



Brussels, 6 February 2018
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5853/18

SIRIS 6
DAPIX 26
CT 19
COMIX 40

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: Working Party for Schengen Matters (SIS/SIRENE) - Mixed Committee
(EU-Iceland/Norway/Switzerland/Liechtenstein)

On: 31 January 2018

Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda set out in CM 1175/18 was adopted without changes.

2. Report by the Presidency on relevant issues addressed at other meetings

The Presidency provided information to the WP regarding the ongoing discussion in other forums concerning the SIS legislative package and the ETIAS proposal.

3. Interoperability package

The Commission gave a presentation on the main components of the interoperability package (15729/17 and 15119/17) with a focus on the aspects that are particularly relevant from the perspective of SIS operators, such as the multiple-identity detector and the European search portal.

Delegations taking the floor referred to the increased workload for the SIRENE Bureaux as a consequence of the implementation of the Regulations. Some practical questions were also raised, e.g. whether the shared biometric matching service could be used if a third-country national (mis)uses a stolen EU passport, or where the European search portal would perform the searches. During the discussion reference was made to a workshop organised by the Commission on 14 February 2018 where many similar practical issues will be addressed.

Upon request, the Commission clarified that the consequential amendments to the legal basis of the SIS will be tabled by the Commission shortly after a political agreement is reached on the interoperability proposals.

4. Trainings for SIS/SIRENE operators - 2018 schedule

The representative of CEPOL briefly described the role and the renewed mandate of the agency, explained the training cycle and introduced the courses planned for 2018 in relation to the SIS. The representative of eu-LISA provided an overview of its training activities in 2017 and outlined its courses and training programmes scheduled for 2018.

The Presidency called on Member States to participate in these courses, while CEPOL and MT also underlined the importance of nominating the right participants (appropriate for the target group). MT briefly reported about the seminar they organised in November 2017 focusing on the use of dactyloscopic data and indicated that further seminars will follow in 2018: basic training in Malta (in August 2018) and advanced training in Latvia (in October 2018).

5. SIS coordination mechanism for alerts pursuant to Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment, operation and use of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II)

- Follow-up to the terms of reference as set out in 10441/16.

The Presidency recalled the background of the coordination mechanism (10441/16) which aims to reinforce the application of alerts related to restrictive measures (Article 26 of the SIS Regulation) and requested the previous two presidencies to share their experience regarding the mechanism.

EE and MT provided figures regarding the alerts introduced during their presidencies. MT clearly confirmed the usefulness of the mechanism, while EE raised the (long-standing) issue of missing identifying information (i.e. date of birth) that continues to pose a problem when it comes to entering alerts to SIS. In that regard, the Presidency made a reference to Europol which might be able to provide some information.

The Presidency called on Member States to notify points of contact for the purpose of the mechanism in accordance with the terms of reference endorsed by the Coreper in 2016.

6. Follow-up to the Council conclusions on the development of the SIRENE Bureaux in the framework of the Schengen Information System as set out in 15560/17

The Presidency stressed the need to follow up on the conclusions and thanked the delegations which had provided written information in advance of the meeting about their steps taken and/or intentions. The Presidency summarised the responses: they show that most Member States have indeed taken or are at least considering taking concrete steps. In their responses the majority of Member States referred to improving the workflow (systems) in their SIRENE Bureaux; others envisage the reinforcement of the staff while some will focus on training.

The Presidency indicated that it would continue to monitor progress.

When closing the meeting, the Presidency signalled that the next WP meeting will take place on 16 March 2018.
