



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 7 January 2022
(OR. en)

5070/22

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	13879/21
Subject:	Summary of the 39th meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group

Delegations will find attached a summary of the 39th meeting of eu-LISA's Eurodac Advisory Group.

Summary of the
39th meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group
1 December 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

39th meeting of the Eurodac Advisory Group of eu-LISA

1 December 2022, videoconference

At the meeting of the **Eurodac Advisory Group (EAG) of eu-LISA, held on 1 December 2021**, the Agency provided a regular overview of the Eurodac operational status and of the implementation status of the projects, including Eurodac Redesign. European Commission informed the EAG about the state of play of the negotiations of the recast Eurodac regulation. eu-LISA presented the alternative implementation scenario for EES, ETIAS and Interoperability, and briefed the EAG about the readiness status of the Member States (MS) concerning stronger encryption for DubliNet. In addition, the Agency presented its annual priorities for 2023 and asked the EAG to give its positive opinion on eu-LISA's draft Single Programming Document 2023–2025. Under AOB the announcements on launching the Customer Satisfaction Survey 2021 and the Conflict of Interest papers for 2022 were made.

First, eu-LISA provided an **update on the Eurodac operational status** covering the reporting period from 1 September to 31 October 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 October 2021, storage in the Eurodac database reached nearly 5.72M records. The overview over the last 12 months clearly shows the drop in stored records after Brexit and the rise since June 2021 with around 40,000 records per month. If this trend continues, the pre-Brexit storage level will be reached again in February 2022. The figures of the daily average incoming traffic keep on increasing since June, reaching around 4,200 per day in October.

The Agency presented the **implementation status of the projects, including the Eurodac Redesign**. Eurodac redesign phase 1 has been closed with a delay of 1.5 months. Phase 2 of the project has been cancelled due to different delays, one of the main reasons for cancellation being significant delay in the infrastructure delivery related to the shortage on the microchip market. eu-LISA will continue with Eurodac minimal upgrade that will keep the current Eurodac running after vendor support will end in 2023. This upgrade is not related to Eurodac Recast as without adopted legal basis the current Eurodac cannot be connected to Interoperability (IO).

Next, 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 AGs, the document will be presented to the eu-LISA Management Board (MB) in January 2022 for the preliminary adoption. The EAG gave its positive opinion on eu-LISA's draft Single Programming Document 2023–2025.

The European Commission informed the EAG about the **state of play of the negotiations on the recast Eurodac Regulation**. The European Parliament was in the process of negotiating internally the amendments to the rapporteur's draft report which may be voted in the LIBE Committee in January 2022. The Council Presidency has declared that the technical work on the amended proposal has been finalised and the file is to be handled to the political level now. At the moment, there is no majority in favour of the proposal in the Council.

Thereafter, eu-LISA reported from the **European Asylum Support Office (EASO) Steering Group meeting of 10-11 November 2021 where the readiness status of MS for stronger encryption for DubliNet** was discussed. To comply with a recommendation from the EDPS, stronger encryption certificates need to be implemented. eu-LISA presented the outcome of the survey that was conducted to understand the readiness of MS to migrate to stronger encryption. Its main conclusion was that all MS shall migrate to stronger certificates together. The MS will have maximum one year to update their National System in order to be prepared for stronger certificates. Thereafter, when all MS are ready to use stronger certificates, a new certificates renewal campaign will be performed.

Furthermore, eu-LISA introduced the **alternative implementation scenario for EES, ETIAS and IO**; this presentation was delivered in all AGs. Following the respective decision of eu-LISA MB, the Agency has proposed an alternative scenario for the implementation of the new systems and IO. This scenario is considered the 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 in 9-10 December. According to the scenario the entry in to operation (EiO) of EES shall be moved to end of September 2022, and EiO of ETIAS to May 2023. The overall objective of having the IO architecture implemented by the end of 2023 remains intact.

Under AOB, eu-LISA informed the EAG 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 at the EAG on 5 May 2022.

In addition, eu-LISA announced the launch of an annual **Conflict of Interest papers** campaign. The EAG members were requested to fill them in and return the forms to eu-LISA by 31 March 2022.

The next meeting of the EAG will take place on **1 March 2022**.