EVALUATION AND FITNESS CHECK (FC) ROADMAP			
TITLE OF THE EVALUATION/FC	**MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE 'PERICLES 2020' PROGRAMME**		
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	DG ECFIN – UNIT C.5	**DATE OF THIS ROADMAP**	31/10/2016
TYPE OF EVALUATION	Evaluation Interim	**PLANNED START DATE** **PLANNED COMPLETION DATE**	06 /2016 12/ 2017
		PLANNING CALENDAR	http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/evaluation/index_en.htm

A. Purpose

(A.1) Purpose

The Pericles 2020 programme (hereinafter 'the Programme') was established by Regulation (EU) No 331/2014 (hereinafter the 'Regulation') of the European Parliament and of the Council on 11 March 2014 (hereinafter 'the Regulation') for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020. Pericles 2020 is an exchange, assistance and training programme aiming at promoting actions for the protection and safeguarding of the euro against counterfeiting. The budget for the Programme's implementation is approximately EUR 1 million per year.

The Pericles 2020 programme replaced the Pericles programme, which was established by Council Decision 2001/923/EC of 17 December 2001 for a period of four years (1 January 2002 to 31 December 2005) and it was extended by Council Decision 2006/849/EC of 20 November 2006 until 31 December 2013.

In accordance with the Regulation, an independent mid-term evaluation (hereinafter 'the evaluation') of the Programme shall be carried out and presented by the Commission to the European Parliament and to the Council by 31 December 2017. The evaluation will assess the Programme implementation to date and will provide an outlook on the future activities of the programme.

(A.2) Justification

Evaluation is a key step of the policy cycle, enabling the experience of policies implemented to translate into institutional learning and effectively respond to strategic needs. A mid-term evaluation enables an intervention to be assessed and adjusted as necessary during implementation. The important role of evaluation is highlighted in the current Better Regulation Guidelines (SWD(2015)111) attached to Communication COM(2015)215, which includes a commitment to evaluate in a proportionate way all EU spending and non-spending activities intended to have an impact on the economy.

The rationale of the evaluation is embedded in Regulation (EU) No 331/2014. The legal basis requirement can be found in Article 13 paragraph 4 of the Regulation:

'An evaluation of the Programme shall be carried out by the Commission. By 31 December 2017, an independent mid-term evaluation report shall be presented by the Commission on the achievement of the

objectives of all the measures (at the level of results and impacts), the efficient and cost-effective use of resources and its added value for the Union. The evaluation report shall be prepared with a view to informing a decision on the renewal, modification or suspension of the measures. The evaluation shall additionally address the scope for simplification, its internal and external coherence, the continued relevance of all objectives, as well as the contribution of the measures to the Union's priorities of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. It shall take into account evaluation results on the long-term impact of the predecessor measures.'

B. Content and subject of the evaluation

(B.1) Subject area

The Programme is a multiannual action programme to promote actions for the protection and safeguarding of the euro against counterfeiting and related fraud. It is an exchange, assistance and training programme aiming at preventing and combating counterfeiting and related fraud, thus enhancing the competitiveness of the EU's economy and securing the sustainability of public finances.

The Programme actively encourages and entails an increase in transnational cooperation for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting both inside and outside the EU. Particular attention is paid to those Member States or third countries that have the highest rates of euro counterfeiting, as shown by the relevant reports issued by the competent authorities. Such cooperation contributes to a greater effectiveness of the protection of the euro through exchanging best practices, common standards and joint specialised training.

(B.2) Original objectives of the intervention

The general objective of the Programme is to prevent and combat counterfeiting and related fraud, thus enhancing the competitiveness of the EU's economy and securing the sustainability of public finances. More specifically, the Programme protects euro banknotes and coins against counterfeiting and related fraud, by supporting and supplementing the activities undertaken by the Member States and assisting the competent national and European authorities in order to develop among themselves and the Commission a close and regular cooperation and an exchange of best practices, where appropriate including third countries and international organisations.

(B.3) How the objectives were to be achieved

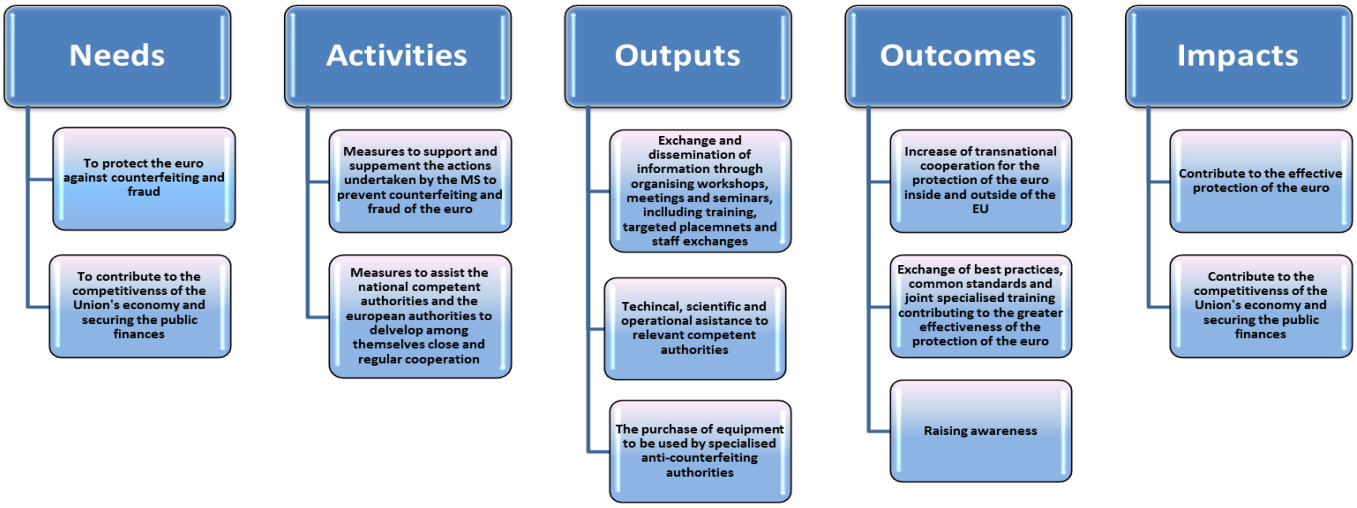
The actions in order to achieve the above mentioned objectives, as defined in Article 8 of the Regulation, are:

a. exchange and dissemination of information, through organised workshops, meetings and seminars, including trainings, targeted placements and staff exchanges of competent national authorities;
b. technical, scientific and operational assistance including relevant studies with a multidisciplinary and transnational dimension;
c. grants to finance the purchase of equipment to be used by specialised anti-counterfeiting authorities for protecting the euro against counterfeiting.

Projects financed under the Programme are implemented either directly by the Commission (DG ECFIN) or in the form of grants awarded to national competent authorities in the EU (both in the euro area and non-euro area Member States). The co-financing rate for grants awarded under the Programme is 75% of the total eligible costs. These projects take place both inside and outside the EU.

The intervention logic of the Pericles 2020 Programme is detailed below:

Intervention logic



C. Scope of the evaluation/FC

(C.1) Topics covered

The mid-term evaluation will assess the performance of the Pericles 2020 Programme to date in the context of the objectives detailed in Article 13 paragraph 4 of the Regulation.

The mid-term evaluation will consider all elements necessary to support a decision to either renew, modify or suspend the measures / types of actions financed under the Programme. Results on the long-term impact of the predecessor Programme actions such as the overall added value, the prospects of the Programme's sustainability and recommendations from previous evaluations will be taken into account during the mid-term evaluation.

The mid-term evaluation will consider the different types of actions committed or implemented under the Pericles 2020 programme in 2014, 2015 and 1st semester of 2016. It will cover all activities of the programme, both within and outside the EU.

(C.2) Issues to be examined

The issues that will be examined to evaluate the performance of the Pericles 2020 Programme from its commencement in 2014 to the 1st semester of 2016 are:

a. the achievements of the objectives of all actions (at the level of results and impacts);
b. the efficient and cost-effective use of resources and its added value to the EU;
c. the internal and external coherence, the relevance of all objectives and the contribution of all actions to the EU's priorities;
d. the scope for simplification;
e. the sustainability of the Programme's effects.

The evaluation will specifically focus on the following elements to support the assessment of the evaluation criteria:

- Needs;
- Programme objectives;
- Programme inputs;
- Management and administrative structures;
- Costs of the outputs;
- Coordination and cooperation**;**
- Outputs and results.

D. Evidence base

(D.1) Evidence from monitoring

The proposed evidence base to support the work of the mid-term evaluation is wide ranging and detailed. Evidence will be gathered from multiple sources. This will include all programme performance data gathered in relation the operation of the Pericles programme.

The bodies eligible for funding under the Programme are limited to national competent authorities, designated by the Member States and listed in the Official Journal. In addition, Programme participants are mainly staff of agencies engaged in detecting and combatting counterfeiting. This has enabled the Commission to undertake a comprehensive mapping exercise of all key stakeholders. All stakeholders involved (the participants of the actions, Member States' competent authorities and international partners) will be consulted during the evaluation phase. It is envisaged that the appropriate tools (e.g. survey questionnaires, individual interviews etc.) will be in place to enable the contractor to reach all the relevant Programme stakeholders. This is practically possible as the actions implemented during the evaluation period are limited (around 30 actions) and as the main stakeholders are representatives from national competent authorities on specific policy areas.

In addition to information gathered through the targeted stakeholder consultation process, the Regulation requires the Commission to report annually to the European Parliament and to the Council concerning the implementation and results of the Programme. This reporting information will also be used to supplement stakeholder consultations and will be complemented by project specific documentation generated by the programme.

(D.2) Previous evaluations and other reports

The following information sources will be used, inter alia, during the evaluation:

- The Commission Impact Assessment (IA) which accompanied the Commission proposal to establish the Pericles 2020 Programme;
- The ex-post evaluation of the predecessor programme ('Pericles' for the period 2006-2013);
- The Commission report to the European Parliament and to the Council concerning the overall implementation of the Pericles programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting 2006-2013;
- The annual Commission reports on the Pericles 2020 Programme covering implementation to-date, which have already been presented to the European Parliament and to the Council.

(D.3) Evidence from assessing the implementation and application of legislation (complaints, infringement procedures)
N/A
(D.4) Consultation
The Pericles 2020 Programme aims to protect the euro from counterfeiting and related fraud through a range of very specific measures. The Programme is targeted exclusively at a set of very specific competent national authorities. The consultation strategy will therefore not entail an open public consultation but it will include a comprehensive targeted stakeholder consultation process that will engage with all stakeholders involved in the Programme (the participants of the actions, Member States' competent authorities and international partners). Given the exceptionally focussed nature and scope of the programme it is envisaged that all relevant stakeholders will be engaged directly through the targeted consultation process.
(D.5) Further evidence to be gathered
N/A

E. Other relevant information/ remarks
The independent external mid-term evaluation will be conducted by a contractor who will work under direct monitoring and supervision of an Inter-Service Steering Group consisting of representatives from relevant Commission DGs.