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## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From:	Working Party for Schengen Matters (SIS/SIRENE) / Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Norway/Switzerland/Liechtenstein)
On:	26 February 2019
Subject:	Summary of discussions

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### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as set out in CM 1680/19 was adopted, with the insertion of the following subjects under item 8 Any Other Business:

- (a) information point on preparations in relation to the SIS in the event of no-deal Brexit, requested by UK.

The Council Legal Service (CLS) stressed the point that this Working Party (WP) is not entitled to discuss Brexit-related issues, and that this should therefore be taken as an information point only. Any discussions should be held in the ad hoc Working Party on Article 50.

- (b) information point on the SIRENE Address Book (SAB), requested by CZ.

### 2. Report by the Presidency on SIS/SIRENE-related issues raised in other relevant meetings

The Presidency provided information to the WP on relevant issues discussed in other *fora* concerning the SIS.

### 3. Upcoming tasks of the SIS/SIRENE configuration of the Working Party for Schengen Matters

Based on the result of a questionnaire shared during the meeting of the Heads of SIRENE, in Vienna, from 17 to 19 October 2018, the Presidency presented a set of suggestions to the consideration of the delegations, as presented in WK 2524/2019. Among them:

- the opportunity of an informal meeting of the Heads of N.SIS on a half-year basis. This would facilitate, in particular, the discussions on horizontal measures aimed at preparing the implementation of the new SIS Regulations;
- the creation of a new SIRENE form ("T-form") to exchange information concerning travel arrangements in case of surrender and delivery.

Delegations were invited to send in any responses by 22 March 2019 to the Presidency and the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC), by email. Since the contributions of two delegations were missing in WK 2524/2019, the Presidency announced that it would issue a revised compilation of replies.

### 4. SIRENE capacity building

#### (a) Outcome of the questionnaire (11602/18) on the implementation of the Council Conclusions of 7 December 2017 (15560/17) on the development of the SIRENE Bureau in the framework of the Schengen Information System

On the basis of the replies (WK 2603/2019 + ADD 1) to a questionnaire circulated in advance to the delegations, the Presidency presented the annual assessment of the Member States' capability building regarding their SIRENE Bureaux, as set out in 6688/19, in accordance with point (2) of the Council Conclusions of 7 December 2017 (15560/17).

**(b) Exchange of views on the present situation and future perspectives**

During the discussion it was reconfirmed again that the SIRENE Bureaux are progressively facing an increasing workload (even more so after the implementation of the new SIS Regulations and interoperability), while resources have been proportionally reduced. This problem has been ongoing for years. Delegations stressed the need for additional resources, optimisation and automation. Some suggestions and best practices have been debated.

The Presidency has also presented a proposal, set out in 6693/19 to improve the questionnaire referred to in point (a) above.

**5. Training for SIS/SIRENE during 2019**

– **Presentation from CEPOL**

A CEPOL representative made a presentation (WK 3183/2019) on key results of the training activities in 2018 and the programme for 2019. This was followed by a short debate. CEPOL would discuss on a bilateral basis with some delegations a number of specific questions that have been already raised.

– **Presentation from eu-LISA**

A representative of eu-LISA gave an overview of training activities in 2018 and presented the training plan for 2019 related to the SIS, as set out in WK 3184/2019.

– **Overview of the Member States, Commission and the Agencies on the training sessions held in 2018**

It was concluded that in 2018 training had proved to be effective and much appreciated by the Member States. Delegations stressed the need for adequate training in line with the new challenges of the SIRENE Bureaux and SIS end-users, in particular the implementation of the new SIS Regulations.

– **Presentation by Italy on the ATHENA Project (SIS/SIRENE component)**

IT presented its ATHENA project on training (Addressing Training to SPOC as Hub of a European Network of law enforcement Agencies) (WK 3181/2019). IT would welcome any comments on this project by the other delegations, which could be transmitted bilaterally to IT.

**6. Newly adopted legislation for SIS and SIRENE**

**(a) Presentation from the Commission on SIS/SIRENE planned activities for 2019 as regards the SIS package (Regulations (EU) 2018/1860, 2018/1861 and 2018/1862)**

A Commission representative (COM) presented a roadmap (WK 3186/2019) on the upcoming activities regarding the implementation of the new Regulations, the priorities and calendar, in particular with respect to the requirements in relation to the preparation of several implementing acts and a plan for a series of meetings of the SIS/SIRENE Expert Group and of SIS/VIS Committee to be held during the first half of 2019.

**(b) State of play on SIS implementation and preparedness of:**

– **Europol**

The Europol representative reported on the agency's preparedness for the implementation of the new Regulations, which entitle Europol to access all types of data in SIS from 28 December 2019. Technical preparations and training were ongoing or planned. A meeting with the Heads of SIRENE of all the Member States is planned in The Hague for 3 April 2019.

– **Eurojust**

Not discussed in detail. The deadline for the implementation of the Regulations regarding Eurojust is 28 December 2021.

– **EBCGA**

A EBCGA representative gave a presentation on the state of play of the preparations (WK 3188/2019) of the agency to start accessing SIS by 28 December 2019. There were plans for pilot projects in cooperation with specific Member States, in particular those who do not have a national copy.

**7. Sharing best practices/national solutions among Member States**

**(a) Proposal for the creation of a common repository for national best practices and solutions (share point)**

The Working Party welcomed the Presidency's suggestion to create a common repository for national best practices and solutions. The Ceph platform could be used for this purpose. In response to a suggestion by EE, Europol would also report, at one of the forthcoming meetings, on the possibility of supporting such a project.

ES offered to be the next volunteer to present best practices, following the Croatian presentation made at the meeting.

**(b) Presentation by Croatia**

HR gave the first presentation (WK 3189/2019) regarding its national solution for databases with biometrics.

**8. Any other business**

- (a)** UK informed the delegations about its preparations for operational contingency plans regarding SIS in the event of a no-deal Brexit. Delegations took note of the information. The subject would be addressed at one of the forthcoming meetings of the ad hoc Working Party on Article 50.
- (b)** CZ informed the delegations about the latest update of the SIRENE Address Book (SAB).