



Date  
3 September 2002

Our reference  
BPR2002/U85339

Department  
DGOB/BPR

Information  
[REDACTED]

Your reference

European Commission  
Directorate General Justice and Home Affairs  
[REDACTED]  
Rue de la Loi 200  
LX 46, B-1049 Brussels  
BELGIUM

Subject  
Summary European Conference for Issuing  
Authorities of Travel Documents

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Enclosures  
1

Address for visitors  
Lange Vijverberg 11  
The Hague  
The Netherlands

Postal address  
Postbus 10451  
2501 HL Den Haag  
The Netherlands

Internet  
[www.bprbzk.nl](http://www.bprbzk.nl)

Dear [REDACTED],

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You will be informed about this forum later.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your contribution to the conference and add to this letter a summary of the conference, including the final version of the proposals.

If you have any questions, please contact [REDACTED], telephone number + 31 70 361 3173.

With kind regards,  
also on behalf of [REDACTED]

G. Rutgers,  
Director Agency BPR



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[www.bprbzk.nl](http://www.bprbzk.nl)

Passport Office  
[REDACTED]

219 Laurier Street West  
K1A 0G3 Ottawa  
CANADA

Subject  
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Ministry of Interior  
Mr [REDACTED]  
Chief Administrative Officer  
CY 1453 Nicosia  
CYPRUS

Subject  
Summary European Conference for Issuing  
Authorities of Travel Documents

Dear [REDACTED]

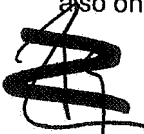
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Ministry of Interior  
Mr [REDACTED]  
Administration Department, Development of Documents  
p.s. 21/SC Nad Stolou 3  
170 34 Prague 7  
CZECH REPUBLIC

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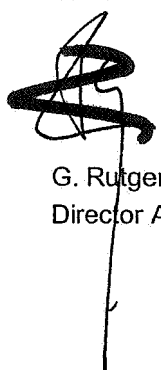
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The National Commissioner of the Danish Police

[REDACTED]  
Landlystvej 34  
DK - 2650 Hvidovre  
DENMARK

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Estonian Citizenship and Migration Board

[REDACTED]  
Endla 13  
15179 Tallinn  
Estland

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Ministry of the Interior Police Department

[REDACTED]  
Säästöpankinranta 2A  
FIN-00530 Helsinki  
FINLAND

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Ministry of the Interior  
[REDACTED]

Direction des Libertés Publiques et des Affaires Juridiques  
75008 Paris  
FRANCE

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G. Rutgers,  
Director Agency BPR





Central Office)  
Division

Bundesministerium des Innern

[Redacted]  
Alt-Moabit 101 D  
10559 Berlin  
GERMANY

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of Foreign Affairs

[Redacted]

Green

Hellenic Police/Forensic Science Division

[Redacted]

Alexandras Av. 173

115 22 Athens

GREECE

Subject

Summary Eu

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Subject

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
[REDACTED]

Piazzale della Farnesina, 1  
100 Rome  
ITALY

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1 of 1

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Ministry of Interior  
[Redacted]  
Senior Desk Office  
P.O Box 245  
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Politidirektoratet

[REDACTED]  
Pb. 8051 Dep  
0031 Oslo  
NORWAY

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T +31 70 361 3173  
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Bundesministerium für Inneres Ministerialrat  
[REDACTED]

Leiter des Referates III/16/b  
Am Hof 4  
1014 Vienna  
AUSTRIA

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Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji  
Departament Rozwoju Informatyki i Systemu Rejestrów Państwowych  
Attn. Director  
02-514 Warszawa (Warschau)  
Ul. Pawinskiego 17/21  
POLSKA (POLEN)

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Ministry of Internal Affairs  
[REDACTED]

Rua Passos Manuel 40  
1169089 Lisbon  
PORTUGAL

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Embassy of Slovenia  
[REDACTED]  
Anna Paulownastraat 11  
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With kind regards,  
also on behalf of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
G. Rutgers,  
Director Agency BPR



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3 September 2002

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Bundesamt für Polizeiwesen  
[REDACTED]

Bundesrain 20  
CH-300 Bern  
SWITZERLAND

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United Kingdom Passport Agency  
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Clive House, Petty France  
London SW1H 9HD  
UNITED KINGDOM

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Subject  
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## **SUMMARY OF THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE FOR ISSUING AUTHORITIES OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS ON EXPLORING THE USE OF BIOMETRICS IN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS**

On 20 and 21 June 2002, the European Conference for Issuing Authorities of Travel Documents was held in The Hague. Its theme was Exploring the use of biometrics in travel documents. The conference was organised by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK).

The conference's objectives were to inform the EU member states about the results of bilateral talks held with them and to present an up-to-the-minute overall picture of the use of biometrics in travel documents.

Invited to the conference were representatives of the authorities responsible for issuing travel documents in EU member states, observers from Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, the ten candidate countries, the USA, and Canada, and representatives of the ICAO and the European Commission. Almost all those invited attended the conference. The only absentees were representatives of candidate countries.

### **Background to the conference**

In October 2001, Roger van Boxtel, the Dutch minister responsible for travel documents, informed his fellow ministers from the EU member states and European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs, António Vitorino, about the new Dutch travel documents and his government's intention to include biometric information in travel documents in the near future. He also expressed his wish to work with European partners on biometrics.

He received favourable responses from both the European Commission and the member states. The Commissioner put the subject on the agenda of the Justice and Home Affairs Council.

To gain an accurate, up-to-the-minute picture of the state of biometrics in each of the EU member states, staff of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations have held bilateral talks with the authorities responsible for issuing travel documents there. This led to the decision to hold a conference to share the results with all the EU member states and lay a foundation for European cooperation on biometrics.

### **The conference proceedings**

The conference took three half-days. Plenary sessions were held on Thursday and Friday morning, and three workshops were held simultaneously on Thursday afternoon.

The conference was opened by Roger van Boxtel, Minister for Urban Policy and Integration of Ethnic Minorities, who again stressed the importance of European cooperation on the use of biometric information in travel documents. He said that biometrics was an effective means of reducing look-alike fraud and that cooperation was especially important in view of new US legislation affecting its Visa Waiver Program.

Ineke Ruiter and Sjeff Broekhaar, who conducted the bilateral talks on behalf of the ministry, summarised their results. All the EU member states were very interested in the new Dutch travel documents, the issuing process, the thinking behind it, and the work of the feasibility study team.

Four EU member states lead the way in biometrics: the UK, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands. They are all conducting studies and pilot projects for including biometric information in travel and identity documents sometime in the future. They aim to use biometrics for different purposes: reducing look-alike fraud, easing automatic border controls, improving the security of the application process, or a combination of these. The other EU member states are interested, but have yet to take any action on biometrics.

The bilateral talks also formed the basis for an up-to-the-minute overview of all the travel documents issued by the EU member states and the similarities and differences in their issuing systems. The overview, the first of its kind, was made available to the conference participants.

The conference also provided an opportunity for participants to find out about studies on the inclusion of biometric information in travel and identity documents in each other's countries. Presentations were given by John Davies (UK Passport Agency), Edgar Friedrich (Bundeskriminalamt, Germany), and Stefano Petecchia (Servizio Polizia Scientifica, Italy).

Three workshops were held. One, entitled Technology, was introduced by Jacques Perron, representing the ICAO's New Technology Working Group. He was followed by suppliers demonstrating three biometric techniques preferred by the ICAO and currently being tested intensively: fingerprint scanning, iris scanning, and face recognition.

Another workshop was entitled Legislation, Data Protection and Social Acceptance. Here too, various views and experiences were presented.

The third workshop, entitled Organisation, Implementation and Biometric Projects, was introduced by Julian Ashbourn, a member of the International Biometric Industry Association. He was followed by presentations on the new Dutch travel documents and the future use of biometrics, the Privium project at Schiphol, and the results of a study of face recognition commissioned by the Dutch government.

The last part of the conference consisted of four addresses. Giuseppe Callovi and Andrea Servida of the European Commission stressed the importance of European cooperation and provided information on funding available under the Commission's Information Society Technology Programme. Jacques Perron, of the Canadian Passport Office, spoke about proof-of-concept testing for face recognition. And the final address was given by Charisse Phillips of the USA.

The US delegate (speaker and observer) was invited to the conference in response to the USA's recent tightening of its admission rules. Under its Visa Waiver Program, the USA now waives the obligation to obtain an entry visa for visitors from several countries, including the Netherlands and most of Europe. But after the attacks on 11 September 2001, Congress passed many new laws, including the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act 2002. The Act says that countries whose nationals are exempt from having to obtain a visa under the Visa Waiver Program will have to introduce passports containing biometric information, or have firm plans to do so, by 26 October 2004.

Ms Phillips, representing the US Department of State, explained the ins and outs of the new Act. The USA has not yet decided what sort of biometric information to require, but it will follow the ICAO's advice. Nor has the USA decided what biometric features it will include in its own passports. But it has promised to inform the European countries fully and in good time about the consequences of implementing the Act, about which very little had been known before Ms Phillips's address.

### **Proposals**

Concluding the conference, the Netherlands made proposals aimed at keeping to the course so far pursued. The conference participants adopted the proposals, which are enclosed with the conference programme. The countries represented endorse the importance of biometric information in travel documents, the European member organisations of ICAO will actively consult each other with regard to the discussion on biometrics in ICAO and a forum will be set up, led by the UK, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands, to promote information exchange and cooperation among European countries on travel documents in general and on further standardising and harmonising biometrics in travel documents in particular.



## Proposals

*Final version 21 June 2002*

The participants of the Member States of the European Union at the European Conference for Issuing Authorities, meeting in The Hague on 20 and 21 of June 2002 on the subject of Exploring the use of Biometrics in Travel Documents:

1. Endorse the view that the use of biometrics can substantially reduce fraud with regard to the issuance process as well as the use of travel documents.
2. Note the role of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) with respect to standards for travel documents - recommendations from ICAO about biometrics in travel documents should be followed.
3. Encourage the Member States to participate actively in the Technical Advisory Group of ICAO and keep involved in the ongoing discussions about biometrics in travel documents.
4. Bearing in mind the joint responsibility to protect the borders of the European Union, Member States and the candidate countries should consult with each other in order to ensure a coherent European approach to biometrics in travel documents and discuss their position in ICAO and other relevant international organisations.
5. Consider it desirable to cooperate within the framework of the European Union on the matter of biometrics in travel documents by exchanging information on research, pilot schemes, new developments and other relevant experiences. Where possible, useful research and pilot schemes should be carried out jointly by Member States.
6. In order to facilitate the aims mentioned in proposals 4 and 5 as well as to facilitate exchanging information on developments concerning travel documents in general, a forum should be established.

This forum will facilitate meetings, information-exchange programmes and the formulation of a European approach to the use of biometrics in travel documents. The work of this Forum could also contribute to the recently adopted 'Plan for the management of external borders of the Member States of the European Union'.



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European Commission  
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Rue de la Loi 200  
1049 Brussel  
BELGIUM

Subject  
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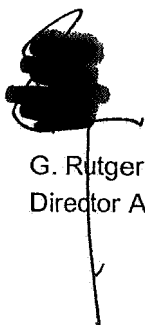
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Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

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Permanente Vertegenwoordiging van Nederland bij de Europese Unie

[REDACTED]  
Herrmann Debrouxlaan 48  
1160 Brussel  
BELGIE

Subject  
Summary European Conference for Issuing  
Authorities of Travel Documents

Dear [REDACTED]

On 20 and 21 June 2002 the first European Conference for Issuing Authorities of Travel Documents was held in The Hague on the theme *Exploring the Use of Biometrics in Travel Documents*.

We are looking back on a successful conference and do hope that this conference wasn't a once-only event, but turns out to be the start of European cooperation and information exchange in the area of travel documents. In accordance with the proposals, which have been discussed as last item of the agenda, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands are setting up a forum. This *European Forum for Travel Documents* will promote and facilitate the desired information exchange and cooperation among European countries. You will be informed about this forum later.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your contribution to the conference and add to this letter a summary of the conference, including the final version of the proposals.

If you have any questions, please contact [REDACTED] telephone number + 31 70 361 3173.

With kind regards,  
also on behalf of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
G. Rutgers,  
Director Agency BPR



Date  
3 September 2002

Our reference  
BPR2002/U85339

Department  
DGOB/BPR

Information  
[REDACTED]

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Your reference

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Ministère des Affaires Etrangères

[REDACTED]  
Rue des Petits Carmes 15  
1000 Brussel  
BELGIUM

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Nassaulaan 12  
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2500 GK DEN HAAG

Subject  
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Added to this letter you will find a summary of the conference, including the final version of the proposals.

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With kind regards,  
also on behalf of [REDACTED],

[REDACTED]  
G. Rutgers,  
Director Agency BPR



Ministry of the Interior Police Department  
[REDACTED]  
Säästöpankinranta 2A  
FIN-00530 Helsinki  
FINLAND

Date  
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Subject  
Enquiry about cooperation between national  
working groups on biometric identifiers

Dear [REDACTED],

First of all I would like to apologize for the late reply to your letter from 10 June 2002, which we received only 15 July 2002.

In our opinion it is a very good initiative to set up a working group to address issues on biometric identifiers.

As explained in our meeting in Helsinki on 22 February this year and again emphasized during the European Conference for Issuing Authorities in The Hague in June, cooperation on this matter within the European Union is very important. For this reason we decided to set up a European Forum. Germany, United Kingdom, Italy and the Netherlands are taking the lead. We expect the first meeting will take place at the end of this month. As mentioned in our letter which accompanied the summary of the European Conference, we will keep you informed about the Forum. Apart from that other (European) countries may join the Forum any time.

As our feasibility study concerns, it is our intention to complete the study at the end of this year. And of course we are willing to exchange information with you. For further information you can contact [REDACTED], telephone number + 31 70 3613173.

I wish you a lot of success with your (national) working group on biometric identifiers.

With kind regards,

[REDACTED]