



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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7789/09

LIMITE

**CATS 25
SIRIS 47
SIS-TECH 32
COMIX 247**

NOTE

from : Presidency
to : Article 36 Committee

No. prev. doc. 6090/09 CATS 12 SIRIS 21 SIS-TECH 14 COMIX 101

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 of 12 March 2009.

The global SIS II project – status

At the formal JHA meeting 26-27 of February it was established that (the Council);

*“Welcomes the implementation of a Global SIS II Programme Management approach involving Member States within the framework of the **SIS II Task Force** established in accordance with the Council conclusions of 5 October 2006, working together with the Commission in compliance with their respective legally defined competencies and thus ensuring enhanced management and coordination of the SIS II project and related activities as a whole (including the contingency plan), as well as consistency between the central and national systems’ developments;”*

The Task Force takes part in weekly meetings of the Global Programme Management Board and actively supports both the SIS II analysis and repair as well as the work within the Council on the alternative solution.

SIS II analysis and repair

As regards the status since the last CATS report was issued the following can be noted:

- Repair tests regarding message handling, using the ICD 2.5.2, have been conducted in the beginning with seemingly good results. The description of some tests run during the second week of February was not compliant with the business logic and consequently did not lead to the expected results. That is why these tests have to be re-run. It is expected to happen in March during the first week of tests. Due to time constraints, because of the installation of a new version of the central system, the final report of these tests has not yet been completed and these tests have not been formally finalised. The report shall be made available shortly, so that this issue can be clarified further.
- HPS have implemented a new central version of the system that is under internal test and to be used in the next repair test phase with MS, starting 16/3. All preparations for this test phase seem to be well under control. 8-9 MS are ready to participate in the tests.
- A review of the SIS II architecture and code has been prepared and has been initiated via a kick-off meeting 12/3. The actual work will start 16/3.

- A workshop on proposed technical enhancements was held 12/3. Prototyping tests are to start in the coming weeks, but so far only one MS (NL) has volunteered.
- There is a risk as regards security requirements on the s-TESTA, where MS authorities find it difficult to accept the risk of potential access to operational data by a third party, linked to this party's responsibility in handling the change of encryption keys (Orange – the s-TESTA network provider). COM sees the issue as already dealt with, since there is a positive opinion from the EDPS, but MS do not consider the solution to be sufficient and want to have a meeting with COM to find an acceptable solution.

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

As regards the status since the last CATS report was issued the following can be noted:

- The study made by JDC and C.SIS was approved for use as a basis to prepare a Call For Tender (CFT) for the SIS 1+R(evolution) alternative.
- The CFT includes a first mandatory step that is purely related to securing the continuous operation of the SIS 1+ and to make sure that new MS, if need be, can integrate to the SIS 1+ using the SISone4All.
- The further steps of the CFT are optional and subject to the outcome of the Council decision in June, when both alternatives have been compared.
- The CFT has been presented in SIS-TECH working party meeting of 10-11/3 and will be launched in the week of 16/3, after MS have studied the material in more detail. The CFT is only available in the French language. Some parts will be translated for MS to analyse before accepting that the CFT is launched. This process is not optimal but necessary due to the pressure of delivering a valid comparison in May, which requires access to the incoming offers of the CFT.
- Analyses have been started on the legal consequences of the alternative scenario in case this is chosen. The Presidency and the Council legal service are preparing a document for discussion at the FoSIS II at 19 March 2009.

Analysis and comparison of alternatives

As regards the work of analysing the alternatives and preparing for a comparison the following progress can be reported:

- COM has prepared a draft document with the common criteria adopted by the Council for comparison. SIS II TF has made a similar document for the SIS 1+R(evolution) alternative.
- SIS II TF has also made a more detailed definition of each alternative. This draft proposal is under discussion with COM and the MS.
- COM has made a “roadmap” for the process towards the Council decision, which is to be discussed with the Presidency in the near future.
- SIS II TF has prepared questions to be sent to MS for assessing the national impact of the SIS 1+R(evolution) alternative. A similar document will be made for assessing the national impact of the SIS II alternative.
- The timetable presented by C.SIS and JDC is not yet assessed and cannot be seen as more than indicative since the offers from potential contractors can contain timetables that deviate significantly from it.
- For the SIS II project an indicative timetable is under discussion also.

Member States – status

Reporting

The SIS II Task Force together with COM decided at the Task Force meeting in January that during the "Repair Period", a new kind of Risk Log template, proposed by the SIS II TF, will be used.

Also a Tour de Table questionnaire was drawn up for February's MS Reporting.

These two documents were sent out to MS and it resulted in an “all time high” answering ratio; (25/Risk Logs and 23/Tour-de-Table questionnaire answers). The SIS II TF forwarded the top 3 MS risks to COM; they were included in the list of identified SIS II risks and issues under the Global Programme Management Board.

The SIS II Task Force intends to continue with MS Reporting during the “Repair period”.

Progress in the Member States

A summary of the Risk Logs and Tour de Table showed that most MS have ICD 2.5.3 installed and only 5 MS have ICD 2.5.2 installed. There are 7 MS with serious budget problems, 9 MS with serious problems in resources and 6 MS with serious contract problems. These three elements are also the top 3 risks for MS participation in the SIS II as well as in the SIS 1+R(evolution) alternative. A fact that should be noted when the Council meeting in June is prepared.

Two MS (NO, DE) have so far volunteered for supporting the tests in Strasbourg.

The Task Force will continue to assess the development in the Member States with great interest.

Communication

End of February (25.2.2009) the SIS II Task Force organized the Informal NPM Workshop to give the National Project Managers an opportunity to discuss their status during the “Repair period”.
