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| From: | General Secretariat of the Council |
| To: | Delegations |
| No. prev. doc.: | 5398/23 |
| Subject: | Summary of the 44th meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group |

Delegations will find attached a summary of the 44th meeting of eu-LISA's Eurodac Advisory Group.

Summary of the 44th meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group 7 February 2023

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 Eurodac Advisory Group of eu-LISA

7 February 2023, Strasbourg (hybrid meeting)

At the meeting of the **Eurodac Advisory Group (EAG) of eu-LISA, held on 7 February 2023**, eu-LISA provided an update of Eurodac operations, presented the status of the implementation of the Eurodac Minimal Upgrade and Capacity Upgrade project and explained new Contractual Frameworks. EAG adopted a new version of Eurodac Operator Manual and the Eurodac Release Plan 2023. A status update on negotiations about recast Eurodac Regulation and on the Temporary Protection Directive was provided by the European Commission. The Agency informed the EAG about the readiness for stronger encryption of DubliNet certificates and gave a thorough overview of training activities in 2022 and trainings planned in 2023. Finally, eu-LISA reminded Member States of the ongoing Customer Satisfaction Survey 2022.

eu-LISA started the meeting by providing an **update on the Eurodac operational and capacity status** from November to December 2022 covering registrations, searches, incoming traffic, processing time, rejections, broadcasts, the implementation of an European Data Protection Supervisor's recommendation on marking as well as technical incidents and planned maintenance. As regards the storage status, the growth rate of records has slowed down having reached 6.57 million records at the end of January 2023.

The Agency further presented the implementation status of different projects. Although the delivery of hardware for the **Eurodac Minimal Upgrade project** was delayed, it does not impact the timeline of its entry-into-operation nor final acceptance in 2023. The **Eurodac Capacity Upgrade project** also experienced some delays but these ones affect the entry-into-operation timeline pushing it to the end of April and delaying also the final acceptance rescheduled to the end of May 2023. Finally, **new Contractual Frameworks** were highlighted – Transversal Engineering Framework (TEF) and Transversal Operations Framework (TOF) – together with an indicative handover/takeover schedule.

EAG adopted a new version of the **Eurodac Operator Manual** which has a new eu-LISA visual and which is harmonised with the manuals of other systems. EAG also adopted the **Eurodac Release Plan 2023** containing two technical releases ensuring the system's reliability and sustainability.

The European Commission provided a status **update on the negotiations on the recast Eurodac Regulation and on the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD)**. In December 2022, the European Parliament adopted its report on the amended proposal for a recast Eurodac Regulation and a first trilogue meeting was convened. Under the Swedish Presidency, the first technical meeting has taken place and four more technical meetings as well as four sessions of the trilogues have been planned. The aim is to adopt the recast Eurodac Regulation as part of the asylum package. The Temporary Protection Directive has been extended automatically to March 2024 and the beneficiaries of this protection should continue to be registered on the dedicated platform, not in the Eurodac.

Further, eu-LISA provided an update of the readiness of Member States to implement **stronger encryption of the DubliNet certificates**. Since 20 October 2022, 26 certificates were issued but not for all Member States yet. Ten Member States have completed the tests, others are testing and some have not yet started to test. Therefore, it is likely that by the end of the testing period (February 2023) the testing cannot be considered conclusive and the current certificates will continue to be used.

Next, eu-LISA gave an overview of the main statistics concerning eu-LISA's **training activities in 2022**, including Eurodac, and the plans for 2023. eu-LISA delivered 48 training activities in 2022, up from 34 such activities in 2021. The trend is similar to the past years with e-learning format prevailing over face-to-face activities with 18 online courses and 19 webinars. Altogether 3793 people participated in the training courses of eu-LISA in 2022. The single **face-to-face training on the Eurodac** was attended by 19 attendants who expressed a very high satisfaction rate. Online materials on Eurodac were also often consulted.

As per the practice, the Training Needs Analysis, completed in the end of 2022, provided input for the **Training Plan for 2023**. This year there are **50 training activities planned, two of them dedicated to Eurodac** – one face-to-face meeting for the Eurodac Single Point of Contacts and service desk representatives in June in Strasbourg, and a recast Eurodac Regulation awareness webinar in the second half of 2023.

Finally, the Chair of EAG reminded of the deadline of responding to the **Customer Satisfaction Survey 2022** on the functioning of eu-LISA.

The next EAG meeting will take place as a hybrid one on **30 May 2023** in Tallinn.
