

Summary report

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) hosted the fourth meeting of the VIS Supervision Coordination Group (VIS SCG) on 7 May 2014.

The Group, which comprises national data protection authorities (DPAs) and the EDPS, each acting within their own competences, is tasked with ensuring coordinated data protection supervision of the Visa Information System (VIS). The Secretariat of the Group is provided by the EDPS.

The VIS SCG met with representatives of the European Commission and eu-LISA. Topics discussed included the state of play of the VIS roll-out¹ and the planned further roll-out over the course of next year, as well as developments related to the quality of data in the system. The Group will stay in touch with the European Commission and eu-LISA in order to develop a mechanism for keeping track of data quality.

The representative of the Spanish DPA presented a first input for a quality exercise at national level with a view to further developing the question not only to biometrics but also to alphanumeric data.

A subgroup composed of representatives of the German (federal), Italian, Maltese, Swiss (federal) and Swedish DPAs presented a first analysis of technical and legal issues related to the use of subcontractors for the processing of visa applications, including questions of jurisdiction. The Group reflected among others on the minimum conditions to be inserted in the contracts between Member States and subcontractors. The subgroup will continue to work on the issue for the next meeting.

The group also decided to adopt three draft questionnaires aimed at checking at national level the list of authorities having access to the VIS, access to VIS for purposes of law-enforcement, and the exercise of data subjects' rights.

The Group adopted a note prepared by the Secretariat, which develops a way forward for a common framework for inspections. The note presents a modular approach by using the work already undertaken in different domains (e.g. as regards subcontracting, data security etc.).

Last but not least, the members of the Group shared relevant information about developments at national level, including inspections.

The next meeting of the VIS SCG will be held in fall 2014.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32013D0493&qid=1400058351146&from=EN>