



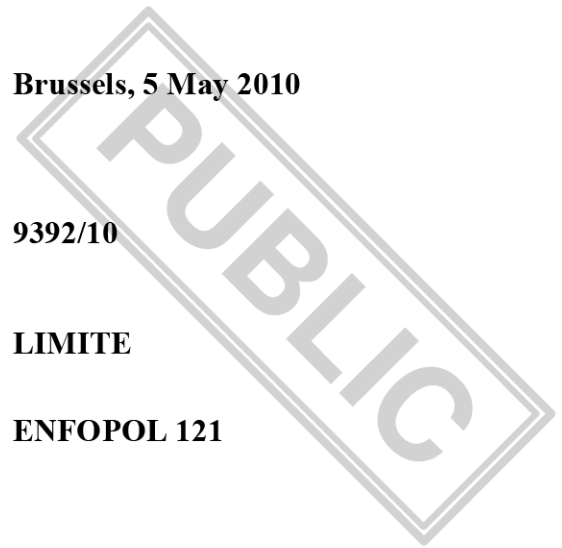
**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 5 May 2010**

**9392/10**

**LIMITE**

**ENFOPOL 121**



**NOTE**

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From: Portuguese delegation  
To: Police Cooperation Working Party  
Subject: MOBILE IDENTIFICATION INTEROPERABILITY GROUP (MOBIDIG)

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Delegations will find attached a document from the MOBILE IDENTIFICATION INTEROPERABILITY GROUP (MOBIDIG).

**Relevance to current European Union context: Responding to mobility and flexibility needs & challenges in order to protect EU citizens in a global society**

As referred to in the Stockholm Programme, the **internal security strategy** to be developed should take into account “the challenges of the dynamic and globalised XXI century context”. High mobility, high speed communications and high speed evolution of technology, namely regarding travel and identity documents, are some of these challenges, offering new opportunities either to people who want to commit crimes or to law enforcement. Within this context, identity abuse and the lack of confirmed identities are growing risks undermining internal security. In order to counter these risks, verifying and confirming the identity of people that law enforcement officers encountered during operational work is fundamental. Increasingly these officers need to establish identity on the move, away from permanent offices with fixed technology.

Mobile technology is expanding and is becoming a normal part of life. Law enforcement agencies are expected to keep up with the times, not to have wide areas where they cannot operate efficiently and effectively.

So, mobile identification by means of mobile devices able to read electronic and biometric documents, to authenticate information held in secure chips, to confirm identities against remote Information Systems and to search against high priority ‘watchlists’ of wanted people, inter alia, is currently a precondition for keeping pace with mobility and technology trends while **ensuring people's liberty and security**. Besides **increasing efficiency and flexibility of law enforcement action and cooperation**, it is also crucial to establish **the links between local and organised crime**, to facilitate the **prevention of and the fight against cross-border crime** as well as **the implementation of the principle of availability**. In order to have the right information to be available and/or shared at the right time, for the right person, in the right place, **the upgrade and mobilization of the necessary technological tools, interoperable solutions and standards** are urgently required.

Summarizing, **mobile identification will add value to law enforcement action**, namely by increasing the quality and security of operational procedures and results, making operational cooperation more and more straightforward, improving prevention, detection and investigation of crime as well as the level of public service in adequacy with challenges of growing mobility.

## **1. Intention and objectives – Spotlight on mobile identification**

The **intention** behind MOBIDIG is to address and bridge law enforcement and border control's needs and challenges as regards mobile identification, generally meaning when performing identity checks on the move (trains, buses, in the street, in joint operations, etc) whereby mobile devices are to be available, as well as to look for common related requirements, standards and criteria.

Mobile devices have important potential as an enabling technology for policing and other mobile enforcement services such as immigration and customs, as well as for police cooperation, but technology is still evolving and maturing and will require adaptation to key emerging technical changes in order to avoid waste of national efforts and investments.

Despite the impressive and continuing advances of mobile technology in the domestic and business market, mobile devices for law enforcement use may require appropriate technical infrastructure (for instance to support secure authentication of passport chips) and customization, for example to add fingerprint or document readers, to capture and transmit images, to make the units robust and able to communicate in difficult or emergency situations, and to provide effective information security.

It is likely that the potential market for such devices in the EU is into tens, and quite possibly hundreds, of thousands of units, leading to a huge collective investment. It is therefore very important this investment is well-targeted to meeting strategic and operational needs.

So, collaboration and guidance at **EU level** aiming at reaching conclusions on the most cost-effective use of this technology and potentially to develop common solutions is highly relevant.

The main **objectives** to be pursued are:

- 1) To bring awareness on the state of mobile identification/mobile devices,
- 2) To promote mobile controls and the identity checks therein,
- 3) To respond to an urgent need for technology-based mobile checking fully aligned with technology advances, namely on eTravel and eID documents and biometrics,
- 4) To define and test the settings to meet common criteria and interoperability,
- 5) To promote the broad use of biometric checks in mobile devices.

These objectives encompass **a wide range of aspects**, as technology and technical capabilities, functionalities and requirements of mobile devices, quality criteria, testing, electronic security and biometrics, related standards and protocols, information availability, data access and transmission, privacy and data protection, IT capacity and security, certification of equipments, data and users, training and operational performance.

## **2. Membership/participation**

MOBIDIG is open to all EU Member States and Associated Countries as well as to European Institutions and relevant European Agencies (as e.g. Europol, Frontex).

Several Member States and Associated Countries such as Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Norway as well as *Joint Research Center, Institute for Protection and Security of Citizen (JRC-IPSC)* and Frontex have actively participated on the developments achieved so far.

For the moment, MOBIDIG participation is restricted to officials of relevant governmental organizations and to representatives of European Institutions and relevant European Agencies. Conditional to member's approval, scientists and research experts or industry representatives may also be invited as consultants on specific issues or to participate in a meeting for certain agenda items.

Nevertheless, future involvement of and cooperation with private sector as technology providers is foreseen.

### **3. Background and latest developments**

This initiative started in November 2008, with a workshop promoted both by JRC-IPSC and *French Secure Documents Agency* (ANTS). Following this first workshop, three more were prepared. The second one, organized in June 2009, was also counting on the support of Czech Republic Presidency. The third one, organized in October 2009, had plus the involvement of Portugal, Italy and United Kingdom as well as the support of the Swedish Presidency. The fourth took place last March in Charleville-Mézières, jointly organized by France, Portugal, Spain and JRC-IPSC, in close cooperation with Italy and United Kingdom.

Participants from several Member States, Associated Countries, JRC-IPSC and Frontex, as decision makers, management and high level experts presented, exchanged and discussed existing and upcoming needs and challenges in the area of Mobile ID for law enforcement and border control applications.

Addressing the main conclusions of the November 2008 and June 2009 Workshops, which pointed out the critical need to intensify the collaborative work on mobile identification, and to establish a EU working group focused on this topic, the third workshop came out with both the Terms of Reference of Mobile Identification Interoperability Group (MOBIDIG) and a structure.

Portugal was elected as the leading country and France as a co-leader for general technical issues. Spain assumed the rotating co-leadership during this semester as Presidency of the Council of the EU and JRC-IPSC is in charge of the Secretariat.

This structure was agreed upon having into account both the fact that we were in a midway period between the current and the future EU functioning under the rules of the Treaty of Lisbon and the urgency to start working to give some guidance to ongoing national projects aiming at performing mobile identity checks.

In order to obtain a feedback from the main MOBIDIG target group, the initiative was officially presented to the European Police Chiefs Task Force (EPCTF) Operational meeting, on late November 2009. The meeting expressed its support to MOBIDIG's current and future work and some Member States emphasized that it might be an useful tool in the fight against organized crime, mainly organized fraud (identity and social fraud in particular).

A questionnaire aiming at supporting preliminary inventories to meet the first MOBIDIG objective was already launched and responses from 16 countries were received. Their results highlighted the relevance of MOBIDIG's work and will be disseminated, namely to EPCTF.

This fourth workshop brought out a methodology to address Strategic, Technical and Legal aspects as well as Procedures & Processes related to Mobile ID. A first draft on future strategy, a first set of technical requirements and a first approach on mapping pilot-projects as part of the mapping of procedures and processes were some of the important outputs to be continued next workshop, already scheduled to 8<sup>th</sup> June, in Madrid.

#### **4. Added value and expected outcomes**

- Provide a forum for debate and exchange of good practice and experience.
- Seek to devise and recommend practical solutions to current challenges.
- Develop a high level strategy for future use of mobile devices, recognizing that this field is still continuing to evolve.
- Deliver coherent guidance and best practice to support an EU framework including legal aspects, interoperability, common functionalities, technical requirements, standards and criteria as well as procedures and processes.
- Give guidance towards an EU scheme for assessment, certification and interoperability.
- Engage with industry to improve mutual understanding and value for money.

## 5. Short term critical success factors

- Active involvement and contribution of Member law enforcement representatives of Member States and Associated Countries, as primary mobile technology and handheld devices;
- Integration in an adequate EU formal structure in order to facilitate the aforementioned involvement, a mandate for further work and a coherent and comprehensive approach to foreseen outcomes.

Being so,

**The Police Cooperation Working Party** is invited to

- **note** and **support** the aims and work of MOBIDIG.
- **encourage** cooperation with MOBIDIG by those with a relevant interest.
- **consider the possibility** of promoting further developments within its framework.