



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 4.8.2011  
C(2011) 5499 final

**COMMISSION DECISION**

**of 4.8.2011**

**amending Commission Decision C(2006) 2909 final laying down the technical specifications on the standards for security features and biometrics in passports and travel documents issued by Member States**

**(Only the Bulgarian, Czech, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Swedish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovakian, Slovenian and Spanish texts are authentic)**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2252/2004 of 13 December 2004 on standards for security features and biometrics in passports and travel documents issued by Member States<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 2 (b) and (c) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 2252/2004 lays down only those technical specifications for passports and travel documents which are general and not secret. These must be supplemented by additional technical specifications which may remain secret.
- (2) Commission decision (EC) No C (2006)2909 has established the technical specifications for the implementation and the protection of the biometric data in passports issued by Member States; however more clarification is needed on the fingerprint quality at enrolment as no provisions are provided for the handling of bad quality fingerprint images.
- (3) The basic access control (BAC) to the biometric data has been further enhanced and specified by the International Civil Aviation Organisation in a technical report entitled "Supplemental Access Control for Machine Readable Travel Documents" and consequently the technical specifications should be upgraded accordingly.
- (4) Given that Regulation (EC) No 2252/2004 builds upon the Schengen *acquis* in accordance with Article 5 of the Protocol on the Position of Denmark annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty establishing the European Community, Denmark notified by letter of 6 June 2005 the transposition of this *acquis* into its national law. It is therefore bound under international law to implement this Decision.
- (5) This Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* in which the United Kingdom does not take part, in accordance with Council Decision

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 385, 29.12.2004, p. 1.

2000/365/EC of 29 May 2000 concerning the request of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to take part in some of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis*<sup>2</sup>. The United Kingdom is therefore not taking part in its adoption and is not bound by it or subject to its application.

- (6) This Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* in which Ireland does not take part, in accordance with Council Decision 2002/192/EC of 28 February 2002 concerning Ireland's request to take part in some of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis*<sup>3</sup>; Ireland is therefore not taking part in its adoption and is not subject to its application.
- (7) As regards Iceland and Norway, this Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* within the meaning of the Agreement concluded by the Council of the European Union and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway concerning the latter's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis*<sup>4</sup>, which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point B of Council Decision 1999/437/EC of 17 May 1999 on certain arrangements for the application of that Agreement.<sup>5</sup>
- (8) As regards Switzerland, this Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* within the meaning of the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis*<sup>6</sup>, which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point B of Council Decision 1999/437/EC<sup>7</sup> read in conjunction with Article 3 of Council Decision 2008/146/EC<sup>8</sup>.
- (9) As regards Liechtenstein, this Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* within the meaning of the Protocol signed between the European Union, the European Community, the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the accession of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis*, which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point B of Council Decision 1999/437/EC read in conjunction with Article 3 of Council Decision 2011/350/EU<sup>9</sup>.
- (10) [The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee set up by Article 6 of Regulation (EC) 1683/95.]

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<sup>2</sup> OJ L 131, 1.6.2000, p. 43.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 20.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 36.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 31.

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 53, 27.2.2008, p. 52.

<sup>7</sup> OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 31.

<sup>8</sup> OJ L 53, 27.2.2008, p. 1.

<sup>9</sup> OJ L 160, 18.6.2011, p. 19.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

The Annex to Decision C (2006)2909 final is amended as follows:

(1) Point 2.2.2 and 2.2.3 are replaced by the following:

"2.2.2 Type

The primary fingerprints to be incorporated into the European Passport shall be

**PLAIN IMPRESSIONS OF THE LEFT AND RIGHT INDEX FINGER.**

For each hand, if the index finger is injured or missing, or has an ISO/IEC 19794-4 score of 0 to 25, a plain impression of the middle finger, ring finger or thumb of the same hand shall be recorded where a higher ISO score is available. If all fingers on one hand are of the low quality score indicated above, a plain impression of the finger with the best score shall be taken.

2.2.3 Format and Quality

The fingerprints must be stored as IMAGES, according to [5] and [15].

The quality of the fingerprint images shall, at the latest on 31 December 2014, be stated in accordance with [5] and recorded on the chip in the Biometric Data Block of the individual biometric image using the score of a suitable quality metric, ensuring mapping to the ISO score (0-100).

A compression of the images using the WSQ-algorithm according to [15] MUST be used in order to decrease file size."

(2) The enrolment guide as annexed to the present Decision shall be attached to the Annex of Decision C (2006)2909 final.

(3) In point 5.2 the following shall be added to 3):

"PACE v2 according to [21] must be implemented at the latest on 31 December 2014."

(4) Point 7 shall be amended as follows:

Reference point [9] shall be replaced with:

"[9] International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Machine Readable Travel Documents, Doc 9303, Part 1 Machine Readable Passports, Sixth Edition, 2006"

Points [10] and [11] shall be deleted.

The reference point [15] shall be replaced with:

"[15] ANSI/NIST-ITL 1-2007 Standard "Data Format for the Interchange of Fingerprint, Facial, Scarmark & Tattoo (SMT) Information", FBI: Wavelet Scalar Quantization (WSQ), www.itl.nist.gov/iad"

The reference point [17] shall be replaced with:

"[17] Common Criteria Protection Profile for Machine Readable Travel Document with "ICAO Application", Extended Access Control, Version 1.10 of 25 March 2009"

The following reference point [21] shall be added:

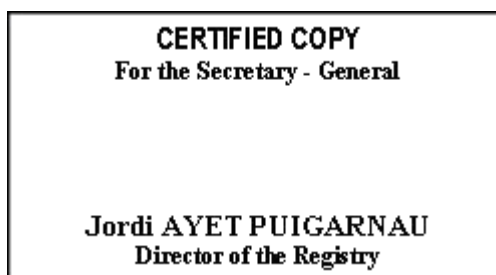
"[21] Technical report: Supplemental Access Control for Machine Readable Travel Documents, Version - 1.00 of 23 March 2010."

### *Article 2*

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Estonia, the Hellenic Republic, the Kingdom of Spain, the French Republic, the Italian Republic, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Poland, the Portuguese Republic, Romania, the Republic of Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden. It has to be transmitted to the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Swiss Confederation.

Done at Brussels, 4.8.2011

*For the Commission*  
*Cecilia MALMSTRÖM*  
*Member of the Commission*



**ANNEX**

Enrolment  
guide

