

First meeting of the Central Repository for Reporting and Statistics focus group

Yesterday, the first meeting of the EU Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Agencies' group on the Central Repository for Reporting and Statistics (CRRS) was successfully held at eu-LISA's premises in Strasbourg, France. Earlier this year, the JHA Agencies group on Interoperability expressed particular interest in the future possibilities for improved statistical analysis that could be offered through interoperability, thus creating a focus group to deal with this topic.

The main focus of the meeting was the presentation of a data warehouse showcase developed by eu-LISA in recent months. The presentation was followed by a demonstration of its capabilities. Participants appreciated the opportunity to understand the possibilities offered by the tool and visualise various data representations prepared ad hoc at their request. In considering likely business uses of the CRRS, the emphasis of discussions was the update frequency of particular data-points as well as the likely usefulness of trend analysis and anomaly detection information that could be provided by the CRRS.

Other topics covered extending the preliminary data catalogue prepared by eu-LISA, possible data comparisons to be included in regular reports, data quality and interfacing possibilities.

Participants from EASO, Europol, Eurojust, FRA and Frontex, alongside eu-LISA, attended the event. It was agreed that the group should meet 3-4 times in the coming 9-12 month period to discuss and gather a full set of requirements ahead of the CRRS development.

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Statement by Scotland's Brexit Minister on the EU Withdrawal Bill

Below is a statement given by Michael Russell, Scotland's Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, on Westminster's EU (Withdrawal) Bill.

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Author:

Speech by CS at HKAYP 96th Silver Award presentation ceremony (with photos/video)

Following is the speech by the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, at the Hong Kong Award for Young People's 96th

Silver Award presentation ceremony today (April 24):

Allow me to say a few words in English as some non-Chinese students are amongst the audience. This award is a very meaningful award. It's an internationally recognised award. It recognises the perseverance, readiness and courage of the awardees to embrace challenges which is very important for any youth in Hong Kong. The current term Government attaches great importance to nurturing our youngsters, particularly their development.

Youngsters represent our future, our hope, we can't leave anyone behind. That's why the Government has decided to upgrade the Youth Commission to become the Youth Development Commission to be chaired by the Chief Secretary – myself. We just had our first meeting this afternoon and finished half an hour ago – very useful meeting, very constructive. We will address various issues of concern to young people of Hong Kong and carve out a career path for them and also enable them to seize the opportunities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area development. So, a lot will be happening in the future – we'll forge collaboration, interaction and innovation with a view to building a better Hong Kong. We engage more gainful and constructive dialogue with our young people regardless of their background and nationalities. Hong Kong is our home, we have to make sure Hong Kong forges ahead as Asia's world city. Thank you very much.



HKSARG responds to European Commission report

In response to media enquiries, a spokesman for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government made the following response today (April 24) to a report on Hong Kong issued by the European Commission and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy:

"Since the return to the Motherland, the HKSAR has been exercising a high degree of autonomy and 'Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong' in strict accordance with the Basic Law. This demonstrates the full and successful implementation of the 'one country, two systems' principle, which

has been widely recognised by the international community.

“Foreign institutions should not interfere in any form in the internal affairs of the HKSAR.”