COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

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SIRIS 71
SIS-TECH 50
COMIX 411

NOTE

from :	The Presidency
to :	Article 36 Committee
No. prev. doc.	8922/09 CATS 32 SIRIS 58 SIS-TECH 45 COMIX 325
Subject :	Report of the SIS II Task Force

Delegations will find annexed the report of the informal SIS II Task Force.

The Presidency would like to point out that this report reflects the situation as on the 13 May 2009.

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The global SIS II project – status

The SIS II Task Force has been focusing its efforts on assessing the SIS II and the SIS 1+RE alternative scenario. The SIS II Task Force will continue to be involved in the process of finalising the assessment papers and to contribute to the "Report on the further direction of SIS II" as prepared by the Presidency and the Commission for the JHA Council meeting in June.

Members of the SIS II TF will also play a role in the evaluation of tenders for SIS 1+RE, which are due on 15 May. Furthermore some members of the SIS II Task Force will be providing support to Bulgaria in their preparations for SIS integration through a seminar on 14-15 May.

SIS II analysis and repair

- The repair tests have been finalised at the end of April. The results have been evaluated and are to be confirmed by the adapted SIS 1+ tools. Dedicated testing aiming to prove findings from the analysis and repair period is ongoing. Some Member States (CH, CY, DE, LU, NL, NO, PL, PT and SE) were deeply involved in the realisation of these tests.

- The reports from the repair tests show that progress was made in solving the problems identified during the OST. However, they show also that there are still issues regarding core functionality such as data consistency, performance and stability that need to be addressed in order to stabilize the system.

- The architecture review has been completed. A final report has been issued, which states that while the architecture fits the original requirements (15 million records), the complexity of the requirements may lead to an unwieldy architecture. Recommendations to simply the identified parts of the architecture have been proposed, aiming to address the findings of the experts. The Commission is preparing a new planning to take these recommendations into account.

- Some of the solutions that have been proposed as part of the SIS II analysis and repair phase have been prototyped with the assistance of NL and will be tested with the support of CZ (May/June).

- A new global schedule reflecting findings and new proposals from Unisys and HPS is being prepared. It will be presented to CATS for consideration prior to the June JHA Council.

- A meeting to discuss/resolve the s-TESTA network security issue took place on 20 April. An overview of the Member States' security concerns and requirements was articulated. The Commission proposed to deal with the concerns raised in two steps. As a first step the Commission responded to a letter by The Presidency, addressing some of the issues. On the SISVIS meeting of 12 May the EDPS was invited to discuss the s-TESTA issue. The impression is that a technical solution has to be found and not a legal one. From Member States point of view there is no satisfying solution for this problem yet.

- The SIS II Global Programme Management Board is considered to be valuable. It has effectively ensured overall coordination during the SIS II analysis and repair phase. It should remain in place throughout the SIS II project and its role should be strengthened through integration into the formal management structure.

Summary:

Results of the analysis and tests period have indicated that it is necessary to implement improvements and recommendations resulting from the Architecture review, the Proof of Concept and as further proposed by HPS and Unisys to deliver a stable and reliable system, which can properly deal with the expected amount of records within the SIS II and with the performance needed in future.

However, the impact of implementing the recommendations/improvements on the national and central projects will be studied and an approved list of mandatory recommendation/improvements will be developed in cooperation with all Member States.

SIS II on the basis of the SIS 1+R evolution

- The Call for Tender (CFT) was launched on 1st of April which means that offers can be submitted until 17:00 on 14 May 2009.

- Evaluation of the offers will take place in Strasbourg on 15 May and 18 and 19 May 2009 with involvement of SISII TF delegates.

- CATS will be informed of the evaluation outcome at their meeting on 19 May.

Analysis and comparison of alternatives

- The SIS II Task Force is cooperating closely with the Presidency and the Commission to prepare the assessments and the "Report on the further direction of SIS II".

- The SIS II Task Force participated in a two day (7-8 May) drafting meeting chaired by the Presidency.

- It should be stressed that any delay in a decision by the Council on the future direction of the SIS II project, based on the "report on the further direction of SIS II" as prepared by the Presidency and the Commission, could have a significant negative impact on national projects. Without a Council Conclusion in June there is a significant risk that budgets would not be approved and national projects would be forced to terminate.

Member States – status

Reporting

At the National Project Managers meeting on 22 April 2009 the SIS II Task Force reported its intention of drawing up a new template after the "Repair Period". The template includes questions related to the SIS II Repair Test Flash Reports, the draft SIS II Global Schedule and the activities being performed by MS in relation to their national projects. The SIS II Task Force Back Office distributed an updated template for May's Monthly Reporting at the end of April 2009.

As soon as the decision is made and a new timetable is set a new template will be distributed.

At this time 16 MS have responded and their Monthly Reports, plus an overall summary will be presented at the next NPM meeting on 27 May 2009.

The SIS II Task Force intends to continue with MS Reporting going forwards.

Progress in the Member States

A summary of the Tour de Table in February 2009 indicated that most MS have ICD 2.5.3 installed and only 5 MS have ICD 2.5.2 installed. Following the MS update (April 2009) relating to the SIS1+R (evolution) Assessment Paper: one MS has ICD 2.5.2 installed and is developing ICD 2.5.3 and one MS has finished the upgrade to 2.5.3. Also one MS reported that porting of 2.5.3 is in progress (75%), one MS is currently implementing 2.5.3 on NS.SIS and one MS mentioned that ICD 2.5.3 needs to be tested. One MS is preparing to upgrade to ICD 2.5.3.

The Task Force will maintain a continuous assessment of the state of development in the Member States.

Communication

Should MS show interest at the Informal NPM Workshop the SIS II Task Force is prepared to organise the Workshop in May 2009 (before NPM meeting) to give the National Project Managers an opportunity to discuss their status after the "Repair period".

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