

Application of SIS in Switzerland

(JHA Council June 2008)

“The Council approved a decision on the application of the provisions of the Schengen acquis relating to the Schengen Information System (SIS) in Switzerland (9059/08).

The decision allows for real SIS data to be transferred to Switzerland as from 9 June 2008, and allows Switzerland to enter data into the SIS and use SIS data as from 14 August 2008.

The concrete use of data by Switzerland will allow the Council to verify the correct application of the Schengen acquis provisions relating to the SIS. This evaluation is scheduled by the end of August or beginning of September 2008.

The lifting of checks at internal borders with Switzerland is planned for the end of 2008. Until that date, Switzerland is not obliged to refuse entry to its territory or to expel nationals of third states for whom an SIS alert has been issued by a member state for the purpose of refusing entry.

According to the agreement concluded by the EU and Switzerland concerning Switzerland's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis (Council decisions 2004/849/EC and 2004/860/EC), the provisions of the Schengen acquis would only be applied in Switzerland following a Council decision, after verification that a satisfactory level of data protection exists. Such a verification took place in March 2008 and the Council concluded that the necessary conditions had been fulfilled.”