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DAPIX 302
JAI 839
CSC 212

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 22 September 2017
To: Delegations
Subject: DAPIX (Friends of Presidency) - Interoperability of EU information systems

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Party adopted the agenda of the meeting as set out in CM 4047/1/17 REV 1 with the addition of a presentation by eu-LISA under AOB concerning the unified network study.

2. Information from the Presidency

The Presidency briefly informed delegations about the relevant meetings in the area of interoperability of EU JHA information systems and about the timetable for negotiations of the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) proposal.

3. Information from the Commission

Delegations took note of the presentation by the Commission concerning the ongoing preparation for the legislative proposal on interoperability of EU information systems in the JHA area, due in December 2017.

In particular, the Commission informed delegations about the feasibility studies that will feed into the proposal's impact assessment: i) the study on the European Search Portal (ESP) is about to be concluded; ii) the study on the Shared Biometric Matching Service (BMS) should be finalised by mid-October, and iii) the study on the Common Identity Repository (CIR) should be completed on 1 December 2017. The Commission organised a workshop on 27 July 2017 to discuss preliminary results of the studies. The next workshop will be organised on 6 October 2017. The public consultation on the upcoming proposal was launched in July and will last until mid-October. The Commission invited delegations to inform practitioners in Member States to take part in the public consultation.

4. Gaps in access to central EU systems for borders and security and the need for interoperability: identifying justifications (12258/17)

The Working Party took note of the presentation by the AT delegation regarding constraints in the current use of EU information systems by law enforcement authorities. The AT delegation pointed out in particular that the current law enforcement access rights to the VIS and Eurodac are largely insufficient and their use is conditioned by too much bureaucracy.

The Commission presented a mapping of access rights to different EU information systems (12258/17) and invited delegations to consider the following issues: (i) the necessity and proportionality of the suggested interoperability solutions (ESP, BMS and CIR), in particular in fighting identity fraud, (ii) the need for a harmonised law enforcement access to the systems, for example, based on the Entry-Exit System (EES), (iii) constraints posed for law enforcement access by the current cascade system and whether it should be replaced by flagging, (iv) possible information gaps. The Presidency also invited delegations to reply to questions set out in its note 12258/17.

In the ensuing discussion, a few delegations spoke in favour of broader law enforcement access rights, in particular for identification purposes. Some delegations supported the idea of replacing the cascading mechanism by flagging, referring to the recommendations of the High-Level Expert Group on Information Systems and Interoperability. A few delegations considered that the future EES could serve as a model to harmonise law enforcement access to other EU information systems, while a few others considered it insufficient. In addition a suggestion was made that information on return decisions and entry bans should be automatically provided by the EES to the SIS and the Member States which issued them.

Delegations were invited to submit further replies to questions raised by the Commission and listed in 12258/17 in writing by 3 October.

5. Updating the Roadmap to enhance information exchange and information management in line with the Council Conclusions on interoperability of 8 June 2017 (12223/17 + COR1).

The Presidency presented a draft update of the Roadmap to enhance information exchange and information management. The aim of the review is to update the Roadmap in line with the Council Conclusions of 8 June 2017. In the updated Roadmap the Presidency in particular included the recommendations of the High-Level Expert Group on Information Systems and Interoperability and related elements of the Council Conclusions on interoperability, restructured the document to group related actions and sub-actions and listed the completed actions under a new chapter.

Delegations were invited to provide written comments to the draft by 6 October.

6. Any other business

The Working Part took note of the presentation by eu-LISA on the unified network study, which explores the possibility to merge the existing physical networks serving the EU information systems. The unified network could potentially improve efficiency, reduce physical imprint and improve availability of the communication structure, also with a view to hosting new EU information systems (e.g. ETIAS, EES). If the initial assessment, including the technical evaluation, is positive, eu-LISA will carry out tests of a unified network with the participation of a few Member States in the course of 2018.
