

Schengen: second generation information system SIS II, development. Initiative Belgium and Sweden

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This progress report deals with the work undertaken by the Commission between **January and June 2008** on the development of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II). It is presented to the Council and the European Parliament in accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 2424/2001 on the development of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II).

The report focuses in particular on progress made on the **testing** of the SIS II system. To recap, the SIS II Project is divided into three phases:

- phase 1 was concerned with system design and was completed prior to this reporting period;
- phase 2 deals with development and testing of the Central System which is a significant part of the current work load, and is likely to be completed by the end of 2008;
- phase 3 addresses final test and migration activities from the currently used SIS 1+ to SIS II. The preparatory work for migration is already underway.

Project status: following the successful implementation of SISone4ALL and the subsequent lifting of borders of the new Member States, the JHA Council in February 2008 concluded that SIS II should be re-scheduled in such a way that the Council can anticipate the start of SIS II operations by **September 2009**. In the early months of this reporting period the Commission services, in very close co operation with the Member States experts and the 'Friends of SIS II'(the group of Member States in charge of following the implementation of SIS II in the Member States, comprising the Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Finland, Sweden and Norway) focussed on revising the SIS II schedule. During the preparation of this timetable, a number of open issues related to SIS II schedule were identified as potentially time consuming and / or implied other significant risks (in particular, migration).

Migration from SIS to SIS II: the Commission (with the participation of SIS1+ countries) will ensure that the central elements of SIS II and the connections with national systems will have been tested and will function by the end of 2008. In 2009 the central SIS II will be tested in its entirety with the national applications. At the technical level, there is consensus on the general approach for the migration from SIS 1+ to SIS II, which is to perform a one-shot switchover of the national systems. However, the success of SISone4All requires the migration of many more Member States / users than originally planned.

The Council on 28 February 2008 confirmed a migration approach from SIS 1+ to SIS II that provides a fall-back possibility with a gradual migration to remedy unexpected problems and, for that purpose, invited the Commission to provide a **converter**, to be used for a very limited period of time, linking SIS 1+ and SIS II to ensure that the SIS can continue functioning in any scenario.

Testing Central SIS II: the System Solution Test (SST) was designed to verify that the Central SIS II on the central site is compliant with the technical specification. These tests, conducted without national systems, were completed in December 2007, and accepted in early 2008.

There are currently three types of testing being undertaken with the participation of Member States / users:

