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Committee on Budgets

2007/0104(CNS)

2.10.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on the proposal for a Council decision on the installation, operation and management of a Communication Infrastructure for the Schengen Information System (SIS) environment
(COM(2007)0306 – C6-0215/2007 – 2007/0104(CNS))

Draftsman: Reimer Böge

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SHORT JUSTIFICATION

1. Content of the proposal

The Schengen Information System (SIS) was first established in 1990 as an information exchange network, servicing the EU Member States plus Iceland and Norway. Its purpose is to act as an information exchange network that allows Member States to obtain information on certain categories of persons and properties (mostly vehicles).

The Member States will be responsible for carrying out tests to ensure the proper exchange of data over the infrastructure.

The Council will be responsible for establishing the test plan on the basis of an initiative to be prepared by France – in its capacity as the Member State responsible for SIS.

On a fixed date, the Member States will be asked to migrate from SISNET to the new communications Infrastructure.

The Commission will only be allowed to contract the execution of specific operational management tasks relating to security and supervision of the Infrastructure to national public sector bodies.

SIS therefore remains a system that connects purely (multi -)national data bases on a Community infrastructure in case of need (should the call for tender for SISNET fail). Otherwise it will be operated on SISNET, which is purely intergovernmental.

2. Budgetary implications

Whereas, until now, SISNET was funded by Member States, the 2008 PDB (line 18 02 04 01) foresees the financing under the General Budget of the Union. According to the wishes of Member States, the costs for its management will be borne by the general budget of the EU. The remainder of the budget from SISNET will be refunded to the Member States in proportion to their contributions, in case the call for tender for SISNET does not succeed.

3. Amendments

Some amendments should therefore be proposed to the legal base, in order to ensure a fair division of funding by both the Community and the Member States.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Draft legislative resolution

Amendment 1 Paragraph 1 a (new)

- 1a. Considers that the indicative financial reference amount indicated in the legislative proposal must be compatible with the ceiling of heading 3a of the new Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) and points out that the annual amount will be decided within the annual budgetary procedure in accordance with the provisions of point 38 of the IIA of 17 May 2006.*

Proposal for a decision

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 2 Article 1, paragraph 5

5. The costs of installing, operating and managing the Communication Infrastructure shall be borne by the general budget of the European Union

5. The costs of installing, operating and managing the Communication Infrastructure shall be borne by the general budget of the European Union. ***Each Member State shall be responsible for bearing the costs incurred by the national database and of their connection to the communication infrastructure SIS or S-Testa.***

Justification

As SIS remains a system simply connecting national data bases, it should be financed by the Member States, provided that it stays at national level.

Amendment 3
Article 5, paragraph 1 a (new)

1a. The contract according to paragraph 1 will be concluded in line with the provisions of Articles 88 to 107 (procurement rules) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002.

Justification

The rules of the Financial Regulation have to be respected at all times.

Amendment 4
Article 5, paragraph 2 a (new)

2a. The Commission shall inform the relevant committee of the European Parliament of the terms of the contract according to paragraph 1 and which national body is the contractor.

Justification

As the cost incurred by the bodies referred to in paragraph 1 is to be borne by the EU, it is only fitting that the budgetary authority be informed of the beneficiaries.

Amendment 5
Article 7, paragraph 2

2. The remainder of the budget established by the Council Decision 2000/265/EC at the date set in accordance with Article 4 (1) shall be ***refunded to the Member states. The amounts to be repaid shall be calculated on the basis of the contributions from the Member states as laid down in Article 26 of Council Decision 2000/265/EC.***

2. The remainder of the budget established by Council Decision 2000/265/EC at the date set in accordance with Article 4 (1) shall be ***used by the Commission to build up the Communication Infrastructure referred to in Article 1.***

Justification

If there is any remainder, it would be easier to use it directly for the new infrastructure, now to be managed by the Commission, instead of refunding Member States on the basis of complex calculations.

PROCEDURE

Title	Communication Infrastructure for the Schengen Information System (SIS) environment (decision)
References	COM(2007)0306 - C6-0215/2007 - 2007/0104(CNS)
Committee responsible	LIBE
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	BUDG 12.7.2007
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Reimer Böge 12.9.2007
Discussed in committee	1.10.2007
Date adopted	1.10.2007
Result of final vote	+: 26 -: 0 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Reimer Böge, Simon Busuttil, Joan Calabuig Rull, Gérard Deprez, Valdis Dombrovskis, Göran Färm, Szabolcs Fazakas, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Ingeborg Gräßle, Louis Grech, Catherine Guy-Quint, Jutta Haug, Monica Maria Iacob-Ridzi, Ville Itälä, Anne E. Jensen, Janusz Lewandowski, Vladimír Maňka, Mario Mauro, Jan Mulder, Gérard Onesta, Gianni Pittella, Rovana Plumb, Esko Seppänen, Ralf Walter
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Marusya Ivanova Lyubcheva, Paul Rübig, Margarita Starkevičiūtė