



Brussels, 18 May 2015
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8461/15

SIRIS 33
COMIX 203

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 29 April 2015
To: Working Party for Schengen Matters (SIS/SIRENE) / Mixed Committee
(EU/Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, Liechtenstein)
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in CM 2140/1/15 REV 1, with the inclusion of four items under item 10 – Any other business (see below).

Item 6 was taken after item 2, so that experts invited especially to participate in the discussions of item 6 could leave the meeting afterwards.

2. Report by the Presidency

The Presidency informed the Working Party of the pertinent matters which had been addressed at the following meetings:

- COREPER on 28 January 2015, where the Management Report on the Implementation of the C.SIS Installation and Operation Budget for 2013 (5480/15) had been agreed;

- COREPER on 4 February 2015, where the draft Council Implementing Decision on the putting into effect of the provisions of the Schengen acquis on data protection and on the provisional putting into effect of parts of the provisions of the Schengen acquis on the Schengen Information System for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had been agreed.
- the Council meeting on 10 February 2015, where the Management Report on the Implementation of the C.SIS Installation and Operation Budget for 2013 (5480/15) and Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/215 on the putting into effect of the provisions of the Schengen acquis on data protection and on the provisional putting into effect of parts of the provisions of the Schengen acquis on the Schengen Information System for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland¹ had been adopted.
- the VISA/VISION Working Party on 5 March 2015, where the Presidency presented its suggestions for the way forward with a view to the transition from Vision to VIS Mail see 6600/15 and 7306/15).
- The Presidency referred to the progress made on the preparation of the Schengen evaluation (SIS/SIRENE) of the UK. A team had been set up composed of experts from AT, CH, CZ, DE, IT, LU, LV, NL (lead) and NO.
- The Presidency also referred to the 20th anniversary of SIS, reminding participants that the Schengen acquis had started to be applied on 26 March 1995, the date of the abolition of internal border controls. A map of Europe showing the different degrees of implementation of the Schengen acquis had been issued for the occasion (ISBN 978-92-824-4540-2).

¹ OJ L 36, 12.2.2015, p. 8.

3. Articles 70(2) of Decision 2007/533/JHA and 54(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 on the establishment, operation and use of the second generation Schengen Information System on the establishment, operation and use of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II)

FR presented 8306/15 SIRIS 32 COMIX 193. It asked the three Member States that had yet to be reimbursed to contact the relevant department at the French Ministry of the Interior via the usual channels. Furthermore, France was awaiting payment from three other Member States, which it needed in order to close the C.SIS accounts. FR would contact directly the Member States in question and would keep the Working Party informed.

4. Presentation of the SISNET accounts of 2014

The General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) presented the SISNET accounts for 2014, as set out in 7729/15 SIRIS 24 VISA 134 COMIX 155. The Working Party approved the accounts. They would be submitted to the Court of Auditors for auditing. Together with the result of this audit, they would be forwarded to COREPER and the Council for adoption as an 'I/A' item.

5. SISNET Amending Budget No 1 for 2015

The GSC presented Amending Budget No 1 for 2015, as set out in 7748/15 SIRIS 25 VISA 137 COMIX 159 + COR 1. The Working Party approved the amending budget, which would be forwarded to COREPER and the Council as an 'I/A' item.

6. ²Follow-up to Council Conclusions on SIS alerts pursuant to Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 on the establishment, operation and use of the second generation Schengen Information System on the establishment, operation and use of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II)³

The Presidency presented 7285/15 SIRIS 18 PESC 299 RELEX 232 COMIX 129 and explained that the aim was to reach agreement at Working Party level on the tasks to be carried out by the proposed Coordination Mechanism. At a second stage, discussions at a higher political level would lead to a decision on who should perform the tasks.

² Representatives of the appropriate departments of COM, EEAS and GSC dealing with Relex/Sanctions had been invited to participate in the discussion of this agenda item.

³ 17112/13 JAI 1098 PESC 1448 SIRIS 101 RELEX 1090 COMIX 658.

COM and EEAS supported the setup of the Coordination Mechanism.

COM felt that the WP for Schengen Matters was not the appropriate forum to discuss this matter and considered it should be dealt with by the Relex WP. On the other hand, the EEAS added that Relex did not have an implementation role regarding SIS alerts.

The GSC recalled that it was up to the Council to determine in which Council forum subjects were discussed and added that the two-step approach suggested in 7285/15 SIRIS 18 PESC 299 RELEX 232 COMIX 129 was a proposal for a possible way to move forward in face of the lack of response to the invitation in the Council Conclusions addressed in 2013³ to COM and the EEAS.

The Member States agreed in principle to document 7285/15 SIRIS 18 PESC 299 RELEX 232 COMIX 129. AT, CZ, EL, FR, LT and NL suggested some changes with a view to complementing the document and were invited to submit their proposals in writing by 8 May 2015. A revised version of the document would then be sent to the delegations for approval by written procedure.

The Presidency said that all relevant stakeholders (in particular COM and EEAS) would be informed of the results of the proceedings and invited to subsequent debates.

7. Good F.A.I.T.H. project: follow-up to recommendations

– Set up of a Task Force

The WP took note of the presentation by IT of note 7987/15 SIRIS 29 ENFOPOL 88 COMIX 176. This matter would be further discussed at the meeting of the Heads of SIRENE to be held in Riga in June 2015.

8. Update on activities of EU Project ITALIA 2014: outcome of the SIRENE workshop held in Riga on 18 and 19 March 2015

The WP took note of the report presented by IT as set out in 7785/15 SIRIS 26 COMIX 161.

COM noted that it had not been invited to the workshop that had taken place in Riga in March 2015 and asked for a copy of all relevant documents, which IT agreed to provide.

In view of its competences regarding training on the IT systems, eu-LISA asked to be invited to future similar activities to the extent these concern training.

9. **SIRENE logo**

CZ presented 8075/15 SIRIS 30 COMIX 180, which the Working Party approved.

GSC took note of the request addressed specifically to the GSC in paragraph 5 of the document and said it would inform the WP in due course of the steps undertaken in consultation with the Council Legal Service and other relevant internal GSC departments, including DG F (Communication and Document Management).

Meanwhile, the GSC would update the logo in accordance with the changes approved by the WP:

- modification of the UK colour, as mentioned in paragraph 2 of 8075/15, following the adoption of Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/215 (see above item 2 – Report by the Presidency);
- removal of the internal border lines (see point 3 of 8075/15);
- addition of the text 'PROTECTING EUROPE without internal borders' (see point 4 of 8075/15).

Furthermore, the GSC asked delegations not to modify the logo themselves, as a master copy would be maintained and updated by the GSC. Due to its size, the logo could not be sent as an attachment to an email and delegations were requested to contact the GSC to get a copy of the logo for use at national level.

10. Any other business

- CZ drew the attention of eu-LISA, amongst others, to the lack of a specific field for bank card features, including card numbers. It requested that this be changed as a matter of urgency.
- UK informed the meeting that its SIRENE Bureau had been fully operational since 13 April 2015. The UK police forces had started to create alerts and obtain hits, and the feedback was reported to be quite positive. In response to some questions on alerts pursuant to Article 26 of the SIS II Decision⁴, the UK said that photographs and fingerprints were being uploaded as they became available and added that old alerts needed to be validated on a case-by-case basis by the judicial authorities, before being entered in SIS II. Nevertheless, the number of alerts issued via SIS II, compared to those issued via Interpol, would increase progressively.

The Presidency said this issue would be raised at the Heads of SIRENE meeting to be held in Riga from 17 to 19 June 2015.

- The Presidency requested the delegations to send in any subjects they would like to add to the agenda for that meeting, which was under preparation.
- LU introduced its team for the incoming Presidency and gave the dates of the meetings scheduled for the second half of 2015 (see DS 1253/15).

11. Confirmation by the Working Party for Schengen Matters (SIS/SIRENE) of decisions prepared in the Mixed Committee

The following documents were adopted by the Working Party:

Agenda item	Document adopted
4	7729/15 SIRIS 24 VISA 134 COMIX 155
5	7748/15 SIRIS 25 VISA 137 COMIX 159 + COR 1
9	8075/15 SIRIS 30 COMIX 180

⁴ Council Decision 2007/533/JHA of 12 June 2007 on the establishment, operation and use of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) (OJ L 205, 7.8.2007, p. 63).