



Council of the  
European Union

079800/EU XXVII. GP  
Eingelangt am 12/11/21

Brussels, 12 November 2021  
(OR. en)

13879/21

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FRONT 394  
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**NOTE**

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	10019/21
Subject:	Summary of the 38th meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group

Delegations will find attached a summary of the 38th meeting of eu-LISA's Eurodac Advisory Group.

# Summary of the 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group 1 October 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**  
**38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group of eu-LISA**

**1 October 2021, videoconference**

At the meeting of the **Eurodac Advisory Group (EAG) of eu-LISA, held on 1 October 2021**, the Agency gave an overview of the Eurodac operational status and of the implementation status of the projects as well as presented the report of the last **Asylum Working Party** meeting. In addition, eu-LISA gave an update on the final status of the Eurodac Certificate renewal and presented the survey results of a stronger encryption for DubliNet. The European Commission briefed the EAG about the relaunch of negotiations of the recast Eurodac Regulation. eu-LISA also presented the general planning approach for the Single Programming Document 2023–2025 providing an overview of the planned activities. In addition, the Agency introduced the new Demand Management process and the Contact List Validation Campaign.

First, eu-LISA provided an **update on the Eurodac operational status** in the reporting period from 1 April to 31 August 2021. The information included the status of the operations, transaction errors, broadcasts, false hits and critical incidents. Overall, the system was performing well and the average processing time was stable. By the end of August, the amount of data stored in the Eurodac database had reached 5.6 million records. However, the impact of the COVID-19 crisis was clear from the statistics that showed a decrease of storage numbers compared to the previous period. The figures of the daily average incoming traffic had increased, reaching almost 4000 in August. The Member States (MS) with the highest rate of data quality errors were asked to provide clarifications.

Next, the Agency presented the **implementation status of the projects, including the Eurodac Redesign**. The Eurodac Redesign project is in the architectural design phase (Phase 1). Out of the five work packages four have been closed or mostly completed. The implementation phase (Phase 2) is expected to be finalised before the end of 2022. Due to changed budgetary conditions, the Management Board (MB) of eu-LISA needs to validate the second part of this project.

The European Commission informed the EAG about the **state of play of the negotiations on the recast Eurodac Regulation**, noting that the discussions in the Council have resumed (the revised text has been presented to the Asylum Working Party) and the work is progressing in the European Parliament. The aim is to de-link this proposal from other legislative proposals in the Pact on Migration and Asylum to be able to continue with the negotiations.

Thereafter, eu-LISA reported on the **Asylum Working Party meeting of 8 September 2021**. The Slovenian Presidency had invited the Agency to participate in the meeting in order to provide information about the new Eurodac functionalities stemming from the recast proposal. eu-LISA presented the shortcomings of the current system and the main novelties of the recast. Some of the main benefits of the recast include establishing a more robust system that addresses the issue of not having registered applications in Eurodac when it is impossible to take fingerprints, having more data stored, as well as longer storage periods that will allow to monitor irregular migration more efficiently, providing better support to policy analysis and law enforcement. It was highlighted that the recast will require the development of a brand new system and evolving the existing Central System will not be sufficient. The short timeline for Entry into Operation (two years) is challenging, taking into account the need for increased Eurodac capacity, implementation of functional changes and integration with interoperability.

Besides, eu-LISA updated the EAG about the **final status of the Eurodac Certificate renewal** and the lessons learnt. All MS had successfully finalised the certificates renewal process that took place from April to June 2021. The Agency noted that during the next certificate renewal exercise in 2023 it should be possible to apply stronger encryption keys and MS were encouraged to prepare for this.

Furthermore, the Agency presented the **results of the survey on stronger encryption for DubliNet**. Stronger encryption has to be implemented to comply with a recommendation from the EDPS. 19 out of 31 MS have provided their answers to the survey and the remaining MS were urged to provide their feedback. The survey results are scheduled to be presented and discussed at the Dublin Units meeting on 20-21 October organised by EASO.

Finally, eu-LISA introduced the new **Demand Management process**, which will replace the Change Management process. The four key elements of the new process concern the communication channel (the Management Board Secretariat), the role of the AG in the process, the Demand Management form and the fact that Service Manager 9 will no longer be used for logging demand requests. MS opinion will be requested via written procedure prior to the MB meeting in November.

In addition, eu-LISA presented the annual priorities for 2023, using a new approach of the activities being structured around portfolios and programmes. The Agency is currently considering the proposals received from the Advisory Groups and consulting the European Commission on the **draft Single Programming Document 2023–2025**. The Advisory Groups will be provided with the updated document by mid-October for comments.

The Agency also launched a periodical **Contact List Validation Campaign**, starting in November 2021, in order to validate the contact list of the Service Desk related to Eurodac.

**The next meeting** of the EAG will take place on **1 December 2021**.

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