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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

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Subject: Summary of the 53rd meeting of the SIS II Advisory Group

Delegations will find in Annex a summary of the 53rd meeting of eu-LISA's SIS II Advisory Group.

Summary of the 53rd meeting of the SIS Advisory Group 31 May 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
53rd meeting of the SIS Advisory Group of eu-LISA

31 May 2023, Tallinn (hybrid meeting)

At the meeting of the **Schengen Information System Advisory Group (SIS AG) of eu-LISA, held on 31 May 2023**, the Agency delivered a summary of the operational activities of SIS II, including the SIS state of play and SIS Recast related projects, SIS releases, and SIS Testing activities. The European Commission gave an update on the latest SIS related meetings led by the Commission. Furthermore, eu-LISA presented the results of the Customer Satisfaction Survey 2022. Finally, Frontex presented the Testing of the Multiple Identity Detector and the MID Transition Tool.

First, the **state-of-play of SIS activities** at the central and national levels was presented. The total number of alerts at the end of April grew to 87,044,281, which means a 600.000 increase since 2022 and a 400.000 increase since the previous quarter. Almost all Member States are using AFIS for fingerprint queries, except Cyprus, which will be ready in 2023. Further, eu-LISA informed the SIS AG about the Data Consistency Checks (DCC) process in the central SIS. Overall, the average DCC duration has decreased. However, since the EiO of SIS Recast, the number of failed/cancelled DCCs has increased. The Agency provided an overview of the areas to be improved in the alert log entries, the total number of alert log entries in the last months, the top 10 alert log entries from the previous months, and a detailed view of alert log entries from March to May 2023.

Thereafter, the AG took note of **the status of the implementation of the SIS projects**. The Agency shared an update on each project: SIS Recast and AFIS Phase 2 Implementation EiO lessons learnt, Increase Capacity; Central System Simulator (CS SIM); DCC Evolution; Integration of ETIAS; integration with interoperability; and more than a dozen ongoing and future projects.

Next, eu-LISA gave an overview of the **SIS Releases**. The SIS AG adopted the SIS Release Plan 2023. Apart from the already completed Release 21_R2 release (SIS Recast), the Plan contains Cyprus integration, Release 22_R1 and Release 23_R1. Cyprus integration will not mean a deployment but a configuration to enable the connection of Cyprus to the Central System. The test period runs from 2 May to 8 June, the production data load will start on 13 June 2023, and the Entry into Operation date is set on 25 July 2023.

As per the practice, the **European Commission informed** the SIS AG about the SIS-SIRENE Police and Border & SIS-VIS Committees held on 23 March and the SIS Expert Group meeting held on 15 May. The European Commission informed the SIS AG about the adoption and publication of the SIS Handbook, the conclusion of the SIRENE Basic training activity co-organised with CEPOL, and the start of the work on the Feasibility Study on an option to innovate the exchange of supplementary information related to alerts in SIS. The European Commission informed the SIS AG about the future meetings, the SIS-SIRENE Police and border & SIS-VIS Committees scheduled for 20 June. The European Commission is currently working on the Implementing Acts needed for the SIRENE manual to be aligned with the ETIAS and Interoperability regulations. The European Commission is also advancing with its preparations for the implementation of the Information Alert.

Furthermore, the AG took note of **SIS testing activities**. The Agency shared an update on the ongoing and planned test campaigns as well as on the status of the activities related to 21_R2 (SIS Recast). Upcoming test campaigns by Austria, Cyprus (integration), Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Iceland and Norway were explained. Member States should consider that national SIS updates must pass through a test environment first. Requests for such changes must be passed down to the eu-LISA Test Team. eu-LISA explained the change process for message-oriented middleware (MoM), from Step 1 (informing the Agency's Test Team) to Step 6 (updating the SM9 request fulfilment, so that the Service Owner can plan the PROD update.

After that, **eu-LISA** updated the AG in detail about the **Customer Satisfaction Survey over 2022**. The survey contained 26 questions about five topics: the performance of the eu-LISA Service Desk, operational communication, technical assistance and support for national activities , incident and problem management, and release management. Participation was relatively high (25 out of 30 stakeholders replied) and the overall satisfaction was very high (95.5%). The areas with room for improvement (e.g. Release Quality, Release Management and Release Testing) will receive special attention. It should be noted that the incidents (both the ones opened by Member States and the ones opened by eu-LISA) increased, while the service requests opened by Member States decreased. Service requests opened by eu-LISA increased as well.

Frontex presented the Testing of the **Multiple Identity Detector** and the **MID Transition Tool**. Frontex will perform business testing of the MID Transitional Tool, and Member States will perform business testing of the MID. Accurate test data is the key to ensuring that MID and the MID Transition Tool are fit for purpose. Frontex requested best practices with regard to the creation of test data in the context of SIS in this regard.

The next meeting of the SIS AG will be held as a hybrid meeting on **20 September 2023** in Strasbourg.