On 22 and 23 June 2022, the Management Board (MB) of the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA) held its 36th meeting in Strasbourg, France. All delegations attended in person except for those of the Netherlands, Portugal and Eurojust, while EPPO was absent.

Director of European and International Affairs at the French Ministry of Interior Mr Jean Mafart made opening remarks at the meeting, celebrating 10 years of eu-LISA.

After the official opening of the meeting the MB Chairperson Mr Szolnoki (HU), the Czech member of the MB presented the priorities of the incoming Czech Presidency and the European Commission provided a brief report on the status of the legal proposals affecting the operations of eu-LISA. This included progress made with SIS Recast, the Entry/Exit System, ETIAS, renewed VIS and ECRIS-TCN. e-CODEX, Prüm II and Joint Intervention Teams. News about agreement in the Council the EU on advanced preparations for a mandate on negotiating the Eurodac Recast regulation was especially welcomed.

The MB adopted the Agency’s Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2021 after the Executive Director had highlighted the main achievements. The MB also formed its opinion on the Final Annual Accounts of the year 2021 and asked eu-LISA to submit the final accounts, together with the opinion of the MB to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Commission, the Court of Auditors as well as to the countries associated with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis and with Dublin- and Eurodac-related measures.

The main discussion points at this MB meeting were the state of play of implementation of the Interoperability Programme and the revised timeline for the IT architecture. After a roundtable, with participation of all Member States, three main outcomes were the agreement to adopt revised timelines to have SIS Recast go live no later than November 2022, to have the Entry/Exit System enter into operation by mid-May 2023, and to have ETIAS enter into operation on mid-November 2023. The MB commits to ensure that by the end of 2023, the new systems related to the management of the external borders of the Union, namely EES and ETIAS, will be fully in operation.

The Chairpersons of the six Advisory Groups (AGs) informed the MB about the latest state of play in their respective groups. The Management Board also took note of reports from the Chairpersons of the four Programme Management Boards.

The Head of the Internal Audit Capability of eu-LISA presented the implementation status of the outstanding audit recommendations and gave an update about the state of play of the audit activities.

The Agency’s Deputy-Executive Director presented the annual Report on the Internal Control Framework.
The Executive Director opened a discussion on the future evolution of the Agency, including options for the future governance model of eu-LISA. These topics will be discussed more elaborately at the next regular MB meeting, in November, together with the sourcing strategy of the Agency.

Among other various topics, the MB discussed the planned financing in 2022 of the second extension of the Central Site in Strasbourg and an opt-out from the European Commission’s rules on teleworking.

Without discussion, the MB took note of the result of the Customer Satisfaction Survey 2021 (covering SIS II, VIS and Eurodac), the level of implementation of the budget for 2022 (almost 32% of the operational budget was implemented by 31 May 2022) and the status of implementation of eu-LISA’s obligations stemming from its establishing regulation.

Following brief comments from the European Commission, the MB also took note of the roadmap for the implementation of eu-LISA’s Strategy and of the Action plan for the implementation of the roadmap on standardisation.

The next Management Board meetings are planned to be held in Vienna, Austria on 22 September 2022 (to be confirmed) and on 16-17 November 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic.