, DG HOME will aim to channel and consolidate the growing information flow of data, trends and analysis, to inform policy makers in a clear, correct and timely manner. This will be done by liaising more effectively with relevant actors within the DG and making full use of the expertise of other services (e.g. through the Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography), EU Agencies and international organisations.

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<sup>32</sup> C(2016) 6626 final

**Objective: Information and knowledge in your DG is shared and reusable by other DGs. Important documents are registered, filed and retrievable.**

**Main outputs in 2018:**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Documents easily shared with other DGs	Number of ARES files open for consultation to the other DGs	20% Q4 2018
Statistical compilation	Release	Q4 2018
Lunchtime conferences	Number	At least two per month

*e. External communication activities*

The external communication efforts for 2018 will aim at informing the public in Europe and beyond about the central role played by the European Commission in addressing the ongoing challenges in migration and security. They will include two citizens dialogues that will be held with with DG HOME's senior management in 2018.

DG HOME will illustrate the Commission's actions and measures in simple and clear terms, mainly with social media and audio-visual material, contribute to increase trust in the EU and improve the overall image of the EU.

Furthermore, DG HOME's printed material (brochures, leaflets) will be updated and new ones will be created explaining the policy area. This is complemented with updating existing videos and/or creating new ones in order to explain our policy areas better.

Moreover, DG HOME will actively contribute to the EC campaign "EU Protects" in terms of content and common messaging.

In addition, DG HOME will continue informing migrants and asylum seekers about the main rules and procedures on asylum and migration. It will participate in the editorial board of the media consortium that manages the infomigrants.net portal and related social media accounts with AMIF support. The aim is to inform prospective migrants and counter the narratives of smugglers and traffickers in third countries, such as Pakistan, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Mali, Senegal, Congo, Cameroon, Iraq, Turkey, Morocco. Furthermore, DG HOME will continue implementing awareness raising/communication activities in Afghanistan while preparing communication activities with other third countries, mainly in Africa.

**Objective: Citizens perceive that the EU is working to improve their lives and engage with the EU. They feel that their concerns are taken into consideration in European decision making and they know about their rights in the EU.**

**Main outputs in 2018:**

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Twitter	Increase followers	+8%
Increase quality and accessibility of DG HOME website, in particular when it comes to availability of media related information	Increase contacts	+5%
Create a new series of graphic and visual information products (e.g. factsheets) to explain to the general public through	Number of products created for journalists	Series of 5 products

multipliers the main actions and measures put in place by the European Commission to address the refugee crisis and security		
Citizens dialogues with DG HOME senior management	Number of dialogues	2
Presentations of migration and security policies to visitors	Rate of response to requests for presentations to visitors from DG COMM	100%
Updating / Creation / Distribution of brochures, leaflets explaining DG HOME's policy areas	Number of brochures distributed	5 000
Updating / Creation / Dissemination of Home affairs videos explaining DG HOME's policy areas	Views of videos	50 000 online views, excluding screenings during presentations and events.
Participation in the editorial board of the media consortium entrusted with informing prospective asylum seekers and migrants in a wide range of third countries.	Engagement in all related social media accounts  Visits of website infomigrants.net  Increase in the language offer of the website	1.5 million a year  1 million a year  2 more languages
Awareness raising/ communication activities in Afghanistan	Outreach to potential migrants	50 000

<b>Annual communication spending:</b>	
<b>Baseline (2017)</b>	<b>Estimated commitments (2018)</b>
EUR 1 600 000 direct grant to media consortium	EUR 2 600 000 direct grant to media consortium
EUR 750 000 under procurement	EUR 1 500 000 for activities under procurement

*f. Examples of initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities of the DG*

1. In 2017 the management of the AMIF and ISF National Programmes (shared management) was entirely carried out using the RDIS IT workflow system, improving the economy and efficiency of financial activities as well as any procedure related to the implementation of the programmes. The use of RDIS2 addresses the need to fully record all workflows related to the management of the programmes and fits within the aim of the Commission to enhance the use of e-signing possibilities and replacing paper-based systems.

Since RDIS2 was launched in 2015, its use has expanded from the first assessment of the annual accounts and the annual implementation reports to all aspects and processes for the shared management programmes (e.g. monitoring visits, system reviews of the Management and Control systems, evaluation activities and mid-term review, revision of basic acts, agreements for the Schengen Associated Countries, assessment of applications for Specific Actions etc.).

In 2018, it is planned to extend RDIS to financial transactions for shared management. At the same time, a pilot case will continue using RDIS2 for the preparation of Annual Work Programmes under Union Actions.

2. In order to improve the economy and efficiency of activities related to the programmes managed directly by DG HOME, grant management processes are gradually changed from paper-based to fully electronic. In order to achieve this, DG HOME has started to use the centrally developed IT system "e-Grants" in 2016. While some processes were electronically implemented already in 2016 and 2017, such as electronic calls launching, submission and evaluation, calls for proposals, and grant preparation, in 2018 the cycle will be expanded and finalised for reporting and payments. This change addresses the need to automatize the support processes related to the preparation of grant agreements, therefore reducing the need for administrative control layers, as well as facilitating the monitoring of implementation and reporting.