

## **Updating the Schengen Action Plan – 2004**

While the Complementary Position Document II was being drawn up, the Schengen Action Plan was revised, the document being adopted by the Romanian Government, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2004.

The Schengen Action Plan 2004 was a revised version of the initial Schengen Action Plan, presented by the Romanian authorities in 2001 as an annex of the Position Document, being set up to update the information related to the acquis implementation stage and to improve the manner of presenting the information.

The Schengen Action Plan 2004 contains clear references at the relevant acquis, indicated by the European Commission and published in the Official Journal L 239 from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2000, being totally accepted by Romania.

Each section shows the Schengen relevant acquis, depicts the existing stage and the legislative, institutional, technical – administrative measures for adopting and implementing the relevant acquis. A calendar containing precise deadlines for the above-mentioned measures is also presented. At the same time, the responsible institutions for implementing these measures are mentioned.

The revised Schengen Action Plan 2004 clearly shows the difference between the moment when Romania adheres to the European Union and when it adheres to the Schengen Convention. The planning of the Schengen Convention implementation process approaches two stages, covering both the pre-adhesion and post-adhesion to the EU periods of time, being placed before canceling internal border checking (full Schengen member).

With the view to implement the revised SAP 2004, Romania takes into account the date of 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2007 as the date of adhesion to the EU which was established in accordance with the discussions during the Copenhagen Summit from December 2002. As for the subsequent adhesion to the Schengen Agreement, 2009 is considered to be a reasonable target. Still, realistically speaking, unpredictable events might cause undesirable delays.

The measures stipulated by the Schengen Action Plan are financed mainly from the state budget which annually allots certain budgets to the ministries and institutions being responsible with the necessary measures implementation. The actions are planned and carried out by each of these ministries and institutions, depending on the calendar established within the Schengen Action Plan and the specific strategies and action plans.

The Schengen Action Plan, revised in 2004, was appreciated as a document which responds the European requests, both by the Progress Report and by the Common Position which was sent to the Romanian authorities, at the end of 2004. It is also mentioned that the Schengen Action Plan, presented in 2004, is a significant step forward, comparing to the previous plans.