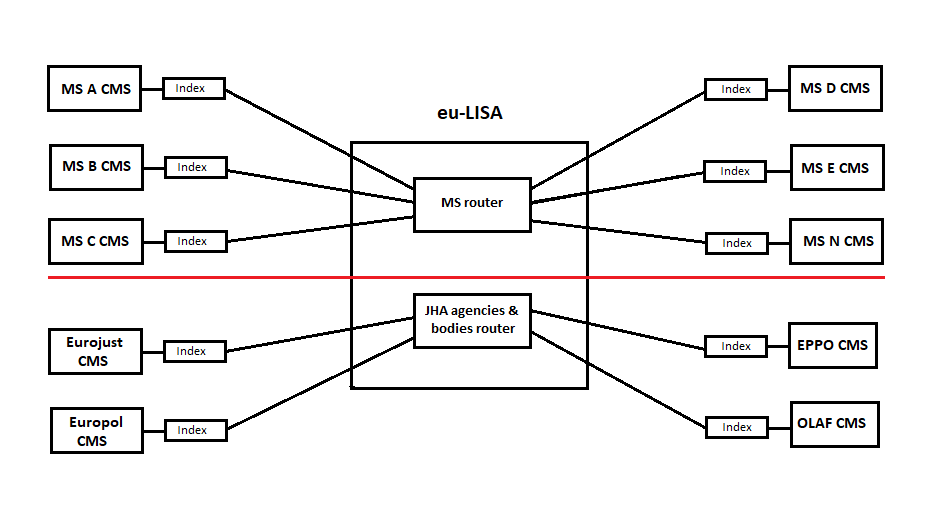
**ANNEX to the cross-checking judicial information discussion paper**

**for the technical meeting ahead of the second plenary of the High-Level Forum on the Future of EU Criminal Justice**

Each Member State would need an index linked to one or several of its prosecutorial databases, depending on its national setup. The index would contain sets of biographical data of suspects. The Member States would decide which national databases should feed the index. All data in the index and in the queries would be pseudonymised, i.e. no clear personal data would be transmitted - only alphanumerical strings. Therefore, in practical terms, the Member States would not know whom a specific request is about. It would also not be possible to reverse pseudonymisation and to reveal the identification data which resulted in the hit.

The cross-checking process would start with a hit/no-hit query, which could be transmitted to one or more concerned entities. The exchange of data would be organised through partial automation, which means that human intervention would be needed to trigger the request, but the matching and provision of the hit/no-hit reply would be fully automated, i.e. in a matter of seconds, the requesting Member States would be automatically alerted of a hit/no-hit for searches on biographic data. Hit responses for pre-court cases would include the quality of the hit, reference number, and the name of the Member State(s). For court-level cases, additional details such as date of crime, prosecution dates, offence category, other suspects, crime location, prosecution location, and case number would be included. After a positive reply, the requesting Member State could manually trigger a follow-up request. Such a request would be permissible only for prosecution purposes. The requested Member State would be obliged to decide within 10 days whether to share its data with the requesting Member State. The shared data could also include fingerprints and facial images.