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►B REGULATION (EU) No 515/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 16 April 2014

establishing, as part of the Internal Security Fund, the instrument for financial support for external borders and visa and repealing Decision No 574/2007/EC

(OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 143)

Amended by:

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		No	page	date
►M1	Regulation (EU) 2018/1240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 September 2018	L 236	1	19.9.2018

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REGULATION (EU) No 515/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

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CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Purpose and scope

1. This Regulation establishes the Instrument for financial support for the management of external borders and the common visa policy ('the Instrument') as part of the Internal Security Fund ('the Fund').

Jointly with Regulation (EU) 513/2014, this Regulation establishes the Fund for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020.

2. This Regulation lays down:

(a) the objectives of financial support and the eligible actions;

(b) the general framework for the implementation of the eligible actions;

(c) the resources made available under the Instrument from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020 and their distribution;

(d) the scope and purpose of the different specific means through which the expenditure for the management of the external borders and the common visa policy is financed.

3. This Regulation provides for the application of the rules set out in Regulation (EU) No 514/2014.

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation the following definitions shall apply:

(a) 'external borders' means the land borders of the Member States, including river and lake borders, sea borders and their airports, river ports, sea ports and lake ports to which the provisions of Union law on the crossing of external borders apply, whether the borders are temporary or not;

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(b) ‘common Union standards’ means the application of operational measures in a common and unfragmented manner to obtain a high and uniform level of security in the field of border control and visas in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 562/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council [1], Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council [2], Regulation (EC) No 767/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council [3], Regulation (EC) No 2007/2004, Regulation (EC) No 1931/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council [4], the Schengen catalogue for external border control, the Practical Handbook for border guards, the Handbook on visas, the Eurosur Handbook and any other Regulations and guidelines to be adopted at the Union level on border control and visas;

(c) ‘temporary external borders’ means:

(i) the common border between a Member State fully implementing the Schengen *acquis* and a Member State bound to apply the Schengen *acquis* in full, in conformity with its Act of Accession, but for which the relevant Council Decision authorising it to fully apply that *acquis* has not entered into force;

(ii) the common border between two Member States bound to apply the Schengen *acquis* in full, in conformity with their respective Acts of Accession, but for which the relevant Council Decision authorising them to fully apply that *acquis* has not yet entered into force;

(d) ‘border crossing point’ means any crossing point authorised by the competent authorities for the crossing of external borders as notified in accordance with Article 34(2) of Regulation (EC) No 562/2006;

(e) ‘Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism’ means the verification of the correct application of the Schengen *acquis* as laid down in Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013;

(f) ‘emergency situation’ means a situation resulting from an urgent and exceptional pressure where a large or disproportionate number of third-country nationals are crossing or are expected to cross the external border of one or more Member States or any other duly substantiated emergency situation requiring urgent action at the external borders;

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[1] Regulation (EC) No 562/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code) (OJ L 105, 13.4.2006, p. 1).

[2] Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code) (OJ L 243, 15.9.2009, p. 1).

[3] Regulation (EC) No 767/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 concerning the Visa Information System (VIS) and the exchange of data between Member States on short-stay visas (VIS Regulation) (OJ L 218, 13.8.2008, p. 60).

[4] Regulation (EC) No 1931/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 laying down rules on local border traffic at the external land borders of the Member States and amending the provisions of the Schengen Convention (OJ L 405, 30.12.2006, p. 1).

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(g) ‘external borders section’ means the whole or a part of the external land or sea border of a Member State as defined by national law or as determined by the national coordination centre or any other responsible national authority for the purpose of the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1052/2013.

Article 3

Objectives

1. The general objective of the Instrument shall be to contribute to ensuring a high level of security in the Union while facilitating legitimate travel, through a uniform and high level of control of the external borders and the effective processing of Schengen visas, in compliance with the Union’s commitment to fundamental freedoms and human rights.

2. Within the general objective set out in paragraph 1, the Instrument shall contribute — in accordance with the priorities identified in relevant Union strategies, programmes, threat assessments and risk assessments — to meeting the following specific objectives:

(a) supporting a common visa policy to facilitate legitimate travel, provide a high quality of service to visa applicants, ensure equal treatment of third-country nationals and tackle illegal immigration;

(b) supporting integrated border management, including promoting further harmonisation of border management-related measures in accordance with common Union standards and through the sharing of information between Member States and between Member States and the Frontex Agency, to ensure, on one hand, a uniform and high level of control and protection of the external borders, including by the tackling of illegal immigration and, on the other hand, the smooth crossing of the external borders in conformity with the Schengen *acquis*, while guaranteeing access to international protection for those needing it, in accordance with the obligations contracted by the Member States in the field of human rights, including the principle of *non-refoulement*.

The achievement of the specific objectives of the Instrument shall be evaluated in accordance with Article 55(2) of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 using common indicators, as set out in Annex IV to this Regulation and programme-specific indicators included in national programmes.

3. To achieve the objectives referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, the Instrument shall contribute to the following operational objectives:

(a) promoting the development, implementation and enforcement of policies with a view to ensuring the absence of any controls on persons, whatever their nationality, when crossing the internal borders, and to carrying out checks on persons and monitoring efficiently the crossing of external borders;

(b) gradually establishing an integrated management system for external borders, based on solidarity and responsibility, in particular by means of:

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(i) the reinforcement of external border checks and surveillance systems and of inter-agency cooperation between border guards, customs, migration, asylum and law enforcement authorities of Member States at the external borders, including in the maritime border area;

(ii) measures within the territory relating to the management of external borders and the necessary flanking measures on document security, identity management and the interoperability of acquired technical equipment;

(iii) any measures also contributing to the prevention and fight against cross-border crime at external borders relating to the movement of persons, including trafficking in human beings and human smuggling;

(c) promoting the development and implementation of the common policy on visas and other short-stay residence permits, and of different forms of consular cooperation in order to ensure better consular coverage and harmonised practices on visa issuing;

(d) setting up and running IT systems, their communication infrastructure and equipment that support the common visa policy, border checks and border surveillance at the external borders and fully respect personal data protection law;

(e) reinforcing situational awareness at the external borders and the reaction capabilities of Member States;

(f) ensuring the efficient and uniform application of the Union's *acquis* on borders and visas, including the effective functioning of the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism;

(g) reinforcing actions by the Member States contributing to enhancing the cooperation between Member States operating in third countries as regards the flows of third-country nationals into the territory of Member States, including prevention and tackling of illegal immigration, as well as the cooperation with third countries in that respect in full coherence with the objectives and principles of Union external action and humanitarian policy.

4. Actions funded under the Instrument shall be implemented in full compliance with fundamental rights and respect for human dignity. In particular, actions shall comply with the provisions of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, Union data protection law, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR), the principle of fair treatment of third-country nationals, the right to asylum and international protection, the principle of *non-refoulement* and the international obligations of the Union and Member States arising from international instruments to which they are signatory such as the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, as supplemented by the New York Protocol of 31 January 1967.

In particular, wherever possible, special attention shall be given by Member States when implementing actions to the identification, immediate assistance and referral to protection services of vulnerable persons, in particular children and unaccompanied minors.

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5. When implementing actions funded under the Instrument which are related to maritime border surveillance, Member States shall pay special attention to their obligations under international maritime law to render assistance to persons in distress. In that regard, equipment and systems supported under the Instrument may be used to address search and rescue situations which may arise during a border surveillance operation at sea, thereby contributing to ensuring the protection and saving the lives of migrants.

6. The Instrument shall also contribute to the financing of technical assistance at the initiative of the Member States and the Commission.

Article 4

Eligible actions

1. Within the objectives referred to in Article 3 of this Regulation, and in the light of the outcome of the policy dialogue as provided for in Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 and in accordance with the objectives of the national programme referred to in Article 9 of this Regulation, the Instrument shall support actions in or by Member States, in particular the following:

(a) infrastructures, buildings and systems required at border crossing points and for surveillance between border crossing points to prevent and tackle unauthorised border crossings, illegal immigration and cross-border criminality as well as to guarantee smooth travel flows;

(b) operating equipment, means of transport and communication systems required for effective and secure border control and the detection of persons;

(c) IT and communication systems for the efficient management of migration flows across borders, including investment in existing and future systems;

(d) infrastructures, buildings, communication and IT systems and operating equipment required for the processing of visa applications and consular cooperation, as well as other actions aimed at improving the quality of service for visa applicants;

(e) training in the use of the equipment and systems referred to in points (b), (c) and (d) and the promotion of quality management standards and training of border guards, including where appropriate in third countries, with respect to the performance of their surveillance, advisory and control tasks in compliance with international human rights law, including the identification of victims of human trafficking and people smuggling;

(f) secondment of immigration liaisons officers and document advisers in third countries and the exchange and secondment of border guards between Member States or between a Member State and a third country;

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(g) studies, training, pilot projects and other actions gradually establishing an integrated management system for external borders as referred to in Article 3(3), including actions aiming to foster inter-agency cooperation either within Member States or between Member States and actions relating to the interoperability and harmonisation of border management systems;

(h) studies, pilot projects and actions aiming to implement the recommendations, operational standards and best practices resulting from the operational cooperation between Member States and Union agencies.

2. Within the objectives referred to in Article 3 of this Regulation, and in the light of the outcome of the policy dialogue as provided for in Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 and in accordance with the objectives of the national programme referred to in Article 9 of this Regulation, the Instrument shall support actions in relation to and in third countries and in particular the following:

(a) information systems, tools or equipment for sharing information between Member States and third countries;

(b) actions relating to operational cooperation between Member States and third countries, including joint operations;

(c) projects in third countries aimed at improving surveillance systems to ensure cooperation with Eurosur;

(d) studies, seminars, workshops, conferences, training, equipment and pilot projects to provide ad hoc technical and operational expertise to third countries;

(e) studies, seminars, workshops, conferences, training, equipment and pilot projects implementing specific recommendations, operational standards and best practices resulting from operational cooperation between Member States and Union agencies in third countries.

The Commission and the Member States, together with the European External Action Service, shall ensure coordination as regards actions in and in relation to third countries, as set out in Article 3(5) of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014.

3. The actions referred to in point (a) of paragraph 1 shall not be eligible at temporary external borders.

4. The actions related to the temporary and exceptional reintroduction of border control at internal borders as referred to in the Schengen Borders Code shall not be eligible.

5. The actions of which the exclusive aim or effect is the control of goods shall not be eligible.

CHAPTER II

FINANCIAL AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

Article 5

Global resources and implementation

1. The global resources for the implementation of the Instrument shall be EUR 2 760 million in current prices.

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2. Annual appropriations shall be authorised by the European Parliament and the Council within the limits of the multiannual financial framework.

3. The global resources shall be implemented through the following means:

(a) national programmes, in accordance with Articles 9 and 12;

(b) operating support, within the framework of the national programmes and under the conditions laid down in Article 10;

(c) the Special Transit Scheme, in accordance with Article 11;

(d) Union actions, in accordance with Article 13;

(e) emergency assistance, in accordance with Article 14;

(f) the implementation of a programme for setting up IT systems supporting the management of migration flows across the external borders under the conditions laid down in Article 15;

(g) technical assistance in accordance with Article 16.

4. The budget allocated under the Instrument to Union actions referred to in Article 13 of this Regulation, to the emergency assistance referred to in Article 14 of this Regulation and to the technical assistance referred to in Article 16(1) of this Regulation shall be implemented under direct management in accordance with point (a) of Article 58(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council [1] and, where appropriate, under indirect management in accordance with point (c) of Article 58(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

The budget allocated to the national programmes referred to in Article 9, to the operating support referred to in Article 10 and to the functioning of the Special Transit Scheme referred to in Article 11 shall be implemented under shared management in accordance with point (b) of Article 58(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

The budget allocated to countries associated with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis* referred to in paragraph 7 of this Article shall be implemented under indirect management in accordance with point (c)(i) of Article 58(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

The method(s) of implementation of the budget for the programme on the development of IT systems, based on existing and/or new IT systems, shall be set out in the relevant Union legislative acts subject to their adoption.

5. The global resources shall be used as follows:

(a) EUR 1 551 million for the national programmes of Member States;

(b) EUR 791 million for developing IT systems, based on existing and/or new IT systems, supporting the management of migration flows across the external borders, subject to the adoption of the relevant Union legislative acts;

[1] Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1).

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Where that amount is not allocated or spent, the Commission shall, by means of a delegated act in accordance with Article 17, re-allocate it to one or more of the activities referred to in points (b) and (c) of Article 6(1)and point (d) of this paragraph. That delegated act shall include an assessment of the evolution of the relevant IT systems including the implementation of the budget and expected unspent amounts. That re-allocation may take place following the adoption of the relevant legislative acts or on the occasion of the mid-term review referred to in Article 8.

(c) EUR 154 million for the Special Transit Scheme;

(d) EUR 264 million for Union actions, emergency assistance and technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission, of which at least 30 % shall be used for Union actions.

6. Jointly with the global resources established for Regulation (EU) No 513/2014, the global resources available for the Instrument, as established in paragraph 1, constitute the financial envelope for the Fund and serve as the prime reference, within the meaning of point 17 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management ([1]), for the European Parliament and the Council during the annual budgetary procedure.

7. The countries associated with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis* shall participate in the Instrument in accordance with this Regulation.

Arrangements shall be concluded on the financial contributions by those countries to the Instrument and the supplementary rules necessary for such participation, including provisions ensuring the protection of the Union's financial interests and the power of audit of the Court of Auditors.

The financial contributions from those countries shall be added to the global resources available from the Union budget referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 6

Resources for eligible actions in the Member States

1. EUR 1 551 million shall be allocated to the Member States indicatively as follows:

(a) EUR 1 276 million, as indicated in Annex I;

(b) EUR 147 million, based on the results of the mechanism referred to in Article 7;

([1]) OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

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(c) in the framework of the mid-term review referred to in Article 8 and for the period as of budget year 2018, EUR 128 million, the remainder of the available appropriations under this Article or another amount, as determined pursuant to paragraph 4, based on the results of the risk analysis and the mid-term review.

2. Each Member State shall allocate the basic amounts for national programmes indicated in Annex I as follows:

(a) at least 10 % for actions relating to point (a) of Article 9(2);

(b) at least 25 % for actions relating to point (b) of Article 9(2);

(c) at least 5 % for actions relating to points (c), (d), (e) and (f) of Article 9(2).

Member States may depart from those minimum percentages provided that an explanation is included in the national programme as to why allocating resources below those minima does not jeopardise the achievement of the relevant objective. That explanation will be assessed by the Commission in the context of its approval of national programmes as referred to in Article 9(2).

3. Member States shall devote the necessary funding to Eurosur in order to ensure its good functioning.

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3a. During the development phase of the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), Member States shall receive an additional allocation of EUR 96,5 million to their basic allocation and shall devote this funding entirely to ETIAS to ensure its quick and effective development consistent with the implementation of the ETIAS Central System, as established in Regulation (EU) 2018/1240 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([1]).

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4. To address properly the objectives of the Instrument in the event of unforeseen or new circumstances and/or to ensure the effective implementation of funding available under the Instrument, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 17 to adjust the indicative amount laid down in point (c) of paragraph 1 of this Article.

5. Member States which accede to the Union in the period 2012-2020 shall not benefit from allocations for national programmes under the Instrument as long as they benefit from a temporary instrument of the Union which supports the beneficiary Member States to finance actions at new external borders for the implementation of the Schengen *acquis* on borders and visas and external border control.

([1]) Regulation (EU) 2018/1240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 September 2018 establishing a European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) and amending Regulations (EU) No 1077/2011, (EU) No 515/2014, (EU) 2016/399, (EU) 2016/1624 and (EU) 2017/2226 (OJ L 236, 19.9.2018, p. 1).

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Article 7

Resources for specific actions

1. Member States may, in addition to their allocation calculated in accordance with point (a) of Article 6(1), receive an additional amount, provided that it is earmarked as such in the national programme and is to be used to achieve specific actions listed in Annex II.

2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 17 for the revision of the specific actions listed in Annex II, if deemed appropriate, including in the context of the mid-term review. On the basis of the new specific actions, Member States may receive an additional amount as laid down in paragraph 1 of this Article, subject to available resources.

3. The additional amounts under this Article shall be allocated to the Member States concerned in the individual financing decision approving or revising their national programme in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014.

Article 8

Resources in the framework of the mid-term review

1. In order to allocate the amount indicated in point (c) of Article 6(1), by 1 June 2017 the Commission shall take into account the burden of Member States in border management, including search and rescue activities which may arise during border surveillance operations at sea and assessment reports drawn up as part of the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism, and threat levels at the external borders for the period 2017-2020, as well as factors that affected security at the external borders in 2014-2016. That amount shall be distributed between Member States on the basis of the weighing of the following categories of borders, taking into account paragraph 6 of this Article:

(a) 45 % for external maritime borders;

(b) 38 % for external land borders;

(c) 17 % for airports.

2. For the external maritime and land borders the calculation of the amount shall be based on the length of sections of the external border multiplied by a threat level (minimum, normal, medium, high) for each border section, as follows:

(a) coefficient 0,5 for minimum threat;

(b) coefficient 1 for normal threat;

(c) coefficient 3 for medium threat;

(d) coefficient 5 for high threat.

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3. For the airports, the allocation shall be calculated for each Member State as follows:

(a) 50 % on the basis of the number of persons crossing the external borders;

(b) 50 % on the basis of the number of third-country nationals refused entry at the external borders.

4. In accordance with the Frontex Agency's risk analysis report and in consultation with the Frontex Agency, and, where relevant, other Union agencies, the Commission shall determine threat levels for each external border section of the Member States for the period 2017-2020. The threat levels shall be based on the following factors:

(a) burden in border management at the external borders;

(b) factors that affected security at the external borders of the Member States in the period 2014-2016;

(c) changes in Union policies, for example visa policies;

(d) possible future trends in migratory flows and risks of unlawful activities related to the irregular crossing of persons of the external borders; and

(e) likely political, economic and social developments in third countries, and in particular, neighbouring countries.

Before issuing its report determining the threat levels, the Commission shall hold an exchange of views with the Member States.

5. For the purpose of the distribution of resources under paragraph 1:

(a) the line between the areas referred to in Article 1 of Council Regulation (EC) No 866/2004 ([1]), but not the maritime border north of that line, shall be taken into account even though it does not constitute an external land border for as long as Article 1 of Protocol No 10 on Cyprus to the 2003 Act of Accession remains applicable;

(b) the expression 'external maritime borders' shall mean the outer limit of the territorial sea of the Member States as defined in accordance with Articles 4 to 16 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. However, in cases where long range operations are required on a regular basis in order to prevent unauthorised border crossings, that expression shall mean the outer limit of high threat areas. Those outer limits shall be determined by taking into account the relevant data on these operations in 2014-2016 as provided by the Member States in question.

([1]) Council Regulation (EC) No 866/2004 of 29 April 2004 on a regime under Article 2 of Protocol No 10 to the Act of Accession (OJ L 161, 30.4.2004, p. 128).

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6. Moreover, following invitation from the Commission by 1 June 2017, Member States may receive an additional allocation, provided that it is earmarked as such in the national programme and is to be used to achieve specific actions to be established in the light of the priorities of the Union at that time.

7. The additional amounts under this Article shall be allocated to the Member States concerned in an individual financing decision approving or revising their national programme in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014.

Article 9

National programmes

1. The national programme to be prepared, taking into account the outcome of the policy dialogue referred to in Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014, under the Instrument and the one to be prepared under Regulation (EU) No 513/2014 shall be proposed to the Commission as one single national programme for the Fund and in accordance with Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014.

2. Under the national programmes to be examined and approved by the Commission pursuant to Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014, Member States shall, within the objectives referred to in Article 3 of this Regulation and taking into account the outcome of the policy dialogue referred to in Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014, pursue in particular objectives from the following:

(a) developing Eurosur in accordance with Union law and guidelines;

(b) supporting and expanding the existing capacity at national level in visa policy and in the management of the external borders, as well as supporting and expanding measures within the area of free movement relating to the management of external borders, bearing in mind in particular, new technology, developments and/or standards in relation to the management of migration flows;

(c) supporting the further development of the management of migration flows by consular and other services of the Member States in third countries, including the setting up of consular cooperation mechanisms with a view to facilitating legitimate travel in accordance with Union law or the law of the Member State concerned and preventing illegal immigration into the Union;

(d) reinforcing integrated border management by testing and introducing new tools, interoperable systems and working methods which aim to enhance information exchange within the Member State or to improve inter-agency cooperation;

(e) developing projects with a view to ensuring a uniform and high level of control of the external border in accordance with common Union standards and aiming at increased interoperability of border management systems between Member States;

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(f) supporting actions, after consulting the Frontex Agency, aimed at promoting further harmonisation of border management and in particular technological capabilities, in accordance with common Union standards;

(g) ensuring the correct and uniform application of the Union *acquis* on border control and visas in response to weaknesses identified at Union level, as shown by results established in the framework of the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism;

(h) building the capacity to face upcoming challenges, including present and future threats and pressures at the external borders, taking into account in particular the analyses carried out by relevant Union agencies.

3. In pursuit of the objectives referred to in paragraph 2, Member States may support actions in, and in relation to, third countries under their national programmes, including through information-sharing and operational cooperation.

4. The Commission shall consult the Frontex Agency on draft national programmes, in particular on the activities financed under the operating support, submitted by the Member States in order to develop complementarity between the mission of the Frontex Agency and the responsibilities of the Member States for the control and surveillance of external borders as well as to ensure consistency and to avoid cost inefficiency.

Article 10

Operating support under the national programmes of the Member States

1. A Member State may use up to 40 % of the amount allocated under the Instrument to its national programme to finance operating support to the public authorities responsible for accomplishing the tasks and services which constitute a public service for the Union.

2. Operating support shall be provided when the following conditions are met by the Member State concerned:

(a) compliance with the Union *acquis* on borders and visas;

(b) compliance with the objectives of the national programme;

(c) compliance with common Union standards in order to enhance coordination between Member States and avoid duplication, fragmentation and cost inefficiency in the border control domain.

3. To that end, before the approval of the national programme, the Commission shall assess the baseline situation in Member States which have indicated their intention to request operating support, taking into account, where relevant, the Schengen evaluation reports.

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The findings of the Commission shall be the subject of an exchange of views with the Member State concerned.

Following the exchange of views, the acceptance by the Commission of budget support within the national programme of a Member State may be made conditional upon the programming and completion of a number of actions aiming to ensure that the conditions laid down in paragraph 2 are fully met by the time the budget support is provided.

4. Operating support shall be concentrated on specific tasks and/or services and shall be focused on the objectives as laid down in Annex III. It shall entail full reimbursement of the expenditure incurred to accomplish the tasks and/or services defined in the national programme, within the financial limits set by the programme and the ceiling laid down in paragraph 1.

5. Operating support shall be the subject of monitoring and exchange of information between the Commission and the Member State concerned in relation to the baseline situation in that Member State, the objectives and targets to be accomplished and the indicators to measure progress.

6. The Commission shall set out, by means of implementing acts, reporting procedures on the application of this provision and any other practical arrangements to be made between Member States and the Commission to comply with this Article. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 18(2).

Article 11

Operating support for the Special Transit Scheme

1. The Instrument shall provide support to compensate for foregone fees from visas issued for the purpose of transit and additional costs incurred in implementing the Facilitated Transit Document (FTD) and the Facilitated Rail Transit Document (FRTD) scheme in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 693/2003 and Regulation (EC) No 694/2003.

2. The resources allocated to Lithuania pursuant to paragraph 1 shall not exceed EUR 154 million for the period 2014-2020 and shall be made available as additional specific operating support for Lithuania.

3. For the purpose of paragraph 1, additional costs means costs which result directly from the specific requirements of implementing the operation of the Special Transit Scheme and which are not generated as a result of the issuing of visas for the purpose of transit or other purposes.

The following types of additional cost shall be eligible for financing:

(a) investment in infrastructures;

(b) training of staff implementing the special transit scheme;

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(c) additional operational costs, including salaries of staff specifically implementing the special transit scheme.

4. The foregone fees referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be calculated on the basis of the level of visa fees and the visa fee waivers established by the Agreement between the European Community and the Russian Federation on the facilitation of the issuance of visas to the citizens of the European Union and the Russian Federation [1], within the financial framework set out in paragraph 2 of this Article.

5. The Commission and Lithuania shall review the application of this Article in the event of changes which have an impact on the existence and/or functioning of the Special Transit Scheme.

6. The Commission shall set out, by means of implementing acts, reporting procedures on the application of this provision and any financial and other practical arrangements to be made between Lithuania and the Commission to comply with this Article. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 18(2).

7. To ensure the smooth functioning of the Special Transit Scheme the Commission may make specific interim payment arrangements which derogate from the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014.

Article 12

Programming in line with the outcomes of the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism

Following a Schengen evaluation report, as adopted in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013, the Member State concerned shall examine, together with the Commission and the Frontex Agency, how to address the findings, including any deficiencies, and implement the recommendations within the framework of its national programme.

Where necessary, a Member State shall revise its national programme in accordance with Article 14(9) of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 to take into account those findings and recommendations.

The financing of corrective actions shall be a priority. In dialogue with the Commission and the Frontex Agency, the Member State concerned shall reallocate resources under its programme, including those programmed for operating support, and/or introduce or amend actions aiming to remedy the weaknesses in accordance with the findings and recommendations of the Schengen evaluation report.

Article 13

Union actions

1. At the Commission's initiative, the Instrument may be used to finance transnational actions or actions of particular interest to the Union ('Union actions') concerning the general, specific and operational objectives referred to in Article 3.

[1] OJ L 129, 17.5.2007, p. 27.

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2. To be eligible for funding, Union actions shall in particular pursue the following objectives:

(a) to support preparatory, monitoring, administrative and technical activities, required to implement external borders and visa policies, including to strengthen the governance of the Schengen area by developing and implementing the evaluation mechanism as established by Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 to verify the application of the Schengen *acquis* and the Schengen Borders Code, in particular mission expenditure for experts of the Commission and the Member States participating in on site visits;

(b) to improve the knowledge and understanding of the situation prevailing in the Member States and third countries through the analysis, evaluation and close monitoring of policies;

(c) to support the development of statistical tools, including common statistical tools, methods and common indicators;

(d) to support and monitor the implementation of Union law and Union policy objectives in the Member States, and assess their effectiveness and impact, including with regard to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as far as the scope of the Instrument is concerned;

(e) to promote networking, mutual learning, identification and dissemination of best practices and innovative approaches amongst different stakeholders at European level;

(f) to promote projects aiming at harmonisation and interoperability of border management-related measures in accordance with common Union standards with a view to developing an integrated European border management system;

(g) to enhance awareness of Union policies and objectives among stakeholders and the general public, including corporate communication on the political priorities of the Union;

(h) to boost the capacity of European networks to assess, promote, support and further develop Union policies and objectives;

(i) to support particularly innovative projects developing new methods and/or technologies with a potential for transferability to other Member States, especially projects which aim to test and validate research projects;

(j) to support actions in relation to and in third countries as referred to in Article 4(2).

3. Union actions shall be implemented in accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014.

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Article 14

Emergency assistance

1. The Instrument shall provide financial assistance to address urgent and specific needs in the event of an emergency situation as defined in point (f) of Article 2.

2. Emergency assistance shall be implemented in accordance with Articles 6 and 7 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014.

Article 15

Establishing a programme on the development of IT systems

The programme on the development of the IT systems, based on existing and/or new IT systems, shall be implemented subject to adoption of the Union legislative acts defining those IT systems and their communication infrastructure with the aim, in particular, of improving the management and control of travel flows at the external borders by reinforcing checks while speeding up border crossings for regular travellers. Where appropriate, synergies with existing IT systems shall be sought in order to avoid double-spending.

The breakdown of the amount referred to in point (b) of Article 5(5) shall be made either in the relevant Union legislative acts or, following the adoption of those legislative acts, through a delegated act in accordance with Article 17.

The Commission shall inform the European Parliament and the Council of progress in developing those IT systems at least once a year and whenever appropriate.

Article 16

Technical assistance

1. At the initiative and/or on behalf of the Commission, the Instrument may contribute up to EUR 1,7 million annually for technical assistance to the Fund in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014.

2. At the initiative of a Member State, the Instrument may finance technical assistance activities, in accordance with Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014. The amount set aside for technical assistance shall not exceed, for the period 2014–2020, 5 % of the total amount allocated to a Member State plus EUR 500 000.

CHAPTER III

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 17

Exercise of the delegation

1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.

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2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in point (b) of Article 5(5) and Articles 6(4), 7(2) and 15 shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of seven years from 21 May 2014. The Commission shall draw up a report in respect of the delegation of power no later than nine months before the end of the seven year period. The delegation of power shall be tacitly extended for a period of three years, unless the European Parliament or the Council opposes such extension not later than three months before the end of the seven-year period.

3. The delegation of power referred to in point (b) of Article 5(5) and Articles 6(4), 7(2) and 15 may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the *Official Journal of the European Union* or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

4. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.

5. A delegated act adopted pursuant to point (b) of Article 5(5) and Articles 6(4), 7(2) and 15 shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or by the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

Article 18

Committee procedure

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the 'Asylum, Migration and Integration and Internal Security Funds Committee' established by Article 59(1) of Regulation EU No 514/2014.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

Article 19

Applicability of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014

The provisions of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 shall apply to the Instrument.

Article 20

Repeal

Decision No 574/2007/EC shall be repealed with effect from 1 January 2014.

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Article 21

Transitional provisions

1. This Regulation shall not affect the continuation or modification, including the total or partial cancellation, of the projects and annual programmes until their closure or the financial assistance approved by the Commission on the basis of Decision No 574/2007/EC or any other legislation applying to that assistance on 31 December 2013.

2. When adopting decisions on co-financing under the Instrument, the Commission shall take account of measures adopted on the basis of Decision No 574/2007/EC before 20 May 2014 which have financial repercussions during the period covered by that co-financing.

3. Sums committed for co-financing approved by the Commission between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2014 for which the documents required for closure of the actions have not been sent to the Commission by the deadline for submitting the final report shall be automatically decommitted by the Commission by 31 December 2017, giving rise to the repayment of amounts unduly paid.

4. Amounts relating to actions which have been suspended due to legal proceedings or administrative appeals having suspensive effect shall be disregarded in calculating the amount to be automatically decommitted.

5. Member States shall submit to the Commission by 30 June 2015 the evaluation report on the results and impact of actions co-financed under the Decision No 574/2007/EC concerning the period 2011–2013.

6. The Commission shall submit to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions by 31 December 2015 the *ex-post* evaluation report under Decision No 574/2007/EC concerning the period 2011-2013.

Article 22

Review

The European Parliament and the Council shall, on the basis of a proposal of the Commission, review this Regulation by 30 June 2020.

Article 23

Entry into force and application

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2014.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in the Member States in accordance with the Treaties.

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ANNEX I

Amounts constituting the basis for the national programmes of Member States (in EUR)

Member State/ associated state	Minimum amount	Fixed part distributed on basis of 2010-2012 average	% 2010-2012 with Croatia	TOTAL
AT	5 000 000	9 162 727	0,828 %	14 162 727
BE	5 000 000	12 519 321	1,131 %	17 519 321
BG	5 000 000	35 366 130	3,196 %	40 366 130
CH	5 000 000	13 920 284	1,258 %	18 920 284
CY	15 000 000	19 507 030	1,763 %	34 507 030
CZ	5 000 000	9 381 484	0,848 %	14 381 484
DE	5 000 000	46 753 437	4,225 %	51 753 437
DK	5 000 000	5 322 133	0,481 %	10 322 133
EE	5 000 000	16 781 752	1,516 %	21 781 752
ES	5 000 000	190 366 875	17,201 %	195 366 875
FI	5 000 000	31 934 528	2,886 %	36 934 528
FR	5 000 000	79 999 342	7,229 %	84 999 342
GR	5 000 000	161 814 388	14,621 %	166 814 388
HR	4 285 714	31 324 057	2,830 %	35 609 771
HU	5 000 000	35 829 197	3,237 %	40 829 197
IE				
IS	5 000 000	326 980	0,030 %	5 326 980
IT	5 000 000	151 306 897	13,672 %	156 306 897
LI	5 000 000	0	0,000 %	5 000 000
LT	5 000 000	19 704 873	1,780 %	24 704 873
LU	5 000 000	400 129	0,036 %	5 400 129
LV	5 000 000	10 521 704	0,951 %	15 521 704
MT	15 000 000	38 098 597	3,442 %	53 098 597
NL	5 000 000	25 609 543	2,314 %	30 609 543
NO	5 000 000	9 317 819	0,842 %	14 317 819
PL	5 000 000	44 113 133	3,986 %	49 113 133
PT	5 000 000	13 900 023	1,256 %	18 900 023
RO	5 000 000	56 151 568	5,074 %	61 151 568
SE	5 000 000	6 518 706	0,589 %	11 518 706
SI	5 000 000	25 669 103	2,319 %	30 669 103
SK	5 000 000	5 092 525	0,460 %	10 092 525
UK				
TOTAL	169 285 714	1 106 714 286	100,00 %	1 276 000 000

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ANNEX II

List of specific actions

1. Setting up consular cooperation mechanisms between at least two Member States resulting in economies of scale as regards the processing of applications and the issuing of visas at consulates in accordance with the principles on cooperation laid down in the Visa Code, including common visa application centres.

2. Purchasing means of transport and operating equipment that are considered necessary for the deployment during joint operations by the Frontex Agency and which shall be put at the disposal of the Frontex Agency in accordance with the second and third subparagraph of Article 7(5) of Regulation (EC) No 2007/2004.

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ANNEX III

Objectives for operating support within the national programmes

Objective 1: promoting the development and implementation of policies ensuring the absence of any controls on persons, whatever their nationality, when crossing the internal borders, carrying out checks on persons and monitoring efficiently the crossing of external borders

— operations

— staff costs, including for training

— service costs, such as maintenance and repair

— upgrading/replacement of equipment

— real estate (depreciation, refurbishment)

Objective 2: promoting the development and implementation of the common policy on visas and other short-stay residence permits, including consular cooperation

— operations staff costs, including for training

— service costs, maintenance and repair

— upgrading/replacement of equipment

— real estate (depreciation, refurbishment)

Objective 3: setting up and running secure IT systems, their communication infrastructure and equipment supporting the management of migration flows, including surveillance, across the external borders of the Union

— operational management of SIS, VIS and new systems to be set up

— staff costs, including for training

— service costs, such as maintenance and repair

— communication infrastructure and security as well as data protection related matters

— upgrading/replacement of equipment

— rental of secure premises and/or refurbishment

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ANNEX IV

List of common indicators for the measurement of the specific objectives

(a) Supporting a common visa policy to facilitate legitimate travel, ensure equal treatment of third-country nationals and tackle illegal immigration

(i) Number of consular cooperation activities developed with the help of the Instrument

For the purposes of annual implementation reports, as referred to in Article 54 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014, this indicator shall be further broken down in sub-categories such as:

— co-locations,

— common application centres,

— representations,

— others.

(ii) Number of staff trained and number of training courses in aspects related to the common visa policy with the help of the Instrument

(iii) Number of specialised posts in third countries supported by the Instrument

For the purposes of annual implementation reports, as referred to in Article 54 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014, this indicator shall be further broken down in sub-categories such as:

— immigration liaison officers,

— others.

(iv) Percentage and number of consulates developed or upgraded with the help of the Instrument out of the total number of consulates

(b) Supporting borders management, including through sharing information between Member States and between Member States and the Frontex Agency, to ensure, on one hand, a high level of protection of the external borders, including by the tackling of illegal immigration and, on the other hand, the smooth crossing of the external borders in conformity with the Schengen *acquis*

(i) Number of staff trained and number of training courses in aspects related to border management with the help of the Instrument

(ii) Number of border control (checks and surveillance) infrastructure and means developed or upgraded with the help of the Instrument

For the purposes of annual implementation reports, as referred to in Article 54 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014, this indicator shall be further broken down in sub-categories such as:

— infrastructure,

— fleet (air, land, sea borders),

— equipment,

— others.

(iii) Number of border crossings of the external borders through ABC gates supported from the Instrument out of the total number of border crossings

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(iv) Number of national border surveillance infrastructure established/further developed in the framework of Eurosur

For the purposes of annual implementation reports, as referred to in Article 54 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014, this indicator shall be further broken down in sub-categories such as:

— National Coordination Centres,

— Regional Coordination Centres,

— Local Coordination Centres,

— other types of coordination centres.

(v) Number of incidents reported by Member States to the European Situational Picture

For the purposes of annual implementation reports, as referred to in Article 54 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014, this indicator shall be further broken down in sub-categories such as:

— illegal immigration, including incidents relating to a risk to the lives of migrants,

— cross-border crime,

— crisis situations.