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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

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Subject: Summary of the 45th meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group

Delegations will find attached a summary of the 45th meeting of eu-LISA's Eurodac Advisory Group.

Summary of the 45th meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group 30 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
45th meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group of eu-LISA

30 May 2023, Tallinn (hybrid meeting)

At the meeting of the **Eurodac Advisory Group (EAG) of eu-LISA, held on 30 May 2023**, eu-LISA provided an update of Eurodac operations, presented the implementation status of the ongoing Eurodac projects and informed the EAG about the Member States' readiness for DubliNet stronger encryption keys. The Agency briefed the EAG about the progress for resolving a backlog on records to be marked, provided an overview of activities related to the removal of unused domain names and gave a status update on DubliNet and Eurodac certificate renewal. Furthermore, eu-LISA informed the EAG about the status of the adoption of EDPS

Under the first discussion point, eu-LISA provided an **update on the Eurodac operational status** from January to April 2023 covering the status of the operations, broadcasts, transaction errors and false hits. By the end of May 2023, the number of records in the Eurodac database had reached more than 6.76 million, which constitutes 97% of the capacity limit of 7 million records. The average monthly increase of records in the first five months of 2023 was 47,000. The earlier increase of 300,000 records per year has almost doubled in recent years. As regards the incidents that occurred in the central system it was noted that the majority of them were of moderate importance.

Next, the Agency presented the **implementation status of the ongoing Eurodac projects**. Under the **Eurodac Minimal Upgrade** project a number of work packages have been completed, including the delivery of hardware and software. Due to the dependency on the Capacity Upgrade project and its delays, the entry-into-operation (EiO) of the Minimal Upgrade project will be slightly shifted, from September to October 2023. The **Eurodac Capacity Upgrade project**, aimed at increasing the system's capacity from 7 million to 9 million records, is in the EiO phase to be completed in the end of June 2023. Further, the status update on the transition from the "silo-based" Eurodac, SIS and VIS maintenance contracts to a single contractor under the **Transversal Engineering Framework (TEF) and Transversal Operations Framework (TOF)** contracts was provided.

The European Commission had provided a written status **update on negotiations about the Eurodac recast regulation and on the Temporary Protection Directive**. The Eurodac trilogues have been ongoing since December 2022. While the Swedish Presidency of the EU Council has sought to reach an agreement within its mandate, this appears unlikely at this stage due to a number of divergent viewpoints between the Council and the Parliament on several issues. The next inter-institutional meeting is planned for 13 June 2023.

eu-LISA and Germany provided an update on the progress of backlog consumption of **German Eurodac records to be marked**. The backlog of markings of data accumulated due to a functional restriction of German internal interface that persisted in the period 2016-2021. eu-LISA has been supporting Germany in finding a suitable solution to gradually overcome the backlog. In the first phase of the solution, Germany has developed a script for German linked records that is running since 2 May 2023. Germany is preparing the sending of broadcasts for linking to other Member States and estimates that in September 2023 the entire backlog will be consumed.

Further, eu-LISA provided an update of the readiness of Member States to implement **stronger encryption of the DubliNet certificates**. Phase 2 of the project – Testing of the strong certificates for DubliNet – is almost complete as 29 Member States have successfully run the tests and submitted the reports. As regards the timeline of phase 3 – Migration of the strong certificates to production – there are two possible timelines for the deployment: September 2023 or January 2024. The decision about the option to be chosen will be taken once the last pair of Member States will complete the testing, and following the thematic expert group meeting with EUAA for the DubliNet community on 31 May in Tallinn.

The Agency informed EAG on the **feedback received from Member States on the removal of unused domain names or domain names with outdated configuration**. Feedback had been received from around ten Member States and is still expected from 17 Member States. eu-LISA reminded the delegations of the proper composition of the Eurodac and DubliNet domains for production and testing that should be used following changes related to TESTA-ng.

Next, eu-LISA provided an update about the **state of play regarding the two-yearly renewal of Eurodac certificates**. As the last renewal was done in 2021, some certificates have started expiring since May 2023, and the rest will continue to expire by September 2023. For the renewal campaign, eu-LISA divided the Member States into three groups. The first phase, with 11 Member States, started in March 2023 and all members in this group already renewed their certificate.

The Agency informed EAG about **the adoption process of the recommendations in the EDPS 2022 audit report**, which eu-LISA received in April 2023. The scope of the audit, which was carried out in Strasbourg in October 2022, comprised Eurodac, SIS and VIS. EDPS requested eu-LISA to comment on the report by 28 June 2023. Therefore, Eurodac, SIS and VIS AG members were invited to provide comments on the recommendations and on eu-LISA's assessment on the way to address them.

Further, eu-LISA presented the **results of the Customer Satisfaction Survey of 2022**, which was launched in the beginning of 2023. The survey contained 25 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. The participation rate was high (28 out of 31 stakeholders replied) and the overall satisfaction was very high (98%).

Under AOB, eu-LISA provided information relevant for the **Member States' testing activities**. The Agency presented the test organisation and the channels to communicate with the test team. An overview of the testing timeline and phases for the central and national side was given and the EAG was reminded that under no circumstance production data should be used for testing. It was noted that in 2022-2023, three Member States have used the Eurodac test environment (for one of them the tests are ongoing) and several Member States have executed free testing.

The next EAG meeting will take place as a hybrid one on **19 September 2023** in Strasbourg.