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JAI 43

**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Redrafting of Expert group mandates

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1. Following the first year of the implementation of the e-Justice Action Plan, it appears the mandates of some of the Expert groups which have been put in place for the piloting of projects, need to be amended to reflect changes of circumstances or expectations.

**I. RELEVANT EXPERT GROUPS**

**A. EXPERT GROUP ON DATA SETS**

2. A methodology for the revision of the e-Justice Portal<sup>1</sup> has been proposed during the meeting of the Expert group on 27 January 2020. It is proposed to use said methodology as a partial mandate for the expert group, as concerns the e-Justice Portal.

**B. EXPERT GROUP ON NEW USES OF TECHNOLOGY**

3. The Expert group on New uses of technology has met twice in 2019. However, much of the initially stated objectives for the group have been folded into the study on the use of Artificial Intelligence in Member States conducted by the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> 5322/20

4. Nonetheless, the French delegation considers that the Expert group could still produce a report on the opportunities afforded by technologies in the field of justice and their viability as well as the necessary preconditions and investments. This report could be of value to any Member State assessing which field to prioritise when digitising their judicial processes.
5. In particular, the report would point out which technologies are sufficiently mature for mainstream adoption, what their possible applications could be, what the inherent costs of their adoption are and what material prerequisites for their adoption would be.
6. Additionally, the Expert group would serve to constitute a list of points of contacts in Member States dealing with said technologies, in order to foster an exchange of information and expertise.

#### **C. EXPERT GROUP ON E-COMMUNICATIONS**

7. The Expert group on e-Communications has not met yet, as the Expert group on e-CODEX, which was originally part of it, has been kept as a stand-alone group.
8. Nonetheless, some of its subject matters remain to be handled. In particular, several projects mentioned in the Action Plan still await developments<sup>2</sup>.
9. Following the survey conducted by the General Secretariat on IT tools in use in Member States' Courts, it appears a number of Member States have already developed solutions, which could be presented to and possibly adopted by others. The General Secretariat proposes to arrange the organisation of the Expert group with one of these Member States, which would serve as Chair, with a mandate being drafted to reflect the priorities of said Chair.
10. The aim of the Expert group would be to manage contact points and information exchange between Member States, in order to foster development and adoption of the aforementioned projects.

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<sup>2</sup> Electronic Payment of Court fees, Cooperation in digital criminal proceedings, e-Identity 2.0

## II. FOLLOW-UP

11. Delegations are invited to agree on:

- the inclusion of the methodology document<sup>3</sup> in the mandate for the Expert group on the e-Justice Portal,
- the possible redrafting of the mandate of the Expert group on New uses of technology, and
- the possibility to launch the Expert group on e-Communications, with e-Payment of Court fees, cooperation in digital criminal proceedings and e-ID schemes as its first priorities.

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<sup>3</sup> 5322/20