



**COUNCIL OF
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NOTE

from:	Europol
to:	Working Party on Information Exchange and Data Protection (DAPIX)
Subject:	Prüm AFIS test platform

1 Introduction

A “Prüm AFIS test environment” has been developed by the Mobile Competency Team (MCT) and is currently hosted at the BKA (Germany). This test environment was established to support Prüm Member States in the implementation of their dactyloscopic data exchange.

The MCT project will end in July 2013. It is important to ensure the continuation of the Prüm AFIS technical support delivery towards the Member States after the MCT project closure.

This document describes the solution proposed by the Prüm Helpdesk at Europol.

2 Proposal

One of the tasks of the MCT was to establish an AFIS test platform at the BKA which could be used to perform the pilot tests prior to an evaluation visit. This test platform was indeed established but not all the Member States are operational yet and it is already clear that not all Member States will be operational when the MCT project will be closed.

Moreover, the continuous availability of a test platform when all Member States will be operational will be useful when a Member State upgrades its AFIS and wishes to test its upgraded system before resuming data exchange with the other Member States.

As Europol was invited to establish the Prüm Helpdesk as a continuation of the Mobile Competency Team, it would be logical that Europol provides such a test platform as one of the services offered by the Prüm Helpdesk.

The establishment of an AFIS test platform would require significant resources at Europol. Besides the costs directly associated to the implementation of the AFIS itself, the provision of such a specialised support would require the availability of AFIS experts which would need to be recruited as well.

It is only based on a clear mandate from the Member States that such a project can be included in the workplan 2013, allowing to quickly initiate the project, including the necessary procurement procedure. Subject to the condition that sufficient budget is allocated, an AFIS test environment may then be made available at Europol mid-2014 at the earliest.

There would thus be a transition period of one year between the MCT project closure and the availability of an AFIS test platform at Europol. Germany accepts to maintain the availability of the AFIS test platform hosted at the BKA during the transition period. Once the MCT project will be closed, the Prüm Helpdesk will provide support to the BKA when tests need to be conducted. This will actually also ensure knowledge transfer to Europol.

3 The way forward

Delegations are invited to:

- discuss this proposal
- confirm the long term need of a Prüm AFIS test infrastructure
- mandate Europol to establish a Prüm AFIS test infrastructure in the framework of the Prüm Helpdesk.