Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	JHA Counsellors/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)
No. prev. doc.:	5152/1/17 REV 1; 6759/17
Subject:	Action plan to strengthen the European response to travel document fraud - Draft Council conclusions

In view of the JHA Counsellors meeting of 8 March 2017, delegations will find attached revised draft Council conclusions on the above subject.

Changes are highlighted in **bold/underline** and strikethrough in relation to ST 6759/17.

ANNEX

DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

HAVING REGARD to the Communications from the Commission on "Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security"[1], "Enhancing security in a world of mobility: improved information exchange in the fight against terrorism and stronger external borders "[2], and "Action plan to strengthen the European response to travel document fraud"[3],

1. RECOGNISES the crucial importance of secured travel and identity documents to tackle the phenomenon of travel document fraud;

2. UNDERLINES that breeder, identity and travel document security is a key factor for enhancing internal security, fighting against terrorism and organised crime, and improving border management; and ~~CALLS on Member States~~ **RECALLS the need to** ~~accelerate the~~ implement~~ation of~~ the ~~necessary certificate~~ exchange **of certificates for the checking of biometrics across the Single Points of Contact (SPOC) mechanism and the Schengen Master List;**

3. STRESSES the importance of the work carried out by the Committee created by Article 6 of Regulation (EC) N°1683/95 on a uniform format for visas and that it is best placed to discuss standards of a technical nature;

4. UNDERLINES the importance of security standards for **relevant residence,** identity and travel documents; and RECOMMENDS that breeder documents **should have** ~~are made more fraud resistant by setting~~ minimum security standards ~~at EU level~~ **to prevent falsification when used as evidence of identity**;

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1 COM(2016) 205 final.
2 Doc. 12307/16.
3 Doc. 15502/16.

5. WELCOMES the **ongoing** exchange of best practices, including through workshops **and expert meetings** hosted by the European Commission, Frontex or eu-LISA, on biometrics enrolment and the security of issuing processes for breeder, identity and travel documents;

6. RECALLS the work done by international organisations such as the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in the framework of evidence of identity and rendering breeder documents more secure;

7. NOTES that FADO (False and Authentic Documents Online) currently contains about 3,000 specimen**s** of genuine documents and anonymised examples of false documents describing the forgery techniques used, as well as about 2,000 national false document alerts;

8. RECOGNISES that FADO having been set up by the Council Joint Action of 3 December 1998[4], its management is somewhat outdated and a centralised management at Commission level would be more appropriate; NOTES the ideas put forward in this context by Frontex and eu-LISA at the informal Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA) in Malta on 16 February 2017 regarding the future management of FADO;

9. CONSIDERS that FADO**,** having a key role to play in detecting document and related identity fraud, ~~it~~ is not entirely fit for purpose anymore; also CONSIDERS that synergies could be exploited in this regard using **FADO User Group's experience,** Frontex's expertise in the area of document fraud and the work this agency has already been carrying out in this field**,** and eu-LISA's competence in hosting security-related IT systems;

10. UNDERLINES that a major overhaul of FADO through a change of its legal basis is required in order to continue meeting the requirements of Justice and Home Affairs policies and the challenges ahead in this field, as also highlighted by the EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator[5], while ensuring the continuity of the system;

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[4] Council Joint Action 98/700/JHA.

[5] Doc. 14260/16: "Implementation of the counter-terrorism agenda set by the European Council".

11. CONSIDERS it would be highly beneficial that Member States upload information on a mandatory basis in FADO~~, in particular when FADO is strengthened~~; therefore, INVITES the European Commission to take the necessary actions, including a legislative proposal establishing FADO on a more solid basis, while ensuring its continuity and development;

12. CONSIDERS in particular that in the light of the recent challenges faced by the European Union in terms of illegal migration and security, improving the use of FADO should be considered a priority;

13. ENCOURAGES the Commission and the European External Action Service to use the current cooperation with third countries, including in the context of the Migration Partnership Framework, the Joint Valletta Action Plan and the visa dialogues, to improve the security of breeder, identity and travel documents at international level as a matter of priority; STRESSES that such cooperation constitutes a good opportunity to improve the security of documents and further develop population registries in priority third countries; TAKES NOTE of the bilateral cooperation between the Member States and third countries in this regard.