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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Implementation of interoperability - <i>State of play</i>

At the 5 March 2025 Justice and Home Affairs Council, Ministers adopted a revised interoperability roadmap focusing on 2025 and 2026, outlining the systems and interoperability components planned for entry into force during that period. The need for a revision was mainly triggered by the delay in the entry into operation of the Entry/Exit System, which the revised roadmap set to start progressively, in accordance with the related Regulation¹, in October 2025.

¹ REGULATION (EU) 2025/1534 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 18 July 2025 on temporary derogations from certain provisions of Regulations (EU) 2017/2226 and (EU) 2016/399 as regards the progressive start of operations of the Entry/Exit System.

Ensuring the implementation of the overall interoperability architecture in line with the revised roadmap for 2025-2026 and endorsing the roadmap for the post-2026 period is one of the operational actions for the ongoing Schengen Cycle, as decided by Justice and Home Affairs Ministers last June.

This paper provides updates on key aspects of the implementation of interoperability since the last state of play given at the Justice and Home Affairs Council in June 2025.

1. The Entry/Exit System: progressive start as of 12 October 2025

The progressive start of the Entry/Exit System operations on 12 October 2025 – two days before the Home Affairs session of the October Justice and Home Affairs Council - is a key milestone of the 2025-2026 interoperability roadmap.

Intense preparatory work towards the launch took place at national and EU-level over the summer, with significant support from the European Commission and eu-LISA. In that context, the European Commission, eu-LISA and Member States met the obligations listed in Regulation 2025/1534 on the progressive start of the Entry/Exit System: the European Commission adopted its implementing decision setting the date of the progressive start of operations to 12 October 2025 on 30 July 2025, eu-LISA adopted its high-level roll-out plan for the system on 6 August 2025, the European Commission shared updated communication materials about the progressive start of the system, and all Member States shared their national roll-out plans. Efforts are now continuing to roll-out the system until its full application after 180 days, in line with the abovementioned Regulation.

The Danish Presidency supported preparations for the launch by fostering exchanges of good practices in Council preparatory bodies, and will also contribute to drawing lessons from the Entry/Exit System launch to inform preparations for the launch of other systems.

2. Preparations ongoing for the other systems and interoperability components of the 2025-2026 interoperability roadmap

Following delivery of the first interoperability component by eu-LISA (Shared Biometric Matching Service together with VIS4EES) in May 2025, and the progressive start of the Entry/Exit System on 12 October 2025, preparations are ongoing at national and EU-level for the other systems and elements foreseen in the 2025-2026 roadmap, including:

- The European Criminal Records Information System - Third Country Nationals (ECRIS-TCN) and the technical readiness of several interoperability components (ESP, CIR, CRRS) in Q4 2025.
- The revised EURODAC (European Asylum Dactyloscopy Database) entry into operation in June 2026.
- The ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorisation System) entry into operation in Q4 2026.

The Danish Presidency is contributing to more transparency and predictability on these preparations by facilitating exchanges in Council preparatory bodies. No major issues have been raised so far in that context.

3. Work ongoing to draft the post-2026 interoperability roadmap

Work is ongoing in eu-LISA governance bodies to prepare the post-2026 interoperability roadmap. The post-2026 interoperability roadmap will include, among others, the entry into operation of the revised Visa Information System (VIS) and the launch of the remaining interoperability component (Multiple-Identity Detector (MID)).

Once finalised, the post-2026 interoperability roadmap will be submitted for adoption at the 19-20 November eu-LISA Management Board meeting, and the Danish Presidency will share it for adoption by Ministers at the 8-9 December Justice and Home Affairs Council, following preparations in the relevant Council preparatory body.

To complement this background, at the Council meeting of 13-14 October, the Commission and eu-LISA are invited to inform delegations about the launch of the Entry/Exit System and to provide their updated assessments on the state of play of the roll-out of the interoperability architecture including the preparation of the timeline for post 2026.
