

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

COMMITTEE ON CITIZENS' FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Monday, 6 October 2003, 15.00 – 18.30

60, rue Wiertz – Brussels
Paul-Henri Spaak Building
Room PHS 4B1

Public Seminar

**The Schengen Convention
Development of the Schengen Information System (SIS II)
and data protection
What strategy for the future?**

Draft programme

15.00 to 15.15 Opening of the seminar by the rapporteur, **Mr Carlos COELHO**

I. The Schengen Convention: the political dimension

It is now nearly 20 years since the original agreement was signed and over four years since the Schengen acquis was incorporated into EU texts. Following the signing of the Accession Treaty with the new Member States and, in particular, after the events of 11 September 2001 which led to a thorough review of public crime-prevention policies both inside and outside Europe, it is time to take stock of the Schengen Convention.

15.15 to 15.35 **Monitoring of Schengen by a national parliament**
Mr Alberto DI LUCA, Chairman of the Italian parliamentary committee on monitoring implementation of the Schengen Agreement and immigration monitoring and control

15.35 to 15.45 **What is the situation regarding the new Member States?**
Mr Boriss CILEVICS, Observer from Latvia, Member of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly

15.45 to 15.55 **What is the situation regarding the European Union's new neighbouring countries?**
Mr Vitaliy SHYBKO, Member of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (Ukraine)

II. A new task for the Schengen Information System (SIS II)

A key aspect of the Schengen system is the Schengen Information System (SIS). Since the system was established its task has clearly changed:

'When the SIS was first created, its only purpose was to be a compensatory measure for the opening of the borders. Ever since, and not in the least because the SIS has proved to be a useful and efficient tool, recognition has grown that the potential of the SIS could be maximised, mainly within the frame of police cooperation.

*[...] Nevertheless, the idea of using the SIS data for other purposes than those initially foreseen, and especially for police information purposes in a broad sense, is now widely agreed upon and even follows from the Council conclusions after the events of 11 September 2001.'*¹

In the light of the Council conclusions of 5/6 June 2003 on the tasks of the future Schengen II system, Parliament intends to open a debate on the political objectives which the European Union intends to pursue as it develops that system.

The seminar will be an opportunity to discuss the development of the system in practical terms as regards the proposed new functionalities, the types of data to be recorded, the new users, the future location, responsibility for strategic management, synergies and links with other databases (such as, in particular, the VIS) and the financing of large-scale information systems.

The purpose of the seminar will also be to discuss the draft Council recommendation on the second-generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) (B5-0268/2003), which has been drawn up by Mr Carlos Coelho.

16.00 to 16.20 **Current functioning of the Schengen information system**
Mr Luc VANDAMME, Secretariat of the Council of the European Union

16.20 to 16.40 **Presentation of the plans for the second-generation Schengen Information System (SIS II)**
Mr Antonio VITORINO, Member of the Commission

16.40 to 17.00 **The views of the Joint Supervisory Authority**
Mr Giovanni BUTTARELLI, chairman

17.00 to 17.30 Debate

¹ Note from the Presidency on requirements for SIS (Document 5968/02 of 5 February 2002)

III. What data-protection standards?

The protection of personal data is one of Parliament's main concerns. What is at stake if a greater range of data is processed and put to a wider variety of uses? How, in the light of such changes, can people's basic rights and freedoms be properly protected? What are the implications of establishing links with other information systems? What safeguards should be put in place if data are to be forwarded to third countries? How should a clear, transparent protection system for individuals be introduced, given the complexity of the data-protection rules which may be applicable and the multiplicity of supervisory authorities with responsibility in this area?

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| 17.30 to 17.40 | Mr Marco CAPPATO , rapporteur on data protection |
| 17.40 to 17.55 | Mr Bart de SCHUTTER , lecturer at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel |
| 17.55 to 18.15 | Professor Spiros SIMITIS , Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe University, Frankfurt-am-Main |
| 18.15 to 18.30 | Conclusions to be drawn from the seminar (Mr Carlos COELHO , rapporteur)
Closing of the seminar |

ANNEX

Seminar secretariat

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Important notice to persons wishing to attend the seminar

The seminar is open to the public. However, for security reasons, participants who are not in possession of a European Parliament access card must acquire a pass in advance. Persons wishing to obtain a European Parliament pass are requested to contact the seminar secretariat.