

SIS II Supervision Coordination Group

19th meeting Brussels, 1 June 2022

Summary

The Supervision Coordination Group of the Schengen Information System (SIS II) held its 19th meeting on 1 June 2022. The meeting took place in an hybrid format at the premises of the EDPS in Brussels and online.

Discussions

The Group obtained updates from the European Commission on various aspects of the new SIS legal framework, including n the state of play of the legal and technical implementation of the SIS recast and the deliverables for the information campaign. The entry into operation was foreseen for 27 September 2022, depending on the success of the tests.

The Group further discussed practical aspects of the new Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922 of 9 June 2022¹ on the Schengen evaluation mechanism with the Commission, including the requirement of security clearances.

Moreover, the Group discussed questions related to the interoperability framework², after an update by the Commission on timeline for all systems and components, progress on technical implementation and progress in terms of implementing and delegated acts.

The Group had itself informed by the data protection officer of eu-LISA on recent developments and the state of affairs of the SIS. It became apparent, that the Brexit and the Covid pandemic influenced the statistic figures. The Group had a special interest in the process prepared for deleting the up to 7 million alerts on securities prior to the entry into operation of the new system.

Regarding its ongoing work on SIS alerts pursuant to Article 36 of Council Decision 2007/533/JHA, the Group discussed the progress of national data protection authorities (DPA's) with regard to on-site inspections and some preliminary findings were shared among the members.

The Group considered that this important joint action should be taken over by the Coordinated Supervision Committee for finalisation and reporting, once the SIS II SCG ceased to exist.

The Chair informed the Group about a meeting with a rapporteur of the Council of Europe

¹ Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922 of 9 June 2022 on the establishment and operation of an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013; OJ L 160, 15.6.2022, p. 1–27.

² Regulation (EU) 2019/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems in the field of borders and visa and amending Regulations (EC) No 767/2008, (EU) 2016/399, (EU) 2017/2226, (EU) 2018/1240, (EU) 2018/1726 and (EU) 2018/1861 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Decisions 2004/512/EC and 2008/633/JHA; OJ L 135, 22.5.2019, p. 27–84; Regulation (EU) 2019/818 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems in the field of police and judicial cooperation, asylum and migration and amending Regulations (EU) 2018/1726, (EU) 2018/1862 and (EU) 2019/816; OJ L 135, 22.5.2019, p. 85–135.

Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) within the context of a fact-finding mission on the use of SIS.

The Group had a first exchange of views on the legal interpretation of Article 44(2) of the SIS II Regulation and Article 60(2) of the SIS II Decision. It was decided to follow up on this topic in the framework of the CSC by means of a written memo.

Lastly, the Group noted that very high numbers of access requests from third country nationals from one country let it appear likely that the access right is abused by a third party to ensure low rates of refusals of entry. It was agreed to draft a letter addressed to the European Commission and the Council to make the institutions aware of this problem, and to adopt it by means of written procedure.

Organisational issues

There would be no next meeting of the SIS II SCG, provided the entry into operation of the new SIS occurs as planned.

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Secretariat of the SIS II SCG