Council of the European Union

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council / Mixed Committee
On:	28 April 2016
No. prev. doc.:	7284/16
Subject:	Use of images of the *iFADO* database for Frontex Quick Check Cards

1. The FADO system was established pursuant to Council Joint Action 98/700/JHA to enable the exchange of information on genuine and falsified travel and identity documents among national document experts. FADO is an important tool in the fight against illegal immigration and organised crime, including terrorism, smuggling of human beings and drugs trafficking across the EU. Data and information available in Expert FADO, *iFADO* and PRADO are of particular relevance in the current situation whereas increasing identity fraud across the EU requires to improve identity checks and to reinforce the fight against the use of false documents.

2. On 23 November 2015, **Frontex** addressed a letter to the Working Party on Frontiers/ False Documents asking for the permission to use circulation restricted "LIMITE" data from the *iFADO* database for the Frontex Quick Check Cards (QCCs).

3.   In the meetings of the Working Party on Frontiers/ False Documents on 4 December 2015 and 10 February 2016 **Frontex** presented the concept, aims and information security arrangements pertaining to QCCs pilot project and answered questions by delegations on these matters. Frontex explained that QCCs is a product of the Frontex Reference Manual document expert working group which is composed of nominated document experts from Member States. The purpose of QCCs is to create a decision-aid tool for law enforcement officers during travel document authenticity verification "at first encounter", which would present in a concise manner (on one A4 page) the most relevant information regarding a particular document specifically focussing on key detection points identified on the basis of an analysis of the available document alerts, known risks from forgery statistics and document experts' knowledge, as well as known attacks on the inspected document.

4.   On the basis of these parameters and considering that **Frontex** already has access to the *iFADO* database, the **Presidency** recommends delegations to support the request of **Frontex** to use the images of the *iFADO* database for the production of the Quick Check Cards as long as the QCCs are delivered and available only for officers from Member States and from countries associated with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis*, and provided that **Frontex** inserts a reference in the QCC that the images are taken from the *iFADO* database and allows the QCCs to be uploaded in *iFADO*.

5.   As explained by the **Council Legal Service** in the meeting of the Working Party on Frontiers/ False Documents on 10 February 2016, the authorisation of any third party request for access to and/or use of images stored in *iFADO* requires consensus on Working Party <u>and</u> Coreper/Council level.

6.   At its meeting on 28 April 2016, the Working Party on Frontiers/ False Documents reached consensus on the recommendation of the Presidency.

7. **COREPER/COUNCIL is therefore kindly invited to authorise *Frontex* to use the images of the *iFADO* database for the production of QCCs** as long as the QCCs are delivered and available only for officers from Ember States and from countries associated with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis, and provided that **Frontex** inserts a reference in the QCC that the images are taken from the *iFADO* database and allows the QCCs to be uploaded in *iFADO*.

———————————