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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

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Subject: Summary of the 35th meeting of the VIS Advisory Group

Delegations will find in Annex a summary of the 35th meeting of eu-LISA's VIS Advisory Group.



PUBLIC

Summary of the
35th meeting of the VIS Advisory Group
1 December 2020

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
35th meeting of the VIS Advisory Group of eu-LISA
1 December 2020, videoconference**

During the meeting of the **Visa Information System Advisory Group (VIS AG) of eu-LISA, held on 1 December 2020**, the current chairperson of the AG was elected for a second term, for a period of four years. Furthermore, eu-LISA updated participants on VIS-related operational activities and the impact of COVID-19. The Commission introduced its proposals for a register of issues and action points that merit tracking and follow-up. The Agency provided updates on the implementation of the Entry/Exit System (EES), the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) and the upcoming first meeting of the Testing Expert Group in VIS composition. Moreover, the Commission presented the state-of-play for VIS Recast. Thereafter, eu-LISA informed VIS AG of Integrated Planning, VIS ICD implementation, eu-LISA draft Single Programming Document 2022-2024, the eVisa initiative, the Multi-System Exercise 2020 and the upcoming Customer Satisfaction Survey 2020.

The Agency informed Member States (MS) about **VIS operational activities**, VIS data quality and business aspects as well as testing-related issues and the impact of COVID-19. The processing times correspond to the Service Level Agreement on performance. The usage of VIS is in line with the seasonal expectations as well as the situation caused by COVID-19 since March 2020.

The Commission presented its proposal for **a register of issues and action points that merit tracking and follow-up by the VIS AG**. eu-LISA agreed to enhance presentations at AG meetings with a spreadsheet that would allow those who consult the register to track the progress of issues.

The Chairperson of the EES-ETIAS Advisory Group (AG) delivered a status update of the **implementation of EES and ETIAS** and the main outcomes of the EES-ETIAS AG meetings held since the last meeting of the VIS AG, on 15 October 2020. The VIS AG members were requested to coordinate with their colleagues in the EES-ETIAS AG in order to receive updated information on the activities planned for both EES and ETIAS and to ensure that the reporting is accurate.

The AG took note of the **Testing Expert Group's (TEG)** first meeting in VIS composition held on 4 December 2020. TEG involves test managers of national systems. eu-LISA presented the aims of TEG to discuss VIS Test Approach, Compliance Tests, Test Description Documentation and the simulator.

The Commission gave an update of the **VIS Recast Regulation**. The co-legislators are expected to reach an agreed text in December and adopt the VIS Recast Regulation in the first quarter of 2021.

Moreover, the approach and timeline of the three phases in the development of **Integrated Planning** were presented in detail. VAG was informed that the Integrated Planning external

dashboard will be provided following the meeting and updated periodically, taking into account the AGs' feedback.

The AG was also informed about the current status of the **VIS ICD implementation** project, including the outcomes of the 12th Project Management Forum meeting on 17 November, and of the Change Management Group meeting on 13 November. Three Project Management Forum meetings will precede the next AG meeting, namely on 15 December 2020, 12 January and 2 February 2021.

In addition, eu-LISA presented the changes to the **eu-LISA draft Single Planning Document (SPD) 2022–2024** subsequent to the comments received from AGs and the Commission. VIS AG gave its positive opinion on the current version of the SPD. In January 2021, the document will be submitted to the Management Board for approval, with the final adoption being scheduled for November 2021.

Concerning the **eVisa initiative**, eu-LISA updated the AG about the progress made with the future EU online visa application portal. As a next step, 3–4 workshops will be held. In January work will start on prototype and mock-ups and the delivery of the prototype is expected in May/June 2021.

Furthermore, eu-LISA informed the Advisory Group about the execution of the **Multi-System Exercise 2020** held on 4 November 2020. The evaluation meeting will take place on 10 December 2020. eu-LISA aims to have the report discussed at the next meetings of the VIS, Eurodac and SIS II Advisory Groups and adopted by the Management Board in March 2021.

eu-LISA reminded the AG about the **Customer Satisfaction Survey 2020** to be launched on 18 January 2021, with a deadline for replies from Member States on 26 February 2021. The results will be presented at the VIS Advisory Group meeting, on 4 May 2021.

The **next VIS Advisory Group** meeting is scheduled for **11 February 2021** via videoconference.