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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	Summary of the 52nd meeting of the SIS II Advisory Group

Delegations will find in Annex a summary of the 52nd meeting of eu-LISA's SIS II Advisory Group.

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Summary of the
52nd meeting of the SIS Advisory Group
8 February 2023

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

52nd meeting of the SIS II Advisory Group of eu-LISA

8 February 2023, Strasbourg (hybrid meeting)

At the meeting of the **Schengen Information System II Advisory Group (SIS II AG) of eu-LISA, held on 8 February 2023**, the Agency delivered a summary of the operational activities of SIS II, including the implementation status of the SIS II and SIS Recast related projects, SIS II annual statistics, overview of SIS II training activities in 2022 and SIS II Training Plan 2023. The European Commission and eu-LISA gave an update on the go-live of SIS Recast (SIS). Furthermore, eu-LISA provided a status update on SIS II testing activities and the SIS II Release Plan 2023. Finally, eu-LISA reminded of the deadline of the Customer Satisfaction Survey 2022.

First, the **state-of-play of SIS II activities** at the central and national level was presented. The total number of alerts at the end of January 2023 had reached to 86.7 million. It was announced that the large majority of Member States are ready to use AFIS for fingerprint queries and the process will be finalised across all the Member States in the course of 2023. Further, eu-LISA informed about the Data Consistency Checks (DCC) process in the central SIS. Member States will have a DCC every three weeks. The Agency also provided a detailed view of alert log entries from August 2022 to January 2023 and the areas to be improved in the alert log entries.

Thereafter, eu-LISA presented an overview of **2022 SIS II annual statistics**. The collection was completed on 1 February 2023. The data was compiled in two draft documents, one public and one sensitive, the latter just for the SIS community. The draft documents have been circulated to Member States for consultation. In 2022 there were 12.7 billion searches in SIS II, with 86.5 million alerts stored in December 2022. 263,452 hits were reported, and over 1.9 million SIRENE forms were exchanged in 2022.

Next, eu-LISA gave an overview of the main statistics concerning eu-LISA´s **training activities in 2022,** including VIS, and the plans for 2023. eu-LISA delivered 48 training activities in 2022, up from 34 such activities in 2021. The trend is similar to the past years with e-learning format prevailing over face-to-face activities with 18 online courses and 19 webinars. Altogether 3793 people participated in the training courses of eu-LISA in 2022. **Around 30% of all training activities delivered by eu-LISA in 2022 regarded SIS II, SIS recast and Schengen**. Between April and October 2022, 586 participants attended the nine 9 SIS trainings and between March and November 63 participants attended six Schengen Evaluation trainings. The satisfaction rate was very high.

As per the practice, the Training Needs Analysis, completed in the end of 2022, provided input for the **Training Plan for 2023**. This year there are **50 training activities planned**. **The SIS Training Plan for 2023** consists of one online course, two webinars and three face-to-face meetings to be held between March and November 2023. Five Interoperability training activities connected to SIS and five Schengen Evaluators webinars (for CY, EE, FI, LT and LV) are also planned for 2023.

Furthermore, the AG took note of **the status of the implementation of the SIS II projects**. The Agency shared an update on each project: Recast; AFIS Phase 2 Implementation and DEBS adaptation due to SIS Recast; Increase Capacity; Central System Simulator (CS SIM); DCC Evolution; Integration of ETIAS; and integration of interoperability.

As regards the SIS Recast project status, the Member States´ Rehearsals and Internal Rehearsals are ongoing. eu-LISA informed the AG that the Create-Update-Delete (CUD) operations will remain unavailable for up to 4 extra hours, compared to what was initially planned and announced. Queries and complementary queries will remain available to MS throughout the operation.

Moreover, the **Commission informed** the SIS II AG about the Commission Decision of the SIS II recast going live on 7 March 2023. The European Commission had launched an information campaign to give more visibility to the SIS. The European Commission announced that it is preparing the Implementing Act needed for the SIRENE Manual to be aligned with the ETIAS Regulation.

After that, **eu-LISA updated** the AG in detail about the different **SIS Recast testing activities** with Member States and Agencies, including compliance testing, provisional solution acceptance testing, migration testing, SIRENE tests and user acceptance tests.

Regarding the **Central System Simulator** (CS SIM), the Agency noted that the new version will be shared and aligned with the final release package at the end of February. As for the **DCC evolution project**, step 1.1 entered production on 1 July 2022. Step 1.2, the broadcasts handling improvement and the split of the snapshot report, will be deployed with the 22_R2 Release at the end of 2023. The **SIS Interconnection with the ETIAS project** is in the analysis and design phase. A workshop is needed on elaborating aspects of the Data Correspondence Delegating Act.

Next, an overview was given of the **SIS II Release Plan 2023**. The SIS II AG took note of the Release Plan 2023: Release 21_R2, Release 22_R1, integration of Cyprus, Elasticsearch upgrade as part of the change management process, and Release 22_R2.

Finally, Under AOB, eu-LISA reminded the SIS II AG of the **Customer Satisfaction Survey 2022**. So far, twelve Member States have sent in their replies. The deadline for this survey is 26 February. The SIS II AG members were also informed about the regular Contact List update initiative.

The next meeting of the SIS AG will be held in Tallinn on Wednesday **31 May 2023** as a hybrid meeting. The Chairman noted that it would be SIS AG, not SIS II AG anymore, due to the entry into operation of the recast. The numbering of the meetings will continue though.