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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

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Subject: Summary of the 41st meeting of the SIS II Advisory Group

Delegations will find in Annex a summary of the 41st meeting of eu-LISA's SIS II Advisory Group.

Summary of the 41st meeting of the SIS Advisory Group 2 March 2022

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
41st meeting of the SIS Advisory Group of eu-LISA

2 March 2022, videoconference

At the meeting of the **Schengen Information System Advisory Group (SIS II AG) of eu-LISA, held on 2 March 2022**, the Agency presented the summary of the operational activities and statistics of SIS II, including the implementation status of the SIS II- and SIS Recast-related projects, SIS Recast testing activities and the expert group meetings on SIS Recast. Furthermore, eu-LISA provided a status update of the SIS II testing activities, reminded the participants of the request for Conflict of Interest declarations, presented the 2021 annual statistics exercise and the steps for the SIS Exercise 2022. Under AOB, the Chair proposed extra meetings of the SIS II Advisory Group until SIS Recast Entry-into-Operation.

First, the **state-of-play of SIS II activities** at the central and national levels were presented. The global status of the Central System and National Systems was introduced and discussed regarding operations, operational statistics and Data Consistency Checks between December 2021 and February 2022. The total number of alerts recorded in SIS II in mid-February 2022 was 89.99 million.

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

Thereafter, the AG took note of a presentation by eu-LISA on the **SIS II Release Plan** and the main release objectives for 2022. The main objectives for SIS II releases in 2022 are implementing the new SIS II AFIS architecture and new functionalities related to SIS Recast Regulations at the core system and at AFIS level. At the same time, eu-LISA will continue ensuring corrective and adaptive maintenance, including upgrading the Oracle version for the core system and AFIS.

Furthermore, the Commission presented the outcome of the joint meeting of the **SIS-SIRENE Police and Borders Committee and the SIS-VIS Committee** that took place on 9 December 2021, and the **SIS-SIRENE Committee** meeting held on 10 February 2022. An update had been provided on e.g. the SIS Recast project, the previous SIS II AG meeting and the DEBS workshops. Most of the discussions had centered around the revised planning and the status of ongoing testing. The Commission had provided clarifications on questions posed by the MSs on the interpretation of SIS legislation. Regarding the new **SIRENE** Manual, the Commission had informed MS that further changes would be required due to tasks of the **SIRENE** Bureaux related to ETIAS, VIS Recast and Interoperability. The Commission had also provided additional information on the Commission Decision establishing a template for the annual report of MS to the European Data Protection Board.

Moreover, eu-LISA updated the AG about the **SIS II testing activities**. The Agency provided the state-of-play of the implementation of the various test phases for SIS Recast (CTE, PSAT, Migration Testing and **SIRENE**). Information was also shared about the organisation and test support provided by eu-LISA. The SIS II AG adopted a positive opinion about CTE Test Summary Reports of 11 MS and about one TSR on fingerprint searches.

The Agency further presented the **SIS II - Interoperability Questionnaire**. The purpose of the questionnaire is to create a reporting tool to allow the AG to follow up on specific topics concerning the preparation of the SIS community to meet the provisions of the Interoperability Regulations and recast SIS Regulations as well as to report and escalate matters to the governance level.

In addition, eu-LISA reported on the **SIS Exercise 2022**. After two delegations announced to be ready to take part as members and five delegations announced their readiness to take part as observers, the SIS II AG adopted an opinion that the SIS Exercise 2022 should be postponed until after entry-into-operation of SIS recast due to scarcity of human resources.

eu-LISA also gave an overview of the Agency's **training activities** performed in 2021 and presented the **Training Plan for 2022**. The number of training activities in 2021 increased to 34 (while 21 training activities had been held in 2020). The participation in all training activities increased from 1214 in 2020 to almost 3900 in 2021. As regards **SIS training**, one online course was delivered in 2021 and the "SIS Training Programme for Newcomers" was organised for Cyprus and Frontex. Furthermore, eight webinars for Schengen Evaluators Teams were organised in 2021. For SIS recast, an awareness webinar and a dedicated online course (SIS Recast Essentials) was delivered. In 2021, more than 780 participants took part in SIS training courses. The Training Needs Analysis for 2022 was illustrated together with the Training Plan for the current year, focusing on SIS Recast with particular attention to the new SIS – AFIS solution. Furthermore, several webinars are planned for Schengen Evaluator Teams and as contributions to training activities of EU Institutions and Agencies.

Finally, the Agency reported on the **SIS II 2021 annual statistics**. The draft reports with the data collected for 2020 had been sent for consultation to the SIS II AG, with a deadline for comments set to 9 March. Once comments are addressed, the reports will be adopted by the AG via written procedure. In 2021 the SIS searches increased by 87% compared to 2020, which was the year impacted heavily by the COVID-19 pandemic; the increase compared to 2019 was only 5%. The alerts stored in the system, however, decreased by 4%. The number of hits increased by 7% to 222,967. The exchange of forms decreased by 6%. Looking more detailed into the SIS II data stored at the end of December 2021, over 67 million of the 89.99 million alerts were about issued documents. Over 6.5 million alerts were on security, and there were 962,175 alerts on persons.

In **AOB**, upon a proposal made by the Chair, the SIS II AG decided that extraordinary meetings would be organised until the entry-into-operation of SIS recast. The date of the first extraordinary meeting, with a limited agenda, was 21 March 2022.

Last, the Chair reminded the AG about the obligation to fill in the **Conflict of Interest form and the Public Statement of Commitment** by 31 March 2022 at the latest.

The next regular meeting of the SIS II AG will take place on **4 May 2022** as a face-to-face meeting in Tallinn.