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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
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Subject: Summary of the 44th meeting of the SIS II Advisory Group

Delegations will find in Annex a summary of the 44th meeting of eu-LISA's SIS II Advisory Group.

Summary of the
44th meeting of the SIS II Advisory Group
4 May 2022

European Union Agency for the Operational Management of
Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and
Justice (eu-LISA)

Summary of the
44th meeting of the SIS II Advisory Group of eu-LISA
4 May 2022, videoconference

At the meeting of the **Schengen Information System II Advisory Group (SIS II AG) of eu-LISA, held on 4 May 2022**, the Agency presented a summary of the operational activities of SIS II, including the implementation status of the SIS II and SIS Recast related projects, SIS Recast testing activities and the SIS Recast expert group meetings. Furthermore, eu-LISA provided a status update of SIS II testing activities, SIS II Release Plan 2022, SIS II Binary Increase project, reminded the participants of the SIS II - Interoperability Questionnaire and presented the outcomes of the Customer Satisfaction Survey 2021. Under AOB, eu-LISA informed the SIS II Advisory Group about a change in the scope of the SIS Exercise 2022.

First, the **state-of-play of SIS II activities** at the central and national levels was presented. The status of the Central System and the National Systems was introduced with a focus on operations, operational statistics and Data Consistency Checks between March and April 2022. The total number of alerts recorded in SIS II on 31 March 2022 was 89.9 million. By March 2022, over 380,000 fingerprint searches had been performed in SIS Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS).

Next, the AG took note of **the status of the implementation of the SIS II projects**. The Agency gave an update of each project: SIS Recast including the Test Plan, Implementation of SIS AFIS Phase 2, Data Exchange between SIRENE Bureaux Adaptation, SIS Increase Capacity, Central System Simulator, Data Consistency Checks Evolution and SIS II AFIS TESTA-ng Upgrade.

Furthermore, the Commission presented the outcome of the meeting of the **SIS-SIRENE Police and Borders Committee and the SIS-VIS Committee** that took place on 28 April 2022. The meeting had discussed i.a. the Declaration of Readiness (DoR) on SIS Recast, the Commission Implementing Decision concerning the requirements for the SIS Communication Infrastructure and the respective Implementing Decision, a legislative proposal on a new alert category similar to discrete checks for Europol, integration of Cyprus into SIS, and additional funding to MS for ‘specific actions’ linked to Interoperability and of relevance to the **SIRENE** Bureaux along with the respective deadlines.

Thereafter, eu-LISA updated the AG about the **SIS II testing activities** providing the state-of-play of implementing the various test phases for SIS Recast: compliance testing (CTE), Provisional System Acceptance Testing (PSAT), Migration Testing and **SIRENE** testing. The SIS II Advisory Group provided guidance regarding particular requisites for the **SIRENE** global test campaign and adopted positive opinions on the CTE Test Summary Reports of four MS.

Moreover, the AG adopted the **SIS II Release Plan** presented by eu-LISA. The Plan contains four releases for SIS II (21_R1, 21_R2, 22_R1, and 22_R2). Depending on the current release plan and the end of the tests, a slot of eight weeks has to be found for activities for the integration of Cyprus.

The SIS II Advisory Group adopted a positive opinion on the proposed implementation of the **Binary Increase project**. The impact of the Binary Increase project on MS keeping national copies with binaries will mainly concern infrastructure, network and configuration. The project would allow the Member States to use the new types of binaries such as palm prints and DNA profiles. The foreseen duration of the project is 424 days.

The Agency further presented the **SIS II - Interoperability Questionnaire**. The purpose of the questionnaire is to create a reporting tool to allow the AG to follow up on specific topics concerning the preparation of the SIS community to meet the provisions of the Interoperability Regulations and the recast SIS Regulations, as well as to report and escalate matters to the governance level. The purpose of the questionnaire and the first draft questions were highlighted. The questionnaire will be further enhanced and submitted to the AG for review and possible feedback. The target for the SIS II Advisory Group to start filling and using the questionnaire is September 2022.

In addition, eu-LISA reported on the outcome of the **Customer Satisfaction Survey covering 2021**. Active participation in the survey (28 out of 29 stakeholders responded) and a high overall satisfaction rate (92%) with SIS were highlighted. The areas with room for improvement will receive special attention. An action plan for the findings has been defined. Corrective measures have been launched and will continue throughout the year.

Under **AOB**, eu-LISA informed the SIS II Advisory Group about a change in the scope of the **SIS Exercise 2022**, which will cover only the Central System, without the participation of representatives of the group. Nevertheless, the Agency invites the SIS II Advisory Group members and observers to follow the exercise scheduled for the end of 2022.

The next regular meeting of the SIS II AG will take place on **22 September 2022** as a face-to-face meeting in Tallinn.
