

# **Eurodac system for the comparison of the fingerprints of applicants for asylum and certain other aliens for the effective application of the Dublin Convention**

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Council Regulation 2725/2000/EC stipulates that the Commission is obliged to submit an annual Report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the activities of EURODAC's Central Unit. This is the third such Report prepared by the Commission and includes information on the management and performance of the system in 2005. It assesses the outputs and the cost-effectiveness of EURODAC as well as the quality of its service. The main findings of the Report are as follows:

## **Management of the system**

The Management of the EURODAC Central Unit by the Commission continued in 2005 without major changes although some studies indicate that it may need to be developed in the coming years to take account of the new Member States. In addition, the Commission held several meetings and informal contacts with the European Data Protection Supervisor, which is the competent authority to monitor the activities of the Central Unit.

## **Figures and findings**

EURODAC statistics are based on records of fingerprints from all individuals aged 14 years or over who have made applications for asylum in the Member States, who were apprehended when crossing a Member States' external border irregularly or who were found illegally present on the territory of a Member State. In 2005, the Central Unit received a total of 258 684 successful transactions, which reveals only a slight decrease compared to the previous year of 287 938. The other statistics for 2005 reveal that the Central Unit received the following sub-division of categories:

- 187 223 asylum seekers (category 1);
- 25 162 crossing the border illegally (category 2); and
- 46 299 persons apprehended when illegally residing on the territory of a Member State (category 3).

This shows that whilst category 1 transactions have decreased by 20%, category 2 transactions have increased by 36% and category 3 transactions have increased by 15%.

## **Average time between the date of the prints and the date of sending**

Some Member States are much faster than others in sending fingerprints to the Central Unit. Greece, Iceland and Italy take on average more than 10 days before sending their mandatory transactions. Germany, the UK, Spain, France and Estonia take more than 2 days, whilst it took only from two hours to one and a half days for the other Member States to forward the Central Unit their finger prints. The Commission urges the Member States to forward their data promptly and in accordance with Article 4 and 8 of the Regulation.

