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**CY/2019/ISF/SO2.NO.1.1.4**

**Purchase of three boats (category B) for the needs of the Port and Maritime Police**

**Date of Signing of the Agreement:** 02/08/2019

**Project Duration:** 30/06/2019 - 31/05/2022

**Project budget:**  €9.780.870

The mission of the Port and Maritime Police is the surveillance of the coasts and territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus for the prevention, investigation and suppression of crime, especially drug trafficking, illegal immigration, smuggling, terrorism, border guards and also providing assistance to the public.

The increased responsibilities of Port and Maritime Police require the renewal of its boat naval fleet, which will strengthen its operational capabilities.

The aim of this project is to increase the operational capacity of the Port and Maritime Police by replacing the existing Category B patrol vessels for more safety and for the reduction of maintenance costs of the old vessels.

The three boats (category B), will be made of navy type aluminum, 15-17 meters long and will be equipped with two engines. They will also have modern tools for navy equipment, for telecommunications, for electronic and for rescue. The description of the new boats has been prepared in details by the Technical Specifications Committee, which is set up by the Chief of Police and a Public Procurement tender has been announced (F.D. 2/2020).

The vessels will be used in all naval stations which are situated in Protaras, in Ayia Napa, in Kato Paphos, in Latsi, in Larnaca and in Limassol, mainly for border surveillance, but also in search and rescue cases where a rapid and immediate response is required. The vessels will strengthen and upgrade the National Coordination Center (NCC) for compliance with the European Eurosur system for border surveillance, cross-border crime prevention and the suppression of illegal immigration, as these actions are also part of the Cypriot priorities.

The financing of the purchase of the three boats (Category B) was approved within the framework of the Multiannual Program of Internal Security Fund – Borders 2014-2020, National Program of the Republic of Cyprus.

**The project is co-financed by 90% from the EU Internal Security Fund and by 10% from the Republic of Cyprus.**