**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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LIMITE

**SIS-TECH 93
COMIX 724**

NOTE

from :	Presidency
to :	the Mixed Committee at the level of Senior Officials
Subject :	Presidency conclusions of the ad hoc meeting of technical experts on the Portuguese proposal for the integration of the new Schengen countries into the SIS1+ (SISone4all)

1.   The Presidency opened the meeting and explained that the aim was to report to the JHA council of October on the technical feasibility of this proposal. No other proposals would be discussed.

One important condition was that implementing this proposal could not cause further delay to the SIS II project.

2.   The Portuguese delegation presented a <u>first feasibility study</u> on their project.

In reply to a question by the legal service, PT explained that their proposal was a temporary solution and would not change the architecture of the SIS 1+.

3.   The meeting discussed possible <u>costs</u> of the project :

The new Schengen countries would have to bear their own costs (e.g. adaptation of software provided by Portugal to the local architecture and other national adaptations needed).

The same was true for the old Schengen countries. The costs here would concern mainly adaptations to work with flags for all the new Schengen countries and changes to the SIRENE systems.

Costs to C.SIS would be attributed to the C.SIS budget under the present provisions (see Title 1 Point 3 and the provisions of art 119 of the convention). The new Schengen countries would have to contribute to the C.SIS budget (also retrospectively - see 3rd indent) as soon as the provisions of the Schengen convention would be applicable in full to them.

PT would make available the software at no cost and pay all other project related costs (training, project management…).

Network costs depend on the network solution chosen.

4.   For the <u>network</u> three possibilities were discussed :

*   SISNET

The SISNET contract (for the present SIS1+ environment) would end automatically in November 2008. The inclusion of the new Schengen states is foreseen, but this needs an annex to the contract. At this moment the possibilities are examined to extend the contract beyond November 2008 and whether this would imply a new call for tender. If the SIS II is not active before November 2008, an alternative network solution should be sought.

*   TESTA II

The Commission delegation explained that this solution was not available for legal/contractual reasons.

* sTESTA

The contract signature for the sTESTA network (which is destined to replace the TESTA II network and is the network foreseen for the SIS II) would take place in the month of October 2006. It has to be examined under which conditions sTESTA could be used for the SIS 1+:

- conditions and possibilities for a contract with the Council for a migration from SISNET
- possibilities for use of s-TESTA before the SIS II go-live date either by using the dedicated SIS II access points or by using the Eurogate in each country

No clear solution could be presented.

5. The <u>delegations</u> from the new Schengen countries supported the Portuguese approach, but some indicated that they needed further study of the proposal. Some would need additional resources at national level to allow also the development work on the SIS II to continue without delay.

Delegations from new and old Schengen states pointed to a number of elements that required further attention or a more detailed description:

- detailed technical specifications
- organisation of transfer of code
- possible delays in the project schedule
- phonetic search
- transliteration
- helpdesk
- the Schengen evaluation schedule
- management
- network

The UK and Irish delegations remained committed to the SIS II for their SIS participation.

The Commission delegation pointed out that a decision to implement the SISone4all solution would necessitate a revision of the global project schedule for the SIS II.

The delegations agreed that the SISone4all solution was technically feasible.

6.   The <u>C.SIS</u> representative explained that the present central architecture was able to sustain a traffic and processing with 30 countries. At the contractual level there would be no change, so no new call for tenders would have to be organised in respect of work to be carried out at the C.SIS. After the present migration at C.SIS would be finished (end of October) there would be no manpower problem to support the additional work required for the SISone4all project.

7.   The Portuguese delegation underlined that in order to be able to maintain their proposal, a provisional "go" was needed at the next JHA Council. After that a kick-off meeting would be organised on 16 October in Lisbon. Further detailed study and discussion of the proposal could then take place after that, allowing for a possible final "go" at the December JHA Council.

8.   After discussion the Presidency concluded the following :
   1.   All delegations confirmed their commitment to continue working on the SIS II without causing further delay to the project. In some countries this would imply that there were at present insufficient resources to work on both projects.
   2.   All delegations agreed on the technical feasibility of the proposal
   3.   On the basis of this the October JHA could discuss giving a provisional "go" for the project taking into consideration other aspects like management, financial and political aspects. A number of difficulties /uncertainties remain (like concerning the network), that will have to be clarified by a more detailed feasibility study before discussing a final "go" at the December JHA Council.