



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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Council updates standards for passports and travel documents

The Council today¹ adopted a regulation updating the standards for security features and biometrics in passports and travel documents issued by EU member states ([3606/09](#)).

The regulation aims to enhance security in passports and travel documents and to establish a more reliable link between the holder and the passport or travel document, thus ensuring a better protection against fraudulent use.

The new standards will harmonise the exceptions to the general obligation to provide fingerprints for the travel documents issued by the member states, a measure that is deemed essential to maintain security standards and with a view to simplifying border controls.

On a provisional basis children under the age of 12 years will be exempt from the requirement to give fingerprints. The Commission will submit a report no later than three years, on the reliability and technical feasibility of using the fingerprints of children under the age of 12.

¹ The decision was taken without discussion at the General Affairs Council meeting. The adoption of the regulation follows an agreement at the first reading of the Parliament-Council codecision procedure.

P R E S S

The regulation also incorporates the principle of "one person-one passport" as a supplementary security measure, in particular in order to provide additional protection for children, as recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

This regulation upgrades the common security rules for EU passports and travel documents set up in 2004 under regulation 2252/2004 (*see Official Journal L 385 of 29.12.2004*).
