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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
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Subject:	Summary of the 35th meeting of the SIS II Advisory Group

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

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PUBLIC

Summary of the
35th meeting of the SIS II Advisory Group
3 March 2021

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 SIS II Advisory Group of eu-LISA

3 March 2021, videoconference

During the meeting of **the Schengen Information System II Advisory Group (SIS II AG) of eu-LISA, held on 3 March 2021**, the Agency updated the Member States of the maintenance and other operational matters of SIS II, including the implementation status of SIS related projects, testing activities and the SIS Recast expert group meetings. Furthermore, eu-LISA provided a status update of the Multi-System Exercise 2020, the planning cycle for the Single Programming Document 2023-2025, the state of play of the 2020 Customer Satisfaction Survey and the SIS II annual statistics for 2020. The AG elected the Deputy Chairperson of the SIS II Advisory Group for the next four years.

The state of play of **SIS II operations** at the central and national level was discussed. The Agency informed Member States about the state of play of all the activities at the central and national level. The total number of alerts on 28 February exceeded 87.8 million. Since January, the figures from UK are not reported anymore. The disconnection of UK from SIS II was completed at midnight of 31 December 2020. UK disconnection went smoothly, SIS II alerts were set in expired mode, and the deletion of the UK alerts is being carried out progressively.

eu-LISA presented the results of the latest **Data Consistency Check (DCC) campaigns** needed to keep the National Copies up-to-date. The DCCs control the alerts, links and binaries in the national copy of the database against the Central System. The procedure only applies to the Member States with national copies. The results of the campaigns were positive.

The AG took note of the **status of the implementation of the SIS II projects**. The SIS II Programme includes projects on SIS Recast, AFIS Phase 2 Implementation, data exchange between SIRENE Bureaux (DEBS) adaptation to SIS Recast, Increase Capacity, Central System Simulator (CSSIM), SIS II Automated Fingerprint Identification System, TESTA-ng Upgrade and the SIS SIRENE Mail Relay.

The **SIS Recast** project is well on track, and the Intermediate Release 1 (IR1) compliance test is finished. The development of the Intermediate Release 2 (IR2) is completed and the development of Release 21_R2 is in progress. The implementation of **SIS Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Phase 2** is ongoing. Due to COVID-19-related delays, a new release plan is currently under elaboration, with the primary focus on securing SIS Recast Entry into Operation on time.

With respect to the **Data Exchange Between SIRENE (DEBS) adaptation to SIS Recast**, eu-LISA informed Member States that the DEBS package 4.0.1 was delivered and would be discussed with the Member States in March. For the **SIS Increase Capacity** project, the implementation of Elasticsearch is currently under testing by MS and at the central side. Furthermore, eu-LISA presented the **SIS Release Plan 2021**. The plan contains Ireland's integration, the Release 21_R1, and other release activities in the year.

eu-LISA informed the SIS AG about the **Multi-System Exercise 2020** held on 4 November, which covered SIS, VIS and Eurodac. It was the very first exercise involving the three systems at once, executed in challenging circumstances of the pandemic. The exercise was a success, with 9 participants, 10 observers as well as COM and ENISA participating in it. The AG gave a positive opinion on the report, which was adopted by the Management Board in March. The multi-system approach will become more important with the introduction of interoperability.

The AG took note of the planning cycle for the **Single Programming Document (SPD) 2023-2025**, comprising five phases. Drafting of the SPD starts two years in advance, with the final version to be adopted by the eu-LISA Management Board by the end of November 2022. The phases where the SIS AG contributions are expected were highlighted.

The Commission gave an overview of the **expert group meetings on SIS Recast**, presenting the outcomes of the meetings of the SIS-VIS Committee and SIS-SIRENE Police and Borders Committee held on 16 December and 28 January. During the meetings, the Commission had informed Member States about the state of play of the adoption of the Implementing Decisions for SIS Recast and presented the revised draft Implementing Decision on the SIRENE Manual.

eu-LISA provided an overview of the discussions held in the 17th and 18th **SIS Recast Project Management Forum (PMF)** meetings and the 18th and 19th **SIS AFIS Phase 2** PMF meetings in January and February. The Member States shared updates on the status of their preparations for AFIS Phase 2.

The SIS II AG took note of the **SIS II testing activities**, including the testing for the integration of Cyprus. eu-LISA also informed the SIS II AG of other test campaigns, including on SIRENE Mail Relay.

eu-LISA informed the AG of the **SIS II statistics 2020**. The number of alerts continued to increase (3% compared to 2019), whereas the searches and hits decreased due to the COVID-19 crisis (respectively, with 44% and 26%). The AG just concluded the consultation phase of the reports. After the consultation phase was closed, the revised documents were submitted for adoption to the Management Board via written procedure. Once adopted, the SIS II annual statistics for 2020 will be submitted to the EU Institutions, published on eu-LISA's website and made available on CIRCABC.

The SIS II Advisory Group was provided with an overview of the eu-LISA **training activities** performed in 2020, with a focus on updating the existing curricula, the implementation of EES pre-deployment curricula, the creation of ETIAS training portfolio, further development of the interoperability training component, fostering the involvement of partner stakeholders (JHA Agencies, European Commission, Member States) and the extension of the e-Learning offers. eu-LISA presented the Training Plan for 2021, including the eu-LISA Training Model for SIS and the SIS Trainings 2021.

Under **Any Other Business**, eu-LISA informed Member States about the **2020 Customer Satisfaction Survey**. The participants were thanked for the high response rate as it enables eu-LISA Service Desk to assess its functioning. The results will be presented at the next SAG meeting after internal analysis.

The next meeting of the SIS II Advisory Group will take place on 5 May 2021 via videoconference.