On 29 June 2017 the Commission presented the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice, and amending Regulation (EC) 1987/2006 and Council Decision 2007/533/JHA and repealing Regulation (EU) 1077/2011. A number of developments compared to the current eu-LISA Regulation are proposed. They stem both from the recommendations of the external evaluation and from the policy, legal and factual context.
The proposed Regulation mainly aims to enhance the role and responsibilities of eu-LISA with regard to existing and possible new large-scale IT systems on cooperation and information exchange in the area of freedom, security and justice and to enable it to provide support to Member States and to the Commission. This is expected to contribute to rendering border management more effective and secure and to reinforcing security and combatting and preventing crime.

Some of the proposed novelties, in particular as regards the Agency's role in relation to interoperability and data quality, were already referred to in the Commission Communication of 6 April 2016 on Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for borders and security\(^2\), the final report of the High-level expert group on information systems and interoperability of 11 May 2017\(^3\), the Commission's Seventh progress report towards an effective and genuine Security Union of 16 May 2017\(^4\) and the Council Conclusions on the way forward to improve information exchange and ensure the interoperability of EU information systems of 8 June 2017\(^5\).

Prior to examining the specific provisions of the draft Regulation Article by Article, the Presidency invites delegations to have a general debate on some of the novelties, in particular as regards the following aspects:

1) What is the opinion of delegations concerning the possibility to request the Agency for advice to Member States with regard to the national systems' connection to the central systems and ad hoc support to Member States (Art.12(1))? To what extent would it be helpful? Could it overload the agency?

2) What is the opinion of delegations regarding the possible tasking of the Agency to develop, manage and/or host a common IT system by a group of at least six Member States opting on a voluntary basis for a centralised solution assisting them in implementing technical aspects of obligations deriving from Union legislation on decentralised systems (Art. 12(2))? Is the number of six Member States a suitable threshold? For which systems would Member States envisage using this possibility?

3) Is the role of the Agency in relation to research and promoting technological innovations sufficiently reflected?

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\(^2\) 7644/17
\(^3\) 8434/1/17 REV 1
\(^4\) 9348/17
\(^5\) 10151/17