The new Eurodac Regulation will expand the EU’s identification database, helping authorities track secondary movements, tackle irregular migration and improve returns of irregular migrants.

Broad agreement found between co-legislators. Adoption possible in early 2019.

Member States will be able to store and search facial images in Eurodac in addition to fingerprints, in full compliance with data protection rules. This will help ensure they have all the elements needed at their disposal to identify asylum seekers, and help mitigate some challenges faced by Member States, for example with damaged fingertips and refusal to provide fingerprints.

The new system will no longer be limited to asylum applicants but will also store data on non-EU nationals found irregularly staying in the EU. The data retention period for irregular migrants apprehended at the external borders will be extended beyond the current 18 months to 5 years. This will make it easier to identify and re-document these individuals for the purpose of return and readmission.

By registering minors from the age of six, the new system will help improve the safety of child migrants, for example to detect cases of human trafficking and exploitation but also to establish family links should a child go missing.

With additional information available in the system, national authorities will have a more complete picture of each registered person when tracking irregular secondary movements.
IMPROVING RETURNS: EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF EURODAC TO IRREGULAR MIGRANTS CAN HELP INCREASE RETURN RATES WHICH TO DATE REMAIN UNSATISFACTORY.

45.8% effective returns in 2016

493,785 non-EU citizens were ordered to leave the EU
but only 226,150 non-EU citizens were effectively returned

36.6% effective returns in 2017

516,115 non-EU citizens were ordered to leave the EU
but only 188,905 non-EU citizens were effectively returned