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REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

on the development of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) Progress Report July – December 2007

[SEC(2008) 552]

1. INTRODUCTION

This progress report describes the work carried out by the Commission in the second semester of 2007 on the development of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II).It is presented to the Council and the European Parliament in accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 2424/2001 of 6 December 2001 on the development of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II).

2. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

2.1. Network Installation and Testing:

The SIS II project includes the provision of a wide area communications network, meeting the requirements of availability, security, geographical coverage and level of service, to all the national and central systems to communicate. All Member States have had their main sites and the vast majority of back – up sites connected to the s-Testa network since November 2007.

2.2. Central SIS II:

The System Solution Tests (SST) have been conducted to verify that the central SIS II on the central sites is compliant with the technical specification.

2.3. Preparations for Migration and Integration:

In 2006 a migration plan was prepared in co operation with Member States' experts, for the move from SIS1+ to SIS II. With the completion of the SISone4All project, the number of Member States increased, as did the complexity of managing the migration. A Migration Working Group has been established within the framework of the SIS II Committee and is mandated to make concrete proposals for a global and coherent strategy and high-level plan for the timely preparation and execution of migration from SIS 1+ to SIS II, including risk analysis and a contingency plan.

3. CONCLUSIONS

The Central SIS II has completed the first phase of tests which is testing without Member State participation. Member States have commenced testing their national systems. Despite initial difficulties, which have negatively impacted the planning margins built into the overall project schedule, there is now a stable network between Member States and the two sites hosting the Central SIS II. However, the project has encountered some set-backs in the past six months; the negative opinion of the SIS II regulatory Committee on the draft Commission Decision on tests, the concerns relating to migration and the duration of the global tests. It will depend on the outcome of ongoing discussions on these issues to which extent the overall planning will be impacted.