



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**NOTE**

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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 20 October 2010 on the progress made on these Europol led initiatives since the progress report of June 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.

In the proposal for the business concept of the IXP has been updated in accordance with the comments received at and following the Ad Hoc Group meeting of 22 June 2010. Subsequently, it has been presented to the DAPIX meeting of 3 September 2010 to allow for data protection scrutiny. At that meeting the delegations were invited to send their comments to the Council Secretariat by 1 October 2010.

Comments were received from DE, IT, CZ and FI. The majority of the feedback received concerned the business concept itself. In addition, comments were received that concerned the technical means of implementing the IXP. These are taken on board in the next stage, where on the basis of the business concept options for the practical implementation are elaborated. The data protection group of DAPIX will continue to be consulted throughout the further evolution of this initiative.

With the amendment in accordance with the comments received from the DAPIX consultation on 3 September 2010, the business concept of the IXP is now considered ready for adoption by the DAPIX group focused on information exchange. It will be presented for this purpose at the meeting of 20 October 2010 (doc. 11117/2/10 REV 2 JAI 546 DAPIX 36 CRIMORG 120 ENFOPOL 167 ENFOCUSTOM 54).

To prepare for the next stage, the elaboration of options for the implementation, Europol and Spain have introduced the subject to the architecture function at Europol with the request to prepare a meeting for the working group of the IXP. This meeting will be scheduled in the second half of November 2010 provided that the business concept will be endorsed.

### **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 (UMF II) and a proposal for the governance structure for the maintenance and further development of the common framework for structured information exchange.

On behalf of the programme CH, NO, LI, IC, FRONTEX, OLAF, EuroJust and Interpol have been invited to participate in this initiative. Their response is expected ultimately on 19 October 2010. Europol is coordinating the preparation of the application for ISEC funding. The Member States that have expressed their interest to participate have been invited to sign and return their partnership declaration ultimately by 22 October 2010. The deadline for the submission of the application is 29 October 2010.

### **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.

The working group of this action point has defined the draft framework for product management that will be presented at the DAPIX meeting of 20 October 2010 (doc. 15002/10 JAI 852 DAPIX 37 CRIMORG 179 ENFOPOL 287 ENFOCUSTOM 90). At the meeting the delegations will be requested to agree that the draft framework will be tested in practice on the product management structure of SIENA. This structure will be established in the coming months. The Member States' HENUs have been invited to nominate their national SIENA product manager who will participate in this framework.

## **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.

An initial discussion on the approach for the target IM architecture was held between the Europol and Finland, the co-initiator of this action point. On the basis of this discussion Europol is drafting the terms of reference for this initiative.

Member States are invited to consider participating in this initiative. Given the importance of this action point a broad representation of the Member States in the development of the IM architecture at EU level is a necessity. The first meeting of the working group will be held in the second half of November 2010. To enhance efficiency it will be scheduled back-to-back with the referred meeting for action point 4.

## **6. The Way Forward**

Delegations are requested to take note of this progress report presented by Europol at the DAPIX meeting of 20 October 2010.

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