

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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SENDOC Statewatch European Documentation & Monitoring Centre on justice and home affairs in the European Union

PO Box 1516, London N16 0EW, UK tel: 0181 802 1882 (00 44 181 802 1882) fax: 0181 880 1727 (00 44 181 880 1727) 10724/99

LIMITE

SIS 33 COMIX 199

NOTE

from : Presidency

to : Article 36 Committee (Norway/Iceland Joint Committee)

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Subject: Update on SIS I+ activities

In the course of the SIS I+ project, the existing Schengen Information System (SIS) will receive a new hardware and software platform. In addition to resolving the problems associated with SIS maintenance and the year 2000, this will make possible and prepare for the integration of the Nordic States into the SIS (Part 2 of the SIS I+ project).

Within Part I of the SIS I+ project, the tests agreed under contract with the implementing firm ATOS on the third of the three technical levels of SIS are almost concluded, except for one set of tests. Without prejudice to the detailed analysis results, it can be expected that they are running successfully. The difficulties that appeared in July have been overcome because the company affected more resources to the project and thanks to the good co-operation of the national teams.

The tests on less important functionalities, that were postponed to be able to focus on the essential functionalities, are now being conducted and should be completed and analysed in November.

The preparations for the migration to the operational system are on their way and running according to schedule.

10724/99 NP/ml EN
DG H 1

On the main question of overcoming the "millennium bug", the date for migration from SIS I, which is currently in operation, to the modernised SIS I+ still remains 17 November 1999.

Within Part 2 of the SIS I+ project, a detailed schedule has been drawn up for executing the work. Further discussion and preparation is necessary to still optimise this planning.

The company has started the works for Stage II, the necessary acquisitions and installations are being done and the first preparatory tests will be run shortly.

ATOS has made a claim of 1.000.000 FRF for the execution of work which, in its opinion, was not included in the technical specifications. This claim is currently being investigated by the experts' groups and more detailed information will be given at a later stage.

The situation can be summarised thus: there is still a margin of six weeks before 31 December 1999 and, as things stand, there is no significant risk that SIS I+ will not start operating before the year 2000. All the Schengen States are requested to continue for the last tests to display maximum flexibility and readiness.

10724/99 NP/ml EN
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