

Block 1 Document security

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

As of 22 January 2010, the total number of applications is **515 473**, issued biometric passports is **474 971**.

Albania has taken all the necessary measures to ensure:

- the security of the passport personalization centre;
 - systematic verification of applicants' biometric features upon distribution of ID cards/passports
 - systematic training and general anti-corruption programs targeting public officials dealing with issuance of breeder documents, ID cards and passports, as well as for the police.
 - direct access of Albanian police stations and border crossing points to the Interpol database on lost and stolen passports
 - the use of handwritten certificates is abandoned and the National Civil Registry is the unique source of data;
 - systematic checking of database of wanted persons before the production of the new passport (in place since 4 February);
 - physical invalidation of old passports at the police stations upon distribution of the new biometric passports (applicable since 22 February 2010)
 - Lost and stolen passports are regularly reported and entered into the Interpol ASF2 database. Passports invalidated as a result of the delivery of biometric passports are also reported and entered into Interpol database.
-

Block 2 Illegal migration, including readmission Border management

Migration Management

- **The Action Plan for the effective implementation of the Law on Foreigners of December 2008** has been signed and implementation is ongoing.
- All the bylaws necessary for the **implementation of the Law on Foreigners have been adopted.**
- The **on-line National Register of Foreigners is functional.** It includes e-visa register, e-residence permit and e-work permits.
- A **closed (detention) center** for the foreigners illegally residing/ illegal emigrants has been built and is fully operational since mid-February 2010.
- Measures to **monitor migration flows** have been taken.
- **Readmission agreements** are being implemented successfully.

Border Management

- Albania has adopted all the necessary bylaws and there is now **full implementation of the Law on state border control and surveillance**
- The **revised Integrated Border Management** Strategy and Action Plan has been adopted on 14 October 2009 and is being fully implemented.
- 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.**
- Concrete measures have been taken to strengthen **human resources capacities by increasing the number of police officers in the border**, deployed mainly in the border with Greece following the risk analysis, as well as for the logistic capacities of the border and migration police.
- 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 signed by the Ministers of Interior, of Finance and of Agriculture and is currently being implemented.
- **An Inter-Institutional Maritime Operational Centre (IMOC)** has been established and is fully operational as of January 2010.
- **TIMS (Total Information Management System)** is now operational in all 24 border crossing points, providing on-line access to all relevant databases, including Interpol ASF2.
- **New equipments for the check and reading of biometric passports** have been purchased. E-passport readers have been installed in Rinas Airport and Durres Port and all other BCPs.
- **Live camera feed from 7 border crossing points is available in the Operational Centre** and in 3 BCPs Live Car License Identification is operational while the others will be completed during 2010.

Asylum

The bylaws ensuring the effective access of asylum seekers to the rights foreseen by the Law on Asylum have been adopted in 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 adopted by the Council of Ministers on **14 October 2009, providing the necessary human and financial resources for its implementation;**
- **An Inter-institutional Committee for Measures against Organized Crime, Trafficking and Terrorism has been established in January 2010.** This Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister, with the participation of all relevant ministries and institutions. Also, a technical secretariat has been established, which will assist the monitoring of the Strategy and Action Plan against Organized Crime, Traffics and Terrorism by the Inter-institutional Committee. Both Inter-institutional Committee and Secretariat meet regularly
- 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 finalized and adopted on 27 October 2009 and is being implemented.
- The **law to amend the 2004 law on confiscation was adopted by Parliament on 3 December 2009.** The new law provides for a legal framework that enables effective seizure and confiscation of illegal proceeds of crime. The final draft has fully reflected the suggestions and recommendations provided by domestic and foreign actors, who have taken part in its drafting process.

- All the bylaws necessary for the **implementation of the Law on the prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism** have been adopted.
- For the period January - December 2009, a **total amount of 3.736.000 euro are reported as seized** in bank accounts, in implementation of existing legislation on money laundering and fight against terrorism.

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.(Such an action plan is adopted annually, the drafting of the action plan for 2010 is underway). 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 trafficking have been regularly made available to the border police structures. The Criminal Information Management System – MEMEX is providing access to information to the border police.
- As for **results achieved in international cooperation**, during 2009, 12 joint operations have been conducted, 5 of which in cooperation with the Italian judicial authorities resulting in the arrest of 5 persons in Albania on drug trafficking; 2 operations with the German police which resulted in the seizure of 40 kg of heroine at the BCP Kakavija and the arrest of 7 persons; 2 operations with Switzerland which resulted in the arrest of 4 persons; 1 operation with the US for trafficking of cocaine, which resulted in the arrest of 1 person; 1 operation with Kosovo which led to a seizure of 109 kg of marijuana and 1 person arrested. Also, Albania participated in the regional operation “Barter” against heroin trafficking that was conducted in cooperation with SECI-Center.

Policy on prevention and fighting corruption

- **The inter-sector anti-corruption strategy is being implemented.** The 6 month report on the implementation of the action plan on the fight against corruption is available;
- **In addition to the existing Joint Investigative Unit (JIU), 6 new JIUs have been established at the regional level and** became operational on 30 September 2009. Their performance has achieved very good results as an effective inter-agency cooperation;
- 11 out of 13 **outstanding GRECO recommendations** (2nd round of the evaluation from GRECO) have been fulfilled, 1 has been partially implemented, 1 remains to be implemented.

Judicial co-operation in criminal matters

- 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 Law “On the Jurisdiction Relations with Foreign Authorities in criminal matters”** was adopted by the Parliament on 3 December 2009. The Final Draft has fully reflected the recommendations and suggestions provided by domestic and foreign actors, who have taken part in drafting.
- The **cooperation with FRONTEX** has been strengthened. FRONTEX is assisting Border Police concerning the understanding and building of capacities of Risk Analysis.
- Intensive **cooperation with Interpol** has continued, and an increased number of persons have been extradited.
- **Special investigative techniques** are being extensively used and a series of training seminars have been organised for this purpose.
- Regarding the **extension of direct access to the MEMEX information system for the relevant bodies**, after the certification of DATACOM, access to MEMEX system have been given to all 12 criminal information analysis sectors in Regional Police Directorates. The introduction of criminal data into the system has been completed in December 2009.

Protection of personal data

- **The law on Personal Data Protection** is being correctly implemented;
 - **The Office of the Commissioner for Data Protection** has been adequately strengthened with the human and financial resources.
-

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

- The draft **law on Anti-discrimination** was adopted by the Parliament on 4 February 2010. This law has been prepared by representatives of the civil society.
- **The Action Plan for the Roma Decade has been adopted by the Council of Ministers** on 28 October 2009 and is now being implemented;