



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 14 September 2010

13152/10

LIMITE

**FAUXDOC 17
COMIX 562**

NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Working Party on Frontiers / False Documents - Mixed Committee
(EU - Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)

Subject: **State of play of identity cards**

Following the Spanish Presidency's initiative delegations were asked to reply to the questionnaire set out in 5299/1/10 REV 1, on the state of play of identity cards.

Delegations will find attached a table recapitulating the 28 replies to the questionnaire.

The Presidency was also able to highlight certain trends, in particular a majority of countries in favour of harmonising security features and standards of identity cards. Some comments by the Presidency have also been put forward for discussion and/or debate.

The Presidency would like to highlight the following:

- All but one country that replied confirmed that they issue identity cards or plan to issue them shortly.
However, identity cards are not compulsory in Austria, Liechtenstein and Sweden. Norway plans to issue them in 2011 at the earliest and the United Kingdom has issued them only in certain regions.

- The most widespread format is TD1 (Size 1 machine readable **T**Travel **D**ocument (**I**ntity **D**ocument cards, format "ID1" (85,6 x 53,98 mm))
- The most commonly used medium is PC (polycarbonate)
- 20 countries are implementing an electronic system or plan to implement one in the near future (8 contact technologies, 5 contactless technologies, 2 contact + contactless technologies and 5 countries have not yet decided on the technology)
- 10 countries encode or plan to encode the photograph and fingerprints (in Germany fingerprints are optional, Italy encodes fingerprints only in the form of a template and Portugal encodes them in the form of ridge characteristics).
Belgium only encodes the photograph.
The choice has not yet been confirmed in Hungary, Luxembourg and Slovakia.
- No microchip manipulation has been observed to date.
- 11 countries offer or will offer other microchip functions (digital signatures, internet transactions, etc.). The Netherlands has not provided for any other function.
- 20 countries centralise identity card production (decentralisation of applications in several cases). 4 countries have not opted for centralisation.
- Delegations' replies to questions 10, 11 and 12 have not been included in the summary table or been examined in greater depth because of the disparity between the replies received.

Comments

Question 15 "Are all of the identity cards you issue valid for travelling within the EEA?" seems to have been interpreted differently and sometimes extended to include residence permits.

It can be concluded from the replies that all nationals holding an identity card can travel in the European Economic Area but certain countries use the term "identity card" (Identity card for persons registered in Sweden issued by the Tax Authority) or a similar term.

In order to adopt precise terminology, the Presidency considers that this question should be reformulated, indicating that national identity cards are those issued by Member States to their nationals.

Question 17 concerned the need for harmonisation of security features and standards of identity cards. 16 countries replied favourably, 6 were not in favour and 4 did not express an opinion on this issue.

However, the specific nature of the replies shows that approaches differ. Some countries refer to the cards' physical security features and the need for uniformity whereas others stress the interoperability and forgery-proofing of both contact and contactless smart cards.

Comments by the Presidency

- Council Regulation (EC) No. 2252/04 of 13 December 2004 does not provide for physical security features for identity cards and the principle of minimum common security standards was only introduced by the conclusions of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Union, adopted in November 2006.
- Comitology procedures does not allow discussion of this subject within the Article 6 Committee in the absence of a prior legal instrument or a specific remit.
As the Treaty of Lisbon opens up an opportunity in this context, the Presidency is considering defining the scope of the activities of the existing False Documents Working Party in order to discuss this problem.
- The Presidency also considers that the interoperability of electronic functions must be limited to the recommendations of the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) and not encroach upon national sovereignty with regard to the implementation of other electronic functions, as such discussions currently fall within the ECC's (European Citizen Card) remit.

| | ID card? | Format | Material | Chip | Biometry | e-facilities | Central production | Forged ? | Harmonization |
|-----|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|---------------|
| AUT | Yes (not mandatory) | TD1 | PC | No | No | No | Yes | No | No |
| BEL | Yes | ID1 | PC | Contact | Photo | Yes | Yes | No | |
| BGR | Yes | TD1 | PC | No | | | No | | Yes |
| CYP | Yes | | PVC | No | No | No | Yes | | Yes |
| CZE | Yes | TD2 | Paper | No (contact) | No | No | Yes | | Yes |
| DEU | Yes | TD1 (Nov) | PC | Contactless as from 1.11.2010 | Photo + fingerprints (optional) | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| ESP | Yes | TD1 | PC | Contact | Photo + fingerprints | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| EST | Yes | TD1 | PC | Contact | No | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| FIN | Yes | TD1 | PC | Contact | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| FRA | Yes | TD2 (TD1 in a next future) | Paper (PC) | ? | Photo + fingerprints | (Yes) | Yes | | Yes |

| | ID card? | Format | Material | Chip | Biometry | e-facilities | Central production | Forged ? | Harmonization |
|-----|---|------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|---------------|
| GBR | No (issued cards are not valid any more) ¹ | TD1 | PC | Contactless | Photo + fingerprints | No | - | No | |
| HUN | Yes | TD1 | PC | No (Yes in the near future) | | No | Yes | | Yes |
| IRL | No | | | | | | | | |
| ITA | Yes | TD1 + traditional | Plastic | Contact | Photo + fingerprint template | Yes | No | No | Yes |
| LTU | Yes | ID1 | PC | Contact + contactless | Photo + fingerprints | Yes | Yes | No | |
| LUX | Yes | Traditional (eID in 2011) | Plastic | No | | No | Yes | No | No |
| LVA | No | (eID in 2011 – ID1) | (PC) | (Contactless) | (Photo + fingerprints) | (Yes) | (Yes) | | Yes |
| MLT | Yes | Traditional ID1 | PC | No (Yes in the future) | | No | Yes | No | Yes |
| NLD | Yes | TD1 | PC | Contactless | Photo + fingerprints | No | No | No | No |

¹ Acc. to tel. with UK Border agency. 01.09.2010, 15:20 hours. MLA.

| | ID card? | Format | Material | Chip | Biometry | e-facilities | Central production | Forged ? | Harmonization |
|-----|---------------------|-----------|------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|---------------|
| POL | Yes | TD1 | PC + paper | No | No | No | Yes | | Yes |
| PRT | Yes | ID1 + TD2 | PC + paper | Contact | Photo + minutia | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| ROU | Yes | ID2 | Plastic | No (Yes in the future) | | No | No | | Yes |
| SVK | Yes | TD1 | PC | No (Yes in 2012) | | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| SVN | Yes | ID1 | PC | No | No | No | Yes | No | No |
| SWE | Yes (not mandatory) | ID1 | PC | Contact + contactless | Photo + fingerprints | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| CHE | Yes | TD1 | PC | No | | No | | No | Yes |
| LIE | Yes (not mandatory) | TD1 | PC | Contact | No | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| NOR | (>2011) | | | (Contactless) | (Biometrics) | | | | |