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NOTE

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Subject: Summary of the 36th meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group

Delegations will find in Annex a summary of the 36th meeting of eu-LISA's Eurodac Advisory Group.



PUBLIC

Summary of the
36th meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group
2 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
36th meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group of eu-LISA

2 March 2021, videoconference

At the meeting of the **Eurodac Advisory Group (EAG) of eu-LISA, held on 2 March 2021**, the current chairperson and the deputy chairperson of EAG were re-elected for a second term. Furthermore, eu-LISA updated participants on Eurodac's operational status and the implementation of the ongoing projects related to the operational management of the system. The European Commission informed EAG about the state-of-play of the negotiations on the Eurodac recast regulation. In addition, matters were covered related to the UK withdrawal from the EU, a status update was provided on logical deletions, Multi-System Exercise 2020, Eurodac Release Plan 2021, Planning Cycle for the Single Programming Document 2023–2025, Interoperability, training activities, Customer Satisfaction Survey 2020, the migration of the Eurodac Interest Group from CIRCABC to eu-LISA's SharePoint as well as the Eurodac certificate renewal.

eu-LISA gave an update on the **operational status of Eurodac**, including an overview of statistics and open issues. It was highlighted that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is clearly visible in the statistics covering the period from November 2020 to January 2021. Member States were requested to address operational issues with fingerprint registration. Progress was noted regarding the connection of the Member States to Service Manager 9, while three Member States were encouraged to complete the integration to the service management framework.

Next, eu-LISA explained the activities related to the UK withdrawal from the EU, which included preparation and communication, logical and physical deletions, final verification, monitoring as well as post-withdrawal activities such as the deletion of the UK data from the archiving server.

The EAG took note of the **status of the implementation of the ongoing projects related to Eurodac**: Operating System upgrade and security patching planned to enter into operation in July 2021; the project to improve business and system checks estimated to be closed in the beginning of Q2 of 2021; the Steria National Access Point (NAP) Fingerprint Image Transmission (FIT) simulator project being in the testing phase; the projects to migrate Eurodac storage and Eurodac's backup solution to Common Shared Infrastructure (CSI) storage being on hold; the Eurodac redesign project being in the design phase (Phase 1) with the system's Detailed Technical Specifications to be delivered before the end of Q2 of 2021 and the implementation phase (Phase 1) expected to be finalised by Q4 of 2022.

Thereafter, the European Commission provided an update on the negotiations of **the Eurodac recast regulation**. The legislative process is still in the starting phase in the Council and the European Parliament. The Commission will provide a further update at the next EAG meeting.

Furthermore, eu-LISA presented the follow-up on **logical deletions as recommended by EDPS**, which deals with the automatic physical deletion of the fingerprints beyond certain retention periods. eu-LISA explained the background of the topic, linked Category 1 and 2 messages, Advanced Data Erasure, marking and unmarking as well as Information Message reminders. The consequences of unprocessed broadcasts and of removing broadcast controls were also explained. The Member States were encouraged to verify all the hits and process Information Messages in due time.

eu-LISA informed the EAG 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 EAG gave a positive opinion on the report, which was adopted by the Management Board on 16 March. The multi-system approach will become more important with the introduction of interoperability.

The EAG also adopted a positive opinion on the **Eurodac Release Plan 2021, which** contains one technical release, 21_R1, scheduled to be deployed in July 2021. The content of the Release Plan may be subject to changes depending on the operational needs throughout the year and subject to the COVID-19 situation.

The EAG took note of the **planning cycle for the Single Programming Document (SPD) 2023-2025**, comprising five phases. Drafting of the SPD starts almost 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 EAG contribution will be expected were highlighted.

eu-LISA gave an **update on the work performed by the Interoperability Advisory Group**, focusing on the components that are the most relevant for Eurodac i.e. the Common Identity Repository (CIR) and shared Biometric Matching Service (sBMS), and on the role of the current Eurodac during the transitional period of the Multiple Identity Detector.

The EAG was provided with an overview of the **eu-LISA training activities in 2020 and the training plan for 2021**. The training plan for 2021 contains online courses for two profiles (IT Operators Technical Profile and SPoC/Service Desk Profile) and a course on Eurodac Essentials. In case of further developments, also a Eurodac Recast training may be provided in Q4 of 2021. Trainings on interoperability were also presented to the EAG.

eu-LISA informed the EAG about the **2020 Customer Satisfaction Survey** highlighting that 28 out of 31 Member States and Associated Countries replied to it, enabling the eu-LISA Service Desk to assess its functioning. The respective report will be presented at the next EAG meeting after internal analysis.

eu-LISA also briefed the EAG about the **closure of the migration project of the Eurodac Interest Group** from CIRCABC to eu-LISA's SharePoint. The data transfer was completed in 2020. Parallel access to CIRCABC ended in the beginning of January 2021. Member States who did not inform eu-LISA yet about their need for access of their national colleagues to SharePoint were asked to send in requests.

Finally, eu-LISA informed EAG about the state of play of the **Eurodac certificate renewal**, which will be carried out in three phases. Two webinar sessions were scheduled for early March in order to present the certificates renewal process.

The next meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group will take place on **6 May 2021**, via videoconference.

