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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	Summary of the 41st meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group

Delegations will find attached a summary of the 41st meeting of eu-LISA's Eurodac Advisory Group.

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Summary of the
41ˢᵗ meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group
5 May 2022

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

At the meeting of the **Eurodac Advisory Group (EAG) of eu-LISA, held on 5 May 2022,** eu-LISA provided a regular overview of Eurodac operations as well as of the implementation of the Eurodac Minimal Upgrade and Capacity Upgrade projects and of the DubliNet Steering Group meeting organised in the beginning of April 2022 by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). The European Commission informed the EAG about the state-of-play of the negotiations of the recast Eurodac regulation and of the Temporary Protection Directive. The Agency briefed the participants about the status of the implementation of an EDPS recommendation related to Eurodac, informed the EAG about the results of the Customer Satisfaction Survey 2021, and under AOB provided info on the eu-LISA new Horizontal Expert Working Group of the Management Board.

First, eu-LISA provided an **update on the Eurodac operational status** covering the reporting period from 1 February to 31 March 2022. Furthermore, it was highlighted that by the end of April 2022, the use of the Eurodac storage capacity had increased from 83.4% to 85.3% of the total capacity of 7 million records. During the *tour de table*, Member States (MS) explained the procedures put in place for registration of persons from Ukraine under the Temporary Protection Directive, with a focus on CAT1 (applicants for international protection) registrations. In parallel, an increased number of CAT1 registrations lodged by Russian and Byelorussian citizens has been observed. Moreover, under that item eu-LISA informed the EAG that the integration of the ticketing system IT Service Management 9 (SM9) has been completed after Ireland successfully connected to SM9 in mid-April 2022.

Next, the Agency presented the **implementation status of the Eurodac Minimal Upgrade and the Eurodac Capacity Upgrade projects.** The Minimal Upgrade project, aiming to upgrade the system to standards needed for running the operations in the coming years, was launched on 28 April 2022 and the final work packages are scheduled to be delivered in August 2023. As regards the Capacity Upgrade project, eu-LISA presented simulations assessing the Eurodac capacity needs. According to the forecast the maximum storage capacity of Eurodac, 7 million records, would be reached in 2024 or 2025 under normal circumstances. The simulations indicate that the maximum capacity need by 2025 would not exceed 8.5 million records.

The Agency thereafter presented the **Eurodac Release Plan 2022**, which contains a single release this year. It encompasses an upgrade of hardware and software components that are reaching the limit of support, and an upgrade of application software for compatibility. This release does not change any functionalities for MS and thus does not require testing with them. Provisional deployment of the release is scheduled to October 2022 with post-release activities planned to last until January 2023. EAG adopted a positive opinion on the Eurodac Release Plan 2022.

The European Commission provided a status update on the **state-of-play of the negotiations on the recast Eurodac Regulation and on the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD).** The discussion on the Eurodac regulation have resumed at the Council level with the meeting of JHA Counsellors on 6 May 2022 where the French Presidency proposed the new amended text. Regarding the TPD, the European Commission provided highlights on the new tool, Temporary Protection Platform, where Ukrainian citizens will be recorded in order to support the correct implementation of the Directive. The European Commission (DG JUST) is leading the development of this tool with eu-LISA providing its technical expertise.

Next, eu-LISA provided an update about the **12th Steering Group meeting of the Network of Dublin Units of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)**, which was organised on 5 and 6 April 2022 as a hybrid meeting. The meeting was divided into nine distinct sessions which included among others the state-of-play of the Dublin practice in MS and asylum situation in Europe following the war in Ukraine. The meeting gathered all the Member States participating in the Dublin Network, the EUAA, European Commission, eu-LISA and UNHCR.

Further, eu-LISA presented an **update on an EDPS recommendation** related to automatic deletion of fingerprints made during the Eurodac audit in 2019. eu-LISA is working closely with EDPS and the Commission to find a solution to address this recommendation. Following the meeting on 18 March 2022, the EDPS has requested eu-LISA to revert to the Eurodac Maintenance in Working Order (MWO) contractor for the cost and time estimation of the changes discussed under a proposed solution.

The Agency also provided an overview of the **results of the Customer Satisfaction Survey covering 2021**. Active participation in the survey (29 out of 31 stakeholders) and a high overall satisfaction rate (99%) with Eurodac were highlighted. The majority of the questions in the survey had received only positive feedback. The areas where there is room for improvement will receive special attention. An action plan for the findings has been defined. Corrective measures have started and will continue throughout the year.

Under AOB, the Chair informed the participants about the new **Horizontal Expert Working Group (HEWG)** set up by the eu-LISA Management Board. The HEWG will discuss *ad hoc* horizontal topics related to implementing the new interoperability architecture across all the large-scale IT systems.

The next EAG meeting will take place on **21 September 2022** as a face-to-face meeting in Tallinn.