**Council of the European Union**

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**NOTE**

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| From: | Presidency |
| To: | Permanent Representatives Committee/Council |
| Subject: | Implementation of Interoperability |
| | - Exchange of view |

Interoperability will connect several EU IT systems that are used by different Member State authorities. At the JHA Council on 8 October 2019, ministers will exchange views on the implementation of Interoperability. The aim of the discussion is to take stock of the current situation and facilitate implementation. After the Council, the Presidency will continue the work in Council structures and ministers will have a policy debate on the topic at the December JHA Council.

Two interoperability Regulations ((EU) 2019/817 and (EU) 2019/818) entered into force on 11 June 2019 and their implementation is one of the key priorities for Finland's Presidency. By its nature, Interoperability is a very horizontal topic and for this reason it has been discussed in various Council formats during the first half of Finland's Presidency. One of the key findings so far has been that Interoperability will change the way our first-line officers work in various tasks, such as handling visa applications, performing criminal investigations, registering migrants and carrying out first-line border checks, to name but a few. Another relevant fact is that Interoperability will also have a positive impact on cooperation between authorities. However, the true impact of Interoperability will also depend on its technical execution.

At this point, the Presidency has concluded that a holistic national coordination structure is required in every Member State. This structure should bring together operational users and technical experts developing IT systems. It is also essential that all national input is collected and conveyed to European level, where the central development will take place. Political guidance and support is required in every Member State to ensure that national coordination is established and has sufficient human and financial resources.

Interoperability will break operational and technical silos where different work processes and IT systems are being developed. The way we collect data, the quality of the collected data, and determining what data should be registered are all issues that will affect the way in which data can be used by other processes and how much we can benefit from the Interoperability Framework. However, this kind of cross-sectoral approach should be encouraged. As a final remark at this stage, the Presidency would like to point out that Interoperability will also interconnect different EU Regulations and related proposals. This connection must be acknowledged when determining our future positions for legislative proposals.

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