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From:	Europol
To:	Working Party on Information Exchange and Data Protection
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Subject:	Implementation of the EUROPOL led action points related to the IMS action list - Progress report

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**1. Introduction**

During the second half of 2009 the Information Management Strategy (IMS) was adopted under the Swedish Presidency of the European Council. In the Ad Hoc Group on Information Exchange an action list has been composed of concrete initiatives to implement the IMS.

Europol has committed itself to drive four action points of this list: Action point 4 (information exchange platform for law enforcement agencies); action point 5 (UMF2 interoperability coordination programme); action point 9 (standards and guidelines for product management) and action point 10 (target information management architecture).

This document is aimed at informing the DAPIX Working Party as input for the meeting of 18 April 2011 on the progress made on these Europol led initiatives since the previous meeting of 20 December 2010.

## **2. Information Exchange Platform for Law Enforcement Authorities**

The information exchange platform (IXP) is designed to improve law enforcement cooperation at EU level by facilitating smooth access to relevant tools, channels, information and law enforcement partners. The scope of this initiative is limited to the specification of the programme for the establishment of the platform.

Following the acceptance of the business concept at the DAPIX meeting of 20 December 2010 the current stage is focussed on specifying the technical possibilities to enable the implementation of the IXP. This should answer questions related to the high-level cost estimates as well as on how security and data protection safeguards can be implemented.

As the analysis of the technical possibilities to implement the IXP is quite complex, it was decided to first organise some meetings/workshops internally with support of the ICT experts of Europol and representation of ES as a main initiator of this initiative. Once a sufficient basis and structure for discussion has been established then also the other participants of the working group on the IXP will be invited. This should ensure that the travel arrangements and allocated time of participants abroad are worth the effort.

Once the technical analysis is completed, a proposal will be prepared for the programme management and the first project to implement the first elements of the Platform. This will happen in the second half of this year. By then there will also be clarity on the financial aspects, who will manage the development and how the product governance will be arranged.

### **3. UMF2 Interoperability Coordination Programme**

This programme is aimed at establishing a common framework for structured information exchange. It will consist of three elements: the definition of an information model, the technical specifications for the Universal Message Format (UMF2) and a proposal for the governance structure for the maintenance and further development of the common framework for structured information exchange.

In January 2011 Europol requested and obtained COM's permission to start the programme before the decision on co-funding is made. The final decision is expected to be taken in May 2011.

On 8 March 2011 the UMF2 kick-off meeting took place in The Hague. At this meeting the scope, approach and governance of the Programme has been discussed with the partners.

A second meeting was held on 7 & 8 April 2011, where the delegated experts of the participants exchanged national experiences on data modelling as well as methodologies for that purpose also attention was dedicated to identify the available systems and models to be taken into account for UMF2.

### **4. Standards and Guidelines for Product Management**

The standards and guidelines are aimed at aligning the way EU information management tools for law enforcement are managed. This is expected to ensure a minimum quality level, clear roles and common expectations with regard to services and evolution of such products.

At the DAPIX meeting of 20 December 2010 it was agreed that the draft framework for product management could be accepted for conducting a practical test to see if it covers all relevant aspects. This test will be performed on SIENA.

A product governance framework for SIENA has been drafted for presentation and discussion at the SIENA Product Management Forum of 11 & 12 April 2011. A meeting on IMS action point 9 is scheduled with the participating Member State on 15 April 2011. At that meeting the draft SIENA product governance framework will be assessed against the framework of standards and guidelines developed under DAPIX.

## **5. Target Information Management Architecture**

The target information management architecture will specify how the main information management processes, workflows, actors and tools are aimed to interact for law enforcement cooperation at EU level by 2015. This can provide the basis for the assessment and prioritisation of new initiatives in the area of information management.

The plan for this initiative was endorsed at the DAPIX meeting of 20 December 2010. Dates have been planned with the participants. There will be close cooperation in particular with the COM to ensure alignment with their work related to the mapping exercise for the EU Information Exchange Model and the study on the European Police Records Index System (EPRIS). For this reason the planning for this action point has been synchronised with those COM initiatives and now stretches until the end of 2012.

The first meeting was held on 11 March 2011. Participants in this working group are FI, NL, FR, COM and Europol. The general approach to the management of this initiative was discussed and a first high-level discussion was held on the future concepts of how information exchange could be organised at EU level in the future.

The approach to this initiative is to start with the definition of a long-term vision for how information exchange for EU law enforcement can be organised. This will provide the direction for the evolution. Within this direction, concrete and realistic steps will be identified for the coming years, taking into account the existing economic climate and its impact on available resources. It is acknowledged that a key success factor for this initiative will be the communication with the broad spectrum of stakeholders throughout the project to ensure alignment with the general perspective on how EU information management should evolve.

## **6. The Way Forward**

This progress report will be presented by Europol at the DAPIX meeting of 18 April 2011. Delegations are requested to take note.