Eurodac Supervision Coordination Group 19th meeting on 16 October 2013

Summary report

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) hosted the 19th meeting of the Eurodac Supervision Coordination Group (Eurodac SCG) on 16 October 2013.

The Group, which comprises national data protection authorities (DPAs) and the EDPS, each acting within their own competences, is tasked with ensuring coordinated data protection supervision of the Eurodac system.[1] The Secretariat of the Group is provided by the EDPS.

Commission and eu-Lisa representatives provided the Eurodac SCG with the usual update on recent developments. The Group discussed the results of a questionnaire sent by the Commission to the Member States to check the application of current Eurodac rules, including on issues such as the number of transactions of each Member State, the quality of data or the advance erasure of data. The Group decided to stay in touch with the Commission services in order to exchange relevant information on these aspects, and to allow national DPAs to give follow up where necessary.

Eu–Lisa representatives announced that they took over the operational management of Eurodac from the Commission and presented the current plans of transferring the Eurodac system from Luxembourg to Strasbourg.

Based on a Note prepared by the Secretariat, the Eurodac SCG had a first discussion on main data protection implications of the Eurodac Recast, which will be applied in July 2015. One of the possible actions is the close monitoring of the adaptation of the current Eurodac system to the new rules that allow also law enforcement authorities to have access to Eurodac data. This could take the form of a future visit to the Eurodac Central System, and the national systems of some Member States, to check the embedment of the privacy by design principle and data protection requirements foreseen by the Eurodac Recast.

The members of the Group shared relevant information about national inspections on the Eurodac system in different Member States and other recent developments such as the recent increase of asylum requests from to Syrian refugees.

The next meeting of the Eurodac SCG will be held in spring 2014.

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[1] Eurodac is a large-scale IT system with fingerprints of asylum seekers and persons apprehended irregularly crossing the external borders of the EU and several associated countries (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein). Eurodac is supervised by the national DPAs at the national level and by the EDPS at the European level.