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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: Implementation of interoperability - Conclusions of the eu-LISA
Management Board on the status of the EES implementation

Delegations will find in annex a letter from the Chairman of the Management Board of eu-LISA addressed to the Presidency.

eu-LISA  E-MAIL

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2021-305

Aleš Hojs
Minister of the Interior
Republic of Slovenia

IN 009845 2021
05.10.2021

/sent by e-mail only/

Tallinn, 4 October 2021

Subject: Conclusions of the eu-LISA Management Board on the status of EES implementation

Dear Minister,

Implementation of the Entry/Exit System (EES) is one of the most complex and challenging programs that the EU undertook in the last decades. It includes five major building blocks, in particular:

- the EES Central system & NUI applications;
- the sBMS;
- the VIS;
- the web services for carriers and travellers;
- the systems of the Member States / other Agencies that need to be connected to EES.

In order EES to enter into operations all building blocks needs to be ready and the delay in the finalization of any of them will have negative impact on the others.

In the last months eu-LISA and the Member States faced a growing number of issues concerning implementation of the system. They have been continuously monitored and discussed in the governance bodies of the Agency, including in the Management Board and various measures have been put in place to ensure progress of the work in accordance with agreed implementation schedule.

The last meeting of the Management Board of eu-LISA held on 1st of October and the Agency provided a detailed report on the status of implementation of EES both at central and national level which outlined that:

- the contractor of eu-LISA responsible for development of the EES accumulated substantial delays in development of the system, despite the efforts of eu-LISA to keep the work on track;
- number of Member States report significant difficulties in implementation of the tasks related to the EES;
- readiness of one of the key building blocks for EES i.e. the platform to provide services to the carriers and the travellers, faces substantial delay as a result of a major disruption of the global supply chains for hardware that is out of the control of the Agency and the Member States.

EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR THE OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF LARGE-SCALE IT SYSTEMS IN THE AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

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Given all the aspects above, the Management Board adopted the following conclusion:

The Management Board takes note of the information provided by Member States concerning the status of national implementation of the systems.

The Management Board, considering the delays of eu-LISA's contractor to deliver on time the Factory Acceptance Tests of the system, in compliance with the contractual acceptance criteria, disruptions in the global supply chains for hardware due to shortages of semi-conductor chips and the delays faced by several Member States with their national implementation of the Entry/Exit System, acknowledges that there is a serious risk of the Entry/Exit System not being ready to enter into operation in May 2022, as per the current timeline, and that the entry into operation will have to be postponed until after the summer of 2022.

The Management Board also takes note that this delay will affect the schedule for the entry into operation of the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS).

In view of this, the Management Board asks the Agency to propose a revised implementation timeline for the Entry/Exit System by mid-November 2021 at the latest. The revised implementation timeline shall detail all the mitigation measures to be taken to avoid any further delays and take into consideration the consequences for the entry into operation of ETIAS, without affecting the end of 2023 deadline for implementation of the new interoperability architecture.

The Management Board urges all Member States, eu-LISA, Europol and Frontex to take all measures to avoid or minimise possible delays. This particularly requires to continue testing and to advance preparations at national and central level. The Management Board will review the situation during its regular meeting in November 2021.

The Management Board mandates its Chairman to inform the Presidency of the Council of these conclusions ahead of the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting on 8 October 2021.

In view of all the above, the Management Board of eu-LISA recommends a revision of the EES implementation timetable and a related adjustment of the ETIAS timetable to be considered, while keeping the deadline for implementation of the new interoperability architecture at the end of 2023 unchanged.

Sincerely,



Zsolt Szolnoki

Chairman of the Management Board of eu-LISA

Copy to:

Ms Christine Roger, Director-General for Justice and Home Affairs, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union

HE Mr Iztok Jarc, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Republic of Slovenia

Ms Monique Pariat, Director-General, Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission

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