Visa Information System Supervision Coordination Group, 7th meeting on 8 October 2015

Summary report

The seventh meeting of the Visa Information System ('VIS') Supervision Coordination Group ('SCG') was hosted at the European Parliament on 8 October 2015.

The Group, which comprises national Data Protection Authorities ('DPAs') and the European Data Protection Supervisor ('EDPS'), each acting within their own competences, is tasked with ensuring coordinated data protection supervision of the VIS.

The Group invited, as it regularly does, the representatives of the Commission and the European Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice ('eu-LISA'). The topics discussed included the state of play of the VIS roll-out, the planned further roll-outs, the overall performance of the system and latest developments related to the quality of data in the system.

The Members of the Group agreed to contact their national ministries in order to investigate further the cooperation with external service providers ('ESPs') in the visa application process, whose contracts shall comply with the requirements in Annex 10 to the Visa Code, in order to serve as basis for further analysis by the ESPs Subgroup.

The Group adopted the Joint VIS Activity Report 2012-2014 that includes a national chapter from the thirty countries using the VIS, i.e. all Schengen States, all four European Free Trade Association member states - Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland - and Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania which are not yet part of the Schengen Area but nonetheless have a visa policy based on the Schengen *acquis*. The Joint VIS Activity Report 2012-2014 is expected to be shared with the EU institutions by the end of 2015.

The Group continued to work on three questionnaires aimed at checking at national level the list of authorities having access to the VIS, access to VIS for law enforcement purposes and the exercise of data subjects' rights. In this regard, the Secretariat presented the first draft report based on the answers of Members of the Group. The work on this report is close to be finalised and the final version of the report is expected to be published by the end of 2015.

The Members of the Group finally updated their colleagues with information about their national inspections or other relevant developments.

The next meeting of the VIS SCG will be held in spring 2016.