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NOTE

From:	EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	JHA agencies' role in counter-terrorism

Eu-LISA

The different security threats, including terrorism, require a substantially data-driven approach, and data exchange is critical. Such exchange can only be accomplished efficiently and effectively through the deployment and use of large-scale IT systems.

Eu-LISA is currently responsible for the operational management of SIS II, the Visa Information System (VIS), and Eurodac. It has been entrusted with the development and future management of Entry-Exit-System (EES), the Europan Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) and the European Criminal Records Information System for Third Country Nationals (ECRIS-TCN) and, as well, with the implementation of different components foreseen on the interoperability proposals.

The development of these new large scale IT systems and the evolution and continued enhancement of the existing ones are critical to assuring the security of the Schengen Area.

SIS II is the most powerful IT system in Europe used extensively by law enforcement, border control, and judicial authorities. It is used by 26 EU Member States and four Schengen Associated Countries. In April 2018 eu-LISA published the report in the context of the SIS II annual statistics exercise. The report shows that the usage of the system has significantly increased. In 2017, SIS II was queried a total of 5.1 billion times by Member States (30% more than in 2016), an increase of 8% on the total number of alerts and an increase on hits, compared to 2016, of almost 21,5%. This might be due, among other factors, to the application of systematic checks, more usage of SIS II via automatic number plate recognition systems (ANPR).

With the new biometric functionalities, SIS II will provide further added value in the field of security and border management. In March 2018 eu-LISA successfully deployed the first phase of the SIS II AFIS platform, which introduces the biometric search capability and enables the identification of a person from his/her fingerprints alone. Eleven Member States have already joined this first phase and the first feedback received from the users is quite positive, with very concrete results. This should encourage the other Member States to intensify their efforts, in order to be able to make use of this new capability, which will significantly strengthen the fight against terrorism and serious crime.

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