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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

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Subject: Summary of the 40th meeting of the SIS II Advisory Group

Delegations will find in Annex a summary of the 40th meeting of eu-LISA's SIS II Advisory Group.

Summary of the
40th meeting of the SIS II Advisory Group
30 November 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
40th meeting of the SIS II Advisory Group of eu-LISA
30 November 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, SIS II Testing Activities, the Security and Business Continuity Plans, draft Single Programming Document 2023 – 2025, the announcement Customer Satisfaction Survey 2021, the launch Conflict of Interest papers 2022, the 2021 annual statistics exercise, and the SIS Security Exercise 2022.

First, the Agency informed about the **state of play of all the SIS II activities** at the central and national levels. The global state of central system (CS) and national systems (NS) was presented regarding incidents in CS and NS, operational statistics and Data Consistency Check (DCC) discrepancies between September and November 2021. Several incidents in the Member States were discussed. The total number of alerts in mid-November was 89.7 million.

Next, 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 projects: the 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. In addition, the SIS Recast Test Plan was provided.

Furthermore, eu-LISA presented the **Draft Single Programming Document 2023–2025 and the annual priorities of the Agency for 2023**. The Agency has carefully considered the proposals from the AGs received in April 2021 and has provided feedback in October. eu-LISA has also informally consulted the Commission on the draft SPD 2023–2025. All applicable remarks of the Commission are reflected in the document. However, the Commission will send its full comments during the following month. After receiving the formal positive opinion from the Advisory Groups, the document will be presented to the eu-LISA Management Board in January 2022 for preliminary adoption. The SIS AG gave its positive opinion on eu-LISA's draft Single Programming Document 2023–2025.

Furthermore, the Commission presented the outcome of the joint expert group meeting of **the SIRENE and ETIAS Subgroups on 21 October and the SIRENE Subgroup meeting on 18 November**, which mainly focused on the interactions between ETIAS and SIS, the SIS handbook and the SIS and SIRENE statistics for SIS Recast. The SIS-SIRENE Committee meetings planned for the first half of next year will take place on 9 December 2021, 10 February 2022, and 28 April 2022, and the **SIRENE Subgroup meetings** will be held on 20 January 2022 and 10 March 2022.

The Agency introduced the **alternative implementation scenario for EES, ETIAS and interoperability (IO)**. Following the respective decision of the eu-LISA Management Board, the Agency has proposed an alternative scenario for the implementation of the new systems and IO. This scenario is considered most feasible from technical, operational and political point of view and is discussed in all relevant governance bodies of the Agency, to be followed by the presentation at the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 9-10 December. According to the scenario the entry into operation of EES shall be moved to the end of September 2022, and the entry-into-operation of ETIAS to May 2023. The overall objective of having the IO architecture implemented by the end of 2023 remains intact.

Moreover, eu-LISA updated the AG about the **SIS II testing activities**. The test campaigns for three MS and Europol are in the pipeline. The Compliance Test Extended (CTE) campaign of the final wave 4 officially ended on 17 November. The first wave of Provisional System Acceptance Test (PSAT) was due to start on 7 December for seven MS but the System Solution Testing (SST) requiring for the start of PSAT was not yet finished at the time of the AG meeting. As for the preparations for **SIRENE** Test, the TDD (Test Detail Design) has been prepared, including input from regular meetings with the MS. The first draft was released to the MS in August and the last version on 21 September.

Next, the SIS II Advisory Group took note of the **state of play of releases, such as** Release 20_R1, Release 21_R1, Release 21_R2, and Release 22_RX. Another release activity in 2022 is the integration of Cyprus. The ongoing delays in the Release 20_R1 due to incidents identified in the production environment may affect the rest of the release plan of 2022; consequently, the shared dates are indicative.

The SIS II Advisory Group gave a positive opinion on the **Communication Infrastructure Security Plan** and the Communication Infrastructure Business Continuity Plan as set out in the documents 2021-403 and 2021-404. The documents, which were also presented to the VIS Advisory Group for opinion, will be submitted to the Management Board for adoption.

The Agency presented the outcome of the AG consultation about **Communication Infrastructure Strategy, merging the SIS and VIS Domain**. Option A, a voluntary merger where a SIS and a VIS TAP are on the same location was chosen by all AGs. The following step will be the discussion of a design that fits for option A while respecting at the same time the legal requirements.

Under AOB, the Agency informed the SIS AG that the **Customer Satisfaction Survey for 2021** will be launched in mid-January 2022. The Member States were requested to reply by 25 February 2022, whereas the survey results will be presented to the SIS II Advisory Group on Wednesday 4 May 2022.

In addition, eu-LISA announced the launch an annual call for submission of the **Conflict of Interest declarations**. The SIS AG members were requested to fill them in and return the forms to eu-LISA by 31 March 2022.

Besides, eu-LISA announced the 2021 **annual statistics exercise**. Similar to the past years, MS will receive the templates for collecting 2021 data in the coming days, being the reporting period 1 January to 31 December 2021. The deadline to provide the data is 20 January 2022.

Finally, the Agency also presented an overview of the **SIS II Security Exercise 2022**. In the following year, four preparatory meetings with all the participants are foreseen in Strasbourg as part of the preparations, one or two days per meeting, plus other activities such as documents reviews, videoconferences, workshops, and technical activities related to the use of the exercise environment, etc. So far, one Member State has volunteered to participate as an observer.

The next meeting of the SIS II AG is scheduled for **3 March 2022**.
