

ITALY

On behalf of the Italian Delegation please find attached the Italian follow up contribution to the meeting of 22 February 2021 on the General discussion regarding block 4: enabling Europol to enter data into the Schengen Information System.

General discussion regarding block 4: enabling Europol to enter data into the Schengen Information System

ITALIAN Contribution

In relation to the discussion that took place on the 22 February meeting within the LEWP on the Reform of the SIS Regulation 1862/2018 and consequent amendments to the Europol Reg. 796/2016, Italy considers essential to timely address the current information gap.

The Commission's proposal to involve Europol in the process of sharing verified information from reliable third countries through SIS has the undoubted advantage of offering a solution of the gap avoiding further delays.

However, the information gap concerns in particular data on terrorism from third countries.

Italy therefore believes that the information involved in the Proposal should only involve terrorism data.

Furthermore, in order not to alter the operational functioning of the SIS system, we believe that it is necessary to make some substantial changes to the Proposal with reference to the data verification process and to the actions to be taken by the tracing States.

In summary, Italy:

- Supports the continuation of the discussions on the Commission Proposal on the block 4, in order to reach a solution of the information gap in a reasonably short time.
- Highlights the need to make changes to the text of the Commission's Proposal in order to minimize the impact on the SIS general principles, the overall architecture and on its action to be taken framework.
- Considers it necessary to limit Europol's power to issue alerts in the SIS to data from reliable third countries;
- Considers it necessary to limit the alerts issued by Europol in SIS to data relating to terrorism only and not all crimes covered by Europol's mandate
- Stresses the need to provide only information-based actions for the tracing State, eliminating any reference to further actions to be taken by the States according to national law, which could entail differentiated and non-homogeneous actions by the tracing States and operational uncertainties for the front line agents.
- Considers it necessary to define and foresee in the text of the Proposal rigorous verification processes, especially of a qualitative nature, on the data of third States to be included in the SIS by Europol.
- Considers the ETIAS-Watch List system to be the privileged and essential tool for ensuring the sharing of information relating to serious crimes falling within the mandate of Europol.
- Urges the timely initiation of the discussion within LEWP and IXIM in order to develop proposals for the revision of the regulatory framework of the ETIAS-Watch List tool to ensure the interoperability of data on terrorists and criminals with the SIS.