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COMIX 425

**NOTE**

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From: Presidency  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council  
Subject: Implementation of interoperability

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With a view to the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting of 19 and 20 October 2023, and taking due account of the conclusions of the eu-LISA Management Board meeting held on 27-28 September 2023<sup>1</sup>, the Presidency has prepared information on the above subject which delegations will find in the annex.

With regard to the information contained in the annex, the Presidency invites Ministers to reply to the following question:

- **Do you endorse the roadmap calendar by which the new IT architecture will be delivered by eu-LISA ?**

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<sup>1</sup> A letter of 3 October 2023, addressed by the Chair of the eu-LISA Management Board to Council, communicating the conclusions of the Management Board meeting of 27-28 September is included in the annex.

The European Union is currently developing the most complete and modern border management architecture. The latter comprises the Entry/Exit System (EES), the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), the renewed Visa Information System (VIS) and the (ECRIS-TCN). All these systems, together with the existing VIS and SIS will be made interoperable via the associated IO components, i.e. the European Search Portal (ESP), the Common Identity Repository (CIR), the shared Biometric Matching Service (sBMS) and the Multiple Identity Detector (MID). The reporting and statistics aspect will be covered via the CRRS, while the industry (carriers from all business areas (air, land, sea)) will be supported via the associated web-services for EES, ETIAS and Revised VIS. The objective of this new IT architecture is to improve border controls, pave the way towards an integrated border management, cope with the increasing number of travellers, ensure a high level of security in the Schengen area, and thus ensure free movement in this area without internal border controls.

This new IT architecture will be delivered by eu-LISA in several waves according to the following roadmap:

- Wave 1 Q3/24 to Q4/24: entry into operation of EES + the sBMS (first component of the Interoperability) for EES and VIS;
- Wave 2 Q1/25 to Q2/25: entry into operation of ETIAS + ESP and CIR (second and third components of the Interoperability);
- Wave 3 Q2/25 to Q3/25: entry into operation of ECRIS –TCN + ESP and CIR and sBMS for the ECRIS-TCN;
- Wave 4 Q3/26 to Q4/26: entry into operation of the renewed VIS + Completion of the Interoperability architecture (delivery of the MID –: last component of the Interoperability) and start of the MID Transitional Period.

In parallel to these developments at central level, Member States are modifying their national border systems, as well as the other national systems supporting other business areas (visa, immigration and law enforcement), to enable them to work with the systems implemented by eu-LISA.

The consultation by eu-LISA of its Advisory Groups (technical experts and project managers of Member States, Commission and other relevant EU Agencies) on this new roadmap has resulted in a wide support. At the end of September, eu-LISA's Management Board, taking due consideration of the outcome of the Advisory Groups consultation, has validated the roadmap.

The Entry/Exit System is the first system that will be delivered in Autumn 2024. In parallel to the EES, the sBMS, the first component of the Interoperability, will also enter into operation, serving as well the VIS. This will be followed, six months later, in Spring 2025, by the European Travel and Information Authorisation System (ETIAS). The latter will come together with the ESP and the CIR.

After being confronted with delays on the part of its contractor, eu-LISA has delivered over the course of the summer the first two versions of the Entry/Exit System that are now successfully in use by Member States' authorities for testing their national developments necessary for operating the EES at various business areas, such as at the national border crossing points, the consulates, and the immigration and law enforcement authorities. This successful launch of the first versions of the EES gives increased confidence and assurance as to how realistic the interoperability roadmap will be.

The delivery of the final version of the core system is scheduled for early 2024. This milestone will trigger the start of the formal testing of the system by Member States' authorities. The successful completion of this formal testing as well as the Member States' declarations of readiness to use the system are two necessary conditions for the entry into operation of the Entry/Exit System.

In addition to the biometric devices (fingerprint scanners and cameras) that must be installed at each border crossing points, major border crossing points should be equipped as much as possible with self-service kiosks, automated gates and automated border control systems to facilitate and speed up controls. To that end, Frontex is preparing a mobile app for the purpose of EES pre-registration. Testing of this app, in a pilot phase, is currently underway and it is intended that the app be ready and available to all Member States well ahead of the entry into operation of the EES.

If the use of the Entry/Exit System will enable automation of border controls, its implementation will result also in a major change for the management of these controls as the system requires the registration of all non-EU travellers crossing the border for a short stay. In light of the need to keep our borders open and to maintain reasonable waiting times for border controls, the entry into operation of the EES should be prepared in detail and measures that prevent border crossing points becoming congested will be required. Potential technical issues resulting from the complex architecture, linking the central system to national border systems and to all border crossing points, have also to be considered. In addition, the MS must test, rehearse and finetune all associated business and operational processes and train their border guards on the use of those processes in a timely manner. For these reasons, an additional measure has been identified and is related to the capturing and storing of biometrics in the Entry/Exit System; the latter could be activated progressively and thus derogation measures will be available for activation at individual border crossing points to prevent long waiting times. The date that will be retained for the entry into operation will be outside periods of major events and high travel times.

The Entry/Exit System may enter into operation only after all Member States have declared their readiness. Delay by one Member State will delay the entry into operation for all. It is important that Member States confronted with difficulties during their preparation will report them immediately. Both the Commission and eu-LISA have stated they remain available to provide support to Member States in managing such difficulties.

Decision of the eu-LISA Management Board of 27-28 September 2023

**Mr Fernando Grande-Marlaska Gómez**  
**Minister of the Interior**  
**Kingdom of Spain**

**Ms Ylva Johansson**  
**Commissioner for Home Affairs and Migration**  
**European Commission**

*Sent by e-mail only*

Dear Minister,

Dear Commissioner,

On 31 May 2023, the Management Board of eu-LISA approved the new resolution strategy proposed by the Agency for the implementation of the overall Interoperability Architecture, known as 3R-s strategy (Remobilize, Resolve, Renew). Based on this decision, the Executive Director of eu-LISA informed the JHA Council on 8 June 2023 on the proposed way forward. The Agency was requested to submit the revised timeline for an informed decision on the matter during the JHA Council meeting of 19-20 October 2023.

Since June 2023, the Agency has continued to refine and further consolidate the proposed Interoperability Roadmap, whilst actively implementing the new resolution strategy with a focus

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on improving internal synergies and enhancing the engagement and the efficiency of all external contractors. The actions taken by the Agency proved to be successful and added value to the Member States. Moreover, these actions enhanced the commitment, stability, and efficiency in the implementation of EES. As a result, two successful releases of advanced intermediate versions of EES were completed in July and September 2023 respectively; for the first time in the history of the EES development program, these releases created the necessary conditions for Member States and Associated Countries to advance their testing, including across countries, and thus, enhanced their ability to prepare better for the anticipated entry into operation.

Based on these initial successes, eu-LISA expanded the agile model developed through the 3R-s resolution strategy across all areas of the Interoperability programmes and created a concrete and robust operational approach and roadmap for the delivery and the implementation of the Interoperability Architecture. In coordination with its Governance Bodies, the latter was extensively discussed. Indeed, in the process of reviewing and validating the new IO roadmap, all relevant technical Advisory Groups as well as the associated Programme Management Boards were consulted. All, with no exception, formulated a positive opinion (Advisory Groups) or a positive recommendation (Program Management Boards) in support of the new IO roadmap proposal.

Following this, the new IO roadmap (annexed to this letter) was submitted to the eu-LISA Management Board at its 27-28 September 2023 meeting, where it was unanimously approved.

The eu-LISA Management Board mandated me as its chairperson to inform the Presidency of the Council and the European Commission prior to the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting of 19-20 October 2023 and to seek for the endorsement of the new IO roadmap.

Sincerely,



Zsolt SZOLNOKI

Chairperson of the Management Board of eu-LISA

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Copy to:

HE Marcos Alonso Alonso, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Spain to the EU

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

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

Annex – Interoperability Roadmap

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

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# IO Architecture Delivery Roadmap Waves Approach

Approved by the Management Board on 27-28 September 2023

<b>Timeline</b> <i>Systems are technically ready for EIO between:</i>	<b>Wave 1</b> Q3/24 to Q4/24	<b>Wave 2</b> Q1/25 to Q2/25	<b>Wave 3</b> Q2/25 to Q3/25	<b>Wave 4</b> Q3/26
<b>Main Business Goal achieved through the IO wave</b>	Deliver <b>EES</b> for enhanced <b>Border Security</b>	Deliver enhanced <b>security and Traveller experience</b> through <b>ETIAS</b> and <b>Web Services</b> for Carriers and TCNs	Enhance <b>Justice cooperation</b> through <b>ECRIS –TCN</b>	Finalize technical implementation of the IO architecture
<b>Main Systems delivered</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EES Core</li> <li>Web Services Carriers interface</li> <li>IO (R1) sBMS 4 EES/VIS<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ETIAS R1</li> <li>Web Services</li> <li>IO (R2) Shared Components</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ECRIS-TCN</li> <li>IO (R3) sBMS (ECRIS-TCN integration)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IO (R4) sBMS (Shared Components) Review</li> </ul>

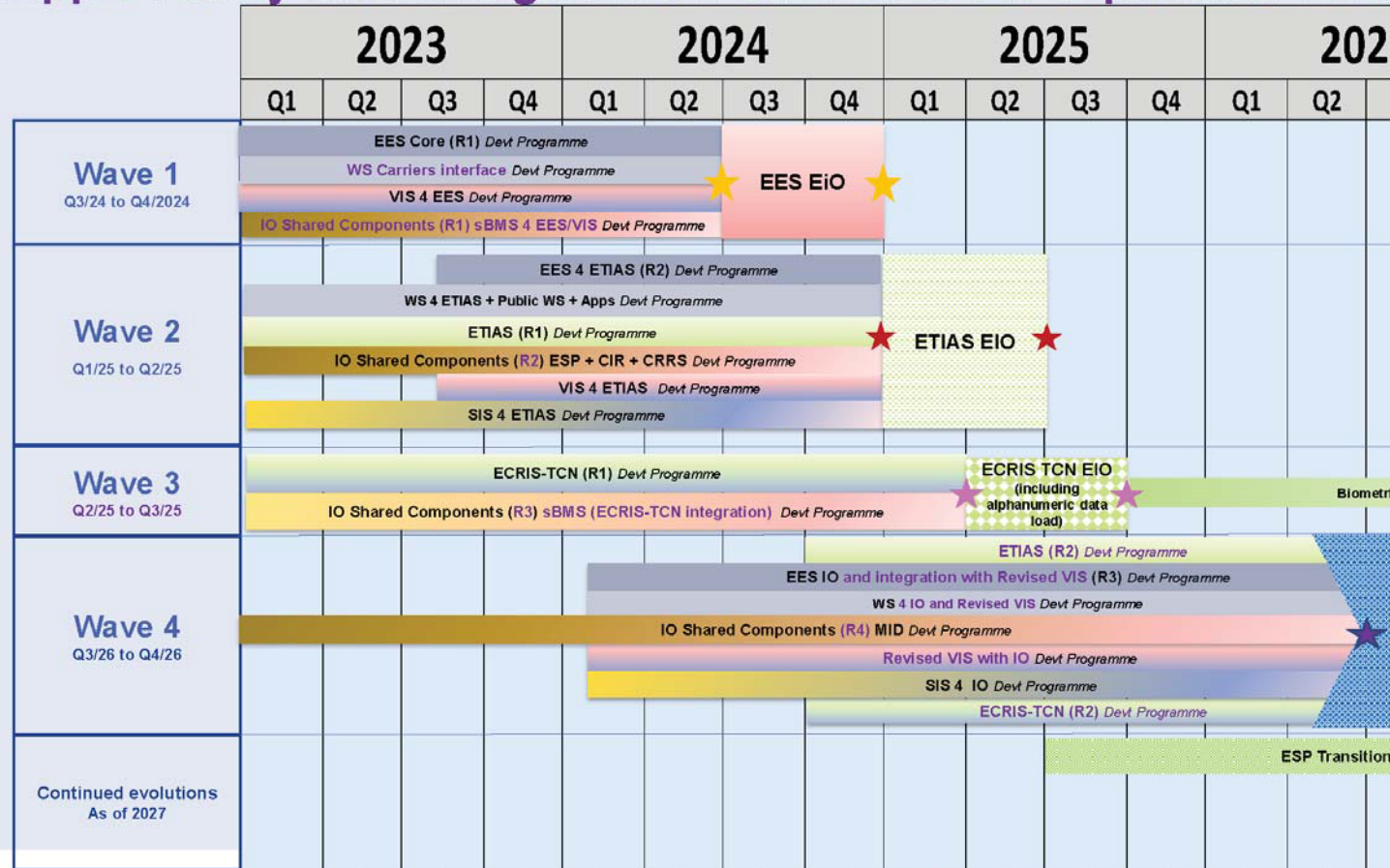
1. a) System tested only with EES and VIS systems, b) Data Quality indicators implementation to full extent in Wave 4, c) Reporting in CRIS in Wave 4  
 2. Conditional on the Eurodac Recast regulation



# IO ROADMAP - Waves Approach

NEW VER

Approved by the Management Board on 27-28 September 2023



1. a) System tested only with EES and VIS systems, b) Data Quality Indicators Implementation to full extent in Wave 4, c) Reporting in CRRS in Wave 4  
 2. Transition start and end date aligned with IIO  
 3. Conditional on Eurodac Recast regulation

★ Entry in Operations interval period ★



Phased/staged technical readiness and ensuing EiO period. Detailed technical rollout approach to be further developed.