



Brussels, 27 September 2016
(OR. en)

12289/16

LIMITE

FAUXDOC 28
COMIX 597

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: Working Party on Frontiers/False Documents Mixed Committee
EU-Iceland/Liechtenstein/Norway/Switzerland)

On: 13 September 2016

Subject: Summary of discussions

DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (05.12.2016)

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda has been adopted as proposed by the Presidency.

2. Presidency Priorities

The SK Presidency presented its general objectives and information channels, and its team composition and priorities in the field of False Documents, which are:

- cooperation with Frontex
- exchange of operational information
- exchange of information on new and forged documents, and new security features
- information exchange on the detection of organisations abuse documents
- presentation of national police structures and authorities responsible for checking travel documents

The Presidency's main priority, however, is the creation of a questionnaire with a view of establishing a list of documents issued by each Member State to nationals of third countries who are authorised to reside in the territory of the issuing Member State or in a part of it, and which do not entitle them to move within the Schengen area (cf. agenda point 5).

Three Working Party meetings are planned: today's afternoon session, on 24 October 2016 a full-day session, and on 30 November 2016 a morning session.

3. General exchange of information

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4. Modus Operandi of criminal organisations/networks trafficking in false and falsified documents

No delegation made a contribution under this agenda point.

5. Presidency's initiative focused on the questionnaire

"Draft questionnaire for the purpose of establishing a list of documents issued by each Member State to nationals of third countries who are authorised to reside in the territory of the issuing Member State or in a part of it, and which do not entitle them to move within the Schengen area."

The **Presidency** presented its initiative to collect information on residence-related documents which are not entitling the holder to travel in the Schengen Area. The questionnaire should allow to establish a comprehensive inventory of these documents with an image annex to the listed documents allowing border guards or police officials to recognise more easily what type of document they are confronted with, thereby contributing to the rapid and effective control of third country nationals.

As missing data in *iFADO* hinder such effective control, the questionnaire is also seen as starting point and incentive for Member States to register those documents to *iFADO* together with their legal status description, or to check and complete the legal status description if the document has already been uploaded but not yet fully described.

The **Presidency** presented an example document from *iFADO* for which "does not entitle the holder to cross the borders" has been correctly specified in the field "Legal status / main purpose", whilst for other documents this field has been left completely empty.

The deadline for comments on the draft questionnaire has been set to 20 September 2016 by e-mail to fauxdoc@minv.sk, Carina.Rosengren@consilium.europa.eu, and Klaus-Dieter.Rudolph@consilium.europa.eu.

LT already proposed to request the English translation of the document title, information about security features, and precise information regards the image. The **GSC** reminded of the existing obligation to add the subtitle and territorial validity of a document when registering it for *iFADO*.

6. FRONTEX Reference Manual - Quick Check Cards

Frontex presented its Reference Manual, a library of reference information on genuine and false travel, identity and vehicle documents aiming at strengthening security at the external borders, increasing document inspection capabilities and providing decision support to frontline border guards. Its most important tool are the Quick Check Cards (QCCs), which are designed for quick use in the frontline. Showing the key detection points for counterfeits, they are an operational and tactical added value for the frontline officer, in particular when document inspection systems give inconclusive results (orange / yellow light) or in case of doubts on the person or the document during border checks.

The Reference Manual is labelled as LIMITED and will only be distributed through encrypted USB sticks with Digital Rights Management (DRS) to meet the security conditions under which Member States granted **Frontex** access to *iFADO*. No information will be released to third countries without prior agreement of the Member States. A distribution register records details about the users for monitoring purposes. The User Terms of Content and Disclaimer follow the *iFADO* model.

Concerning the future development, **Frontex** will establish rules and procedures in cooperation with the *FADO* Management concerning the exchange of images for the QCCs. Furthermore, a formal **Frontex** operational working group of document experts will be established to support the development of the Reference Manual and related activities.

7. EMPACT ID FRAUD PROJECT

FR presented its "EMPACT handbook on ID and breeder documents" which has been developed in cooperation with representatives of 10 European countries and the contributions of other Member States, and is intended for border guards or investigators who encounter document or identity fraud in their every day work. The philosophy has been to create simple and short notices on European ID documents and European breeder/supporting documents. The handbook should provide easy to access information to support decision making and includes topics such as: who and how such documents are issued, legal channels to invalidate fraudulently obtained documents, legal barriers and national points of contact.

NL welcomed this initiative and proposed to find a possibility to bring all information together, including DISCS, to make access as easy as possible. The **GSC** proposed to create a link from *iFADO* to the Empact ID Handbook, next to the link to DISCS. This proposal has been accepted unanimously by all delegations.

8. A.O.B.

IE reported that fantasy driving licenses which look quite similar to UK driving licenses have been encountered in Ireland recently. Holders tried to convert them into genuine Irish licenses. The **Presidency** asked **IE** to set up an alert including pictures of the concerned documents.

NL asked if all Member States have already access to DISCS via *iFADO*. The **Presidency** informed that **SK** has full access and uses it a lot as it allows a better control of documents. The **GSC**, however, pointed out that several Member States have not yet communicated their IP address ranges – a prerequisite for accessing DISC – and reminded Member States to do so.

UK asked delegations if there would be any interest in organising a seminar specifically on Syrian documents, as an opportunity to pool information on this specific issue and also to discuss whether or not to accept Syrian documents, keeping in mind that IS has got hold of genuine passport printing devices. The **Commission** offered Member States to participate in its Travel Document Committee meeting on 27 September 2016, exchanging information on which Syrian travel documents are recognised by them.

After discussion of several options, the **Presidency** concluded to organise, with the help of the **GSC**, such a seminar for interested parties in the margins of the next Working Party meeting.
