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NOTE

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Subject:	Summary of the 38th meeting of the SIS II Advisory Group

Delegations will find in Annex a summary of the 38th meeting of eu-LISA's SIS II Advisory Group.

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PUBLIC

Summary of the
38ᵗʰ meeting of the SIS II Advisory Group
30 September 2021

European Union Agency for the Operational Management of
Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and
Justice (eu-LISA)

EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR THE OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF LARGE-
SCALE IT SYSTEMS IN THE AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

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38th meeting of the SIS II Advisory Group of eu-LISA

30 September 2021, videoconference

At the meeting of **the Schengen Information System II Advisory Group (SIS II AG) of eu-LISA, held on 30 September 2021**, an overview was given on the maintenance and operational activities of SIS II, including the implementation status of the SIS-related projects, SIS II testing activities and the expert group meetings on SIS Recast. Furthermore, eu-LISA provided a status update of the SIS II Communication Infrastructure Strategy on Merging the SIS and VIS Domain, the Security and Business Continuity Plans, SIS Security Exercise 2022, Demand Management process, draft Single Programming Document 2023 – 2025, the binaries increase study and the Contact List Validation Campaign.

First, the SIS II AG adopted an **opinion regarding SIS Recast status in Member States**, presented to the eu-LISA Management Board on 1 October 2021, noting the readiness problems as well as the overall pressure related to the highly complex testing phases. It was advised to continue the Compliance Tests and Provisional System Acceptance Tests on the current schedule, to move the SIRENE Tests to February 2022 and to add Data Migration Tests. The European Commission shall set a new date for the entry into operation when all conditions as per Article 66(2)(b) and (c) of the SIS Regulation 2018/1861 are fulfilled.

Next, the **summary of SIS II operational activities and statistics** at the central and national level between May and September 2021 was presented. In mid-September the total number of alerts in SIS II exceeded 89 million.

The SIS II AG also took note of the **status of the implementation of the SIS II projects.** The Agency gave an update of the developments in each of the project: the Global Release Plan, SIS Recast Project, SIS AFIS Phase 2 Implementation, Data Exchange between SIRENE Bureaux (DEBS) Adaptation, SIS Increase Capacity, Central System Simulator (CSSIM), Data Consistency Check (DCC) Evolution and SIS II AFIS TESTA-ng Upgrade.

Furthermore, the Commission presented the outcome of the joint expert group meeting of the **SIS-SIRENE Police and Borders Committee and the SIS-VIS Committee on 16 September** that mainly focused on the SIRENE Manual and the new SIS regulations.

In addition, the Agency updated the AG about the **SIS II testing activities.** The dates for the ongoing and upcoming tests were specified. eu-LISA will provide the test plans, Test Design Description (TDD), reporting templates and a suitable test environment.

Next, eu-LISA reported on the **outcome of the binaries increase study.** The study assessed the impact of increasing the sizes of the binary files from the aspects of performance, data consistency, infrastructure, configuration, ICD, other parts of the SIS II system and the existing testing tools.

The SIS II AG took note of the **Communication Infrastructure Strategy – Merging the SIS and VIS Domains**. The TESTA award project is expected still this year, the contract being available until July 2024. The design phase is planned for 2022 and the SIS/VIS migration for 2023.

Besides, 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.

Moreover, the Agency's Security Officer introduced the status of the **Communication Infrastructure Security and Business Continuity Plans**. The MB will be invited to adopt the draft after the review by the Security Officers Network (SON) and the SIS II and VIS AGs' positive opinion in December 2021.

eu-LISA also presented an overview of the **SIS II Security Exercise 2022**. Four preparatory meetings will take place in 2022, respectively in March, May, June and September. The execution of the exercise will take place in October-November 2022, whereas the evaluation will be presented to the SIS II AG for opinion in January-February 2023 and to the MB of eu-LISA in February-March 2023.

The SIS II AG took note of the **draft Single Programming Document 2023 – 2025**. eu-LISA presented the annual priorities and the planning for 2023, using a new approach for delivering the Annual Work Programme. The Agency is currently considering the proposals received from the AGs and consulting the Commission on the draft. MS will be provided with updated document for comments.

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

The next meeting of the SIS II AG is scheduled for **30 November 2021**.