



**EUROPEAN UNION
THE COUNCIL**

Brussels, 20 July 1999

10370/99

LIMITE

**SIRENE 15
COMIX 151**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of : WORKING PARTY ON SIRENE (JOINT COMMITTEE
NORWAY/ICELAND)
on : 14 JULY 1999

1. Opening the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

The President, Mr. Rantanen, welcomed all delegations to this first SIRENE Working Party meeting under the Finnish Presidency.

The agenda as set out in telex No 3012 of 25 June 1999 was adopted without any modifications. Delegations were requested to send their remarks by written procedure regarding the minutes of the joint SIRENE-PWP and SIRENE meetings held on 23 and 24 March 1999 (SCH/OR.SIS-SIRENE (99) PV 3 and 4) before the end of the current month.

2. The Working Program of the Finnish Presidency.

The President referred to the room document No 2 in which he stated his priorities for the next six months. The project SIS I+, which is the platform that will enable the access of the Nordic countries to the SIS, will play a central role during the Finnish Presidency.

The whole list of issues in the field of Justice and Home Affairs contained in the working program of the Finnish presidency are tabled in note 9481/99 JAI 52.

3. Report from the Chair of the SIRENE Working Party

a) Report of the meeting of the SIS Working Party on 9 June 1999.

Main points concerning the SIRENE Working Party were:

- Overall concept for SIS II, based on document 8303/99 SIS 2.
- Access to the SIS by vehicle registration authorities: this point will be raised with the Article 36 Committee.
- Security of the SIRENE Bureaux: there was no final agreement on note 8311/99 SIRENE 2 and it was sent back to the SIRENE Working Party.

b) Report of the Heads of SIRENE meeting in Copenhagen on 11 June 1999.

The debate was focused on the proposals for the SIS II, the connection of the Nordic States to the SIS (practical procedures) and the improvement of working methods of the SIRENE Working Party.

4. Matters relating to the System Development

a) Situation report on the SIS I+

The President reminded the delegations that on the main question of overcoming the "millennium bug" (part 1 of the SIS I+ Project), the date for migration from the current SIS to the SIS I+ still remains as 17 November 1999. Part 2 of the SIS I+ Project (access of the Nordic States to the SIS) will be in place by the year 2000 once the conditions for the integration of the Nordic states are fulfilled.

b) Proposals for the SIS II

The President reminded the delegations that the proposals tabled in note 8408/1/99 SIRENE 3 rev. are not definitive and may always be updated as to date the work for the technical implementation of the new system has not started.

At the request of the Austrian Delegation two points concerning restricted alerts for vehicles and additional fields to facilitate the identification of the person were amended in the proposed note. The revised note will be sent to the SIS Working Party meeting taking place on 28 June 1999.

c) Report of the SIRPIT Sub-working Group

Although the French and German delegations already stated that the performance of the network during the tests has been positive; the definitive report on the SIRPIT Project will be presented after the summer break. The point was therefore postponed to the next meeting.

d) Expert teams for supervising the future SIRENE Bureaux

The Presidency explained that the creation of this expert team, see note 9429/99 SIRENE 11, is one of the results of the last Heads of SIRENE meeting held in Copenhagen.

The French and Belgian delegations, the latter depending upon the approval of its national superiors, expressed their interest in taking part in this team. The Spanish delegation mentioned that it would give its support in the operational issues too.

The SIS Working Party will be informed about this expert team in its next meeting.

e) Proposal to improve the working methods of the SIRENE Working Party.

The Austrian delegation made a presentation on improving the working methods of the SIRENE Working Party using Project Management techniques. In this case, as tabled in room document No 1, the project leader is the Presidency and the project team is made up of Austria, Finland, Belgium, Luxembourg and other countries that may join the team. The client is the SIRENE Working Party. Almost every item of the working program can be dealt with via project management structures.

The Commission welcomed this initiative and proposed in order to improve the co-ordination to apply these working methods to all Working Parties related to the SIS. However it regretted that it had not been invited to the informal meeting in Vienna on 18 June 1999 and had been informed too late about the Heads of SIRENE meeting on 11 June 1999.

The delegations, in particular the Presidency and the Portuguese delegation that will be in charge of the next Presidency, were in favour of adopting these new working methods and asked the Austrian delegation to continue its efforts to develop this first project. The Austrian delegation will start the 2nd phase of the project in autumn this year with a new meeting where all delegations including the United Kingdom, Ireland and the Commission will be invited.

5. Operational matters

a) Misused identity

The Presidency referred to the note 8564/99 rev. 1 SIRENE 4 pointing out the two main technical measures to be adopted during the work of the SIS I+:

1) A new value 3 in SIS table 5 "Category of identity" that will indicate the possibility of misuse of identity.

2) A new Q form where all details of the innocent person will be stored.

The presidency recalled that this will be a transitional solution, before SIS II is operating, and will request the SIS-Tech Working Party in order to speed up the procedure to give a term to implement it.

As suggested by the Spanish delegation, the new Q form will be drafted according to the existing L form and the German delegation has been charged with presenting a draft for this new form in the next meeting.

The delegations agreed on the solution as tabled in the aforementioned note including the correction proposed by the Portuguese delegation stating that the prior consent of the concerned person to include his or her details in this new Q form is always compulsory.

The revised note will be presented to the next SIS Working Party meeting in order to forward it to the SIS-Tech Working Party.

b) Nordic transliteration rules

The Belgian delegation explained that its note 9247/99 SIRENE 7 is not intended to impose the proposed solutions on all countries; rather it aims to inform the delegations about the solutions that can be found at national level.

The Portuguese delegation recalled that rule concerning the character *Æ*, foreseen in the note SCH/OR.SIS-SIS (99) 80, has already been included in annex 2 of the SIRENE Manual but with a different transliteration rule. This delegation stressed as well that the new rules should comply with the ISO norms mentioned in the SIRENE Manual.

The President confirmed that annex 2 of the SIRENE Manual will be amended according to these new transliteration rules. He encouraged the delegations to approve the presented rules in order to avoid a delay in the access of the Nordic countries to the SIS.

The delegations approved note 9476/99 SIRENE 9 that refers to the new transliteration rules; this note will be sent to the SIS and SIS-Tech. Working Parties. The President reported that the special Sub-working Group on transliteration rules, covered in note SCH/OR.SIS-SIRENE (98) 202, has been officially dissolved.

c) Security in the SIRENE Bureaux.

The delegations approved note 8311/99 SIRENE 2 with the modifications proposed by the French delegation in its note 9829/99 SIRENE 13. The revised note SIRENE 2 will be sent to the SIS Working Party which will forward it to the Article 36 Committee and to the Joint Supervisory Authority.

d) Public tracing efforts

The German delegation explained that the aim of this note is to find out ways of publicising information on wanted criminals in other Schengen States, in particular if there is a central co-ordinating office.

The President requested the Delegations to send their responses, following the example of the note from the Norwegian delegation (9828/99 SIRENE 12), before 15 September 1999.

e) SIRENE Manual update: Annex 3

The Presidency advised that note 9477/99 SIRENE 10 which contains all the practical information on the SIRENE Bureaux included in annex 3 of the SIRENE Manual will be sent to all delegations by ordinary post.

The delegations from the Nordic Countries, United Kingdom and Ireland were requested to send their contact details as laid out in the aforementioned note. The other delegations were advised to check the note contents and, if necessary, to update it before 15 September 1999.

6. Any other Business

a) Forthcoming meetings of the SIRENE, SIS and SIS-Tech. Working Parties:

SIS-Tech. Working Party: 19-20 July 1999.

Committee Art. 36: 22-23 July 1999.

SIS Working Party: 28 July 1999.

Nordic SIRENE: 1 September 1999.

Committee Art. 36: 9-10 September 1999.

SIRENE Working Party: 13 September 1999.

SIS Working Party: 16 September 1999.

SIS-Tech Working Party: 20-21 September 1999

Committee Art. 36: 24 September 1999.

b) Agenda for the SIRENE Working Party meeting on 13 September 1999.

The draft agenda tabled in the room document No 3 was approved.

II Council Working Party on SIRENE

1. Approval of the proposals prepared by the Joint Committee

- Agenda point 4(b) approved with modifications proposed by the Austrian delegation and sent to the SIS Working Party
- 4(d) approved
- 4(e) agreed on procedure
- 5(a) approved with modifications proposed by the Portuguese delegation and sent to the SIS Working Party
- 5(b) approved and sent to the SIS and SIS-Tech Working Parties
- 5(c) approved with modifications proposed by the French delegation and sent to the SIS Working Party
- 6(b) approved