

Block 1 Document security

Albania has met all the benchmarks regarding the security of **passports/travel documents, ID cards and breeder documents:**

Until 30 September 2009 the total number of issued biometric passports is 155 000.

Albania has taken all the necessary measures to ensure

- the security of the passport personalisation centre;
 - systematic verification of applicants' biometric features upon distribution of ID cards/passports
 - systematic training and general anti-corruption programmes targeting public officials dealing with issuance of breeder documents, ID cards and passports
 - direct access of Albanian police stations and border crossing points to the Interpol database on lost and stolen passports
 - to ensure that the use of handwritten certificates is abandoned and that data from sources other than the National Civil Registry
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Block 2 Illegal migration, including readmission Border management

- Albania has adopted all the necessary bylaws for the **implementation of the Law on state border control and surveillance.**
- The draft of the **revised Integrated Border Management** Strategy and Action Plan has been finalised and will be adopted within 10 October 2009.
- Albania has taken all the necessary measures to **better define the territorial responsibilities between Border Management Directorates and BM Stations and the division of competences in the management of the blue borders.**
- In order **to strengthen inter-agency cooperation between authorities working at the border** a Joint Regulation on the cooperation among agencies operating in the border has been drafted and it is in the process of approval by the Ministers of Interior, of Finance and of Agriculture. It is expected to be signed within first half of October.
- **An Inter-Institutional Maritime Operational Centre (IMOC)** has been established based on a Council of Ministers' Decision approved on 30 September 2009.
- **TIMS (Total Information Management System) is now operational in all 21 major border crossing points and by October 31 will have been**

installed at the last 5 remaining remote border crossing points. The TIMS Operational Centre operating in Tirana is now fully functional.

- **Live camera feed from 6 border points is available in the Operational Centre and in two border points Live Car License Identification is operational while the others will be completed within the beginning of next year.**

Asylum

The bylaws ensuring the effective access of asylum seekers to the rights foreseen by the Law on Asylum are being drafted and will be approved by 30 November.

Migration Management

An Action Plan for the effective implementation of the Law on Foreigners of December 2008 will be signed by 15 October. All the bylaws necessary for the implementation of the Law on Foreigners have been adopted.

To further develop use of the TIMS (Total Information Management System) for migration data, in particular to ensure that all relevant ministries have access to the system, the National Register of will be completed within November 2009.

The **detention centre for illegal immigrants** shall be completed by the end of November 2009.

Block 3 Public order and security

General/Overall policy on preventing and fighting organised crime and terrorism

- **In order to implement the Inter-Sector Strategy against Organised Crime, Trafficking and Terrorism, an Action Plan has been drafted and will be adopted by the Council of Ministers by 13 October 2009.**
- **A series of measures have been taken to strengthen the capacity to investigate and prosecute criminals in the crime areas covered.**

Policy on preventing and fighting trafficking in human beings

- **To implement the National Strategy on the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings 2008-2010, an Anti-Trafficking National Task-Force has been established. The Task Force consists of all the anti-trafficking actors at technical level, including representatives of state authorities,**

General Prosecutor's Office, Regional Anti-Trafficking Committees, Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs), and other actors involved in the prevention and fight against trafficking in human beings.

Policy on preventing and fighting financial crimes (money-laundering, terrorist financing, confiscation of assets)

- A National **Strategy and Action Plan against money laundering** has been drafted in the framework of a Twinning Project "*Tackling money laundering and financial crime*" with the Germany's Federal Criminal Police Office. The Draft Strategy will be submitted for approval to the Council of Ministers in October 2009.
- All the bylaws necessary for the **implementation of the Law on the prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism** have been adopted.
- The **legislation on confiscation of assets of criminals (including application of the 2004 law enabling seizure and confiscation) is being implemented** as demonstrated by the fact that the value of assets sequestered amounts to 2,000,000 EUR

Anti-drug policy

- **To implement the strategy and action plan against drug trafficking**, the Action Plan no. 1116 of 3rd April 2009 "On prevention and fight against cultivation of narcotic plants" is being implemented. Over the reporting period there were found 125 cases of cultivation of cannabis and annihilated 48350 plants. 22 persons were prosecuted for cultivation of narcotic plants and 6 representatives of local government for non-reporting of crime and abuse of duty related with the cultivation of narcotic plants.
- **To improve the access to information on drug seizures**, the lists of persons who have criminal records related with trafficking of narcotics or other kind of trafficking have been regularly made available to the border police structures. The Criminal Information Management System – MEMEX is providing access to information by the border police.
- As for **results achieved in international cooperation**, 3 joint operations have been conducted, 2 of which in cooperation with the Italian judicial authorities resulting in the arrest of 2 persons in Italy on drug trafficking, and the most important operation is the one with the German police which resulted in the seizure of 40 kg of heroine at the BCP Kakavija and in the arrest of 5 persons.

Policy on prevention and fighting corruption

- **The inter-sector anti-corruption strategy is being implemented.** During the period April - August 2009 the State Police recorded 134 criminal corruption offences and crimes of officials in duty, 242 criminally prosecuted persons, of which only 13 criminal corruption offences resulting in 22 criminally prosecuted persons.

- **In addition to the existing Joint Investigative Unit (JIU), 6 new JIUs are being established at the regional level and** became operational on 30 September 2009.
- The Internal Control Service, through the intelligence activity and preliminary investigation, has referred to the Prosecutor's Office for criminal prosecution during May-August 2009, 15 criminal denunciations against 21 police officers involved in corruptive activity, of which 2 first level leaders and 19 executive level officers.
- 10 out of 13 **outstanding GRECO recommendations** (2nd round of the evaluation from GRECO) have been fulfilled, 1 has been partially implemented

Judicial co-operation in criminal matters

- As regards **cooperation with Eurojust**, the signature of the cooperation agreement (with Eurojust) has been planned to take place by the end of 2009. The contact points in the Prosecutor's Office have been established.
- Progress has been made in **strengthening operational cooperation between the law enforcement agencies and with the judiciary, in all the crime areas covered by the roadmap.**
- The **cooperation with FRONTEX** has been strengthened. FRONTEX is assisting Border Police concerning the understanding and building of capacities of Risk Analysis. In this respect, trainings have been organised in Warsaw, the HD of FRONTEX. Albania is cooperating with FRONTEX under "Saturn" project at the border with Greece.
- The **Readmission** Protocols with Croatia, Italy and Readmission Agreement and Protocol with Bosnia Herzegovina have been signed. The Council of Ministers has endorsed the Readmission Protocol with France, expected to be signed in the near future. The final version of the Readmission Protocols with Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Malta have been agreed upon and are expected to be signed. The Readmission Agreement between Republic of Albania and Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina was signed on 25th March 2009, approved by the Council of Ministers and submitted to the Parliament for ratification. The text of the Readmission Agreements and Protocols with Kosovo and with Montenegro have been approved by the Council of Ministers and will be signed shortly. The Readmission Agreement with Moldova has been prepared.
- Intensive **cooperation with Interpol** has continued. During this period, 143 citizens have been declared wanted internationally, 70 persons have been arrested to be extradited to Albania, 3 persons have been arrested to be extradited to other respective countries. The extradition to Albania of 64 wanted persons has been completed, and 4 persons have been extradited to other respective countries. 3 citizens have been transferred to these countries, as requested by them.
- **Special investigative techniques** are being extensively used and a series of training seminars have been organised for this purpose.

- As for the **extension of direct access to the MEMEX information system for the relevant bodies**, the system has been tested at the local structures of State Police and was found to be technically operational in all Regional Police Directorates. 142 officials of the system have been trained. The security certification of the DATACOM will be completed by the end of October 2009.

Protection of personal data

To implement the Personal Data Protection law, of 10th March 2008, the Office of the Commissioner has drafted and approved its Internal Rules and Code of Ethics. The Council of Ministers approved on **2 September 2009**, the Decision “on specification of countries that have a adequate level of personal data protection.

Block 4 External relations and fundamental rights. Citizens’ rights including protection of minorities

The draft **law on Anti-discrimination** has been designed by members of the Civil society and will be submitted to the Parliament for adoption within October 2009.

The following results have been achieved in the **implementation of the National Strategy for improving Roma Living Standards and the Roma National Action Plan (as part of the Roma Decade)**: In the course of 2009, 2.637 Roma job-seekers were registered with the Employment Offices. They may benefit from employment programmes, receive unemployment benefits, and counselling on vocational training. The Economic Aid programme (EA) has been fully revised, based on updated, accurate and reliable data from the documentation used for identification of poor families that will be covered by the improved and simplified EA scheme.

The Action Plan for the Roma Decade will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval by the end of October 2009.