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NOTE

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Subject: Summary of the 41st meeting of the VIS Advisory Group

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

Summary of the
41st meeting of the VIS Advisory Group
3 May 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 VIS Advisory Group of eu-LISA**

3 May 2022, Tallinn

At the meeting of the **Visa Information System Advisory Group (VIS AG) of eu-LISA, held on 3 May 2022**, the Agency presented the summary of the operational activities and statistics of VIS, gave a status update of the development of the Entry-Exit System (EES) and the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) as well as reported on the 10th meeting of the Testing Expert Group. The Agency also gave an overview of the implementation of the VIS Interface Control Document, provided information on the Project Management Forum (PMF) and introduced two new PMFs. The European Commission gave an update of the status of the Implementing and Delegated Acts of the VIS Recast Regulation. eu-LISA introduced the VIS questionnaire and made presentations on integrated planning and interoperability. An overview of the transition to EES entry-into-operation was given by eu-LISA who also presented the results of the customer satisfactory survey covering 2021 as well as the state-of-play of the Shared Biometric Matching Service (sBMS) and the User Software Kit (USK) projects.

First, eu-LISA presented the **summary of VIS operational activities** covering the reporting period from 1 January to 31 March 2022. The system kept performing well and in line with the Service Level Agreement. The **usage of VIS** is at about 50% of the expected throughput under normal conditions. Asylum related operations and law enforcement operations have increased compared to the same reporting period pre-COVID. Although a slight impact of the Russia-Ukraine crises can be observed, its overall impact on VIS remains limited.

Next, an **update on the implementation of EES and ETIAS** was provided by eu-LISA. Regarding the entry-into-operation of EES, a new planning was introduced, noting that the topic will be addressed further at governance level. The number of **carriers** registered with eu-LISA remains low and their engagement, especially in the road industry, is not yet at the expected level. Actions targeted to the carriers at all levels need to continue. It was proposed that national authorities dealing with carriers should be part of the national coordination bodies for carrier related matters in the context of the EES and ETIAS regulations. Regarding **ETIAS**, the activities are ongoing as planned in terms of development and the management of requirements. However, two legal acts necessary for the development of the central system (data correspondence act and data retention act) are not yet in stable state and thus work on these acts continues.

Thereafter, eu-LISA reported on the **10th Testing Expert Group's meeting** held in VIS and EES composition on 31 March 2022 with more than 100 participants. The project status of both systems, VIS and EES, along with the state-of-play of pre-Compliance Testing and plans for a joint EES-VIS Provisional System Acceptance Testing were presented.

Then the Agency provided an overview of the project status of the implementation of the **VIS Interface Control Document (ICD)** and the outcomes of the most recent VIS-EES Project Management Forum (PMF) meetings held on 8 March and 5 April 2022. eu-LISA also introduced the scope and organisational outlook of two new fora – **VIS-Interoperability PMF** and **Revised VIS PMF**.

The European Commission briefed the participants on the **status of VIS Recast Implementing Acts and Delegated Acts**. Progress with the discussions and drafting of the acts is made at a steady pace. It was acknowledged that a strong cooperation between all the parties – the European Commission, eu-LISA and Member States – is the key to success.

Next, eu-LISA introduced the purpose and the status of the **VIS questionnaire**. It is a reporting tool which allows VIS Advisory Group to follow-up on specific topics but also to report and escalate issues at governance level. The current version of the questionnaire focuses on interoperability regulations but it will be further extended to address also the VIS Revised Regulation.

Then eu-LISA presented the **integrated planning**, which is a living document giving an overview of the high-level planning of the implementation of the new large-scale IT systems and interoperability and a detailed view on the activities that are most relevant from the Member States' perspective.

A comprehensive presentation on **interoperability** was given by eu-LISA where some of its components (Common Identity Repository (CIR), Multiple-Identity Detector (MID) and European Search Portal (ESP)) were introduced, its impact on VIS was shown and the specific impact of VIS on interoperability was outlined.

Furthermore, eu-LISA informed the meeting about the status of preparations for the **entry-into-operation of EES**, giving an overview of the EES transition to operation and on organisational aspects of different related activities.

eu-LISA also presented the **results of the Customer Satisfaction Survey covering 2021**. Active participation in the survey (all 26 stakeholders responded) and a high overall satisfaction rate (94%) with VIS were highlighted. The areas where there is room for improvement will receive special attention. An action plan for the findings has been defined. Corrective measures have been launched and will continue throughout the year.

Finally, eu-LISA provided information on the latest status of **Shared Biometric Matching Service (sBMS) project** and highlighted two presentations from the Biometric Working Group meeting of 10 March 2022 – one related to the question of common harmonized accuracy targets for sBMS and the other one concerning a mobile device project. The update of the **sBMS User Software Kit (USK)** was also presented noting i.a. that the latest version of the USK was released in March 2022. The status of the **current VIS pilot** and its next steps were also outlined.

The next meeting of the VIS AG will be held on **28 September 2022** as a face-to-face meeting in Strasbourg.