



## **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

### **Office of the Secretary General**

**Action against Terrorism Unit**

**Vienna, 4 February 2004**

**TO: All Delegations**

**Subject: Passport and Travel Document MC Decision Progress Report**

The December 2003 Maastricht MC Decision on Travel Document Security (MC Decision 7/03) affirmed the commitment of participating States to meet certain security standards for the handling, issuing and production of passports and other travel documents. Since the Decision, ATU has undertaken the following actions and planning:

#### **Step One: Programme Team**

Given the importance and the wide scope of the activities called for by this Decision, a Travel Document Security Programme Team has been formed within ATU, with extra-budgetary funding from the US government. The Team will take on the responsibility of planning, co-ordinating and implementing various projects that are necessary to effectively implement the MC decision. This Team will continue its role in the overall implementation of the Travel Document Security Programme throughout 2004 and beyond.

#### **Step Two: Developing a Plan of Action**

In order to provide the programme with guidelines as well as plans for concrete action, an expert workshop will be held on March 1-2 in Vienna, bringing together national officials on travel document security issues with international experts. This meeting will allow participants to become fully acquainted with the recommended international standards while providing us the opportunity to assess the need for financial and technical assistance necessary to fully comply with the MC decision commitments.

ICAO has been a full partner with ATU in organising and holding the expert workshop in Vienna. Working closely with ICAO, ATU has developed a draft agenda and a joint invitation, bearing the logos of both organizations, which have already been issued to OSCE participating States. We are beginning to receive positive responses, including the names of relevant national officials from capitals.

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### **Step Three: Field Assessments**

Based on the outcome of the 1-2 March expert workshop, the Travel Document Security Team will organize expert assessment visits by ICAO to key OSCE regions and participating States, in particular those that have a strong need for technical and financial assistance to meet the requirements set out by the MC decision. The expert visits will result in the production of assessment reports that will be submitted to the host government for consideration, recommending concrete actions to bring the existing document security standards in line with the recommended international standards.

### **Step Four: Providing Guidance and Assistance to States**

Upon conclusion of an assessment visit and identification of needs, the Team will facilitate communication among participating States, their delegations in Vienna and the expert assessment team to ensure adequate and timely follow-up and implementation in the host country of recommendations as outlined by expert assessment reports. The Co-ordination Team will liaise with the host government to best utilize the available financial and technical assistance. We envision that this will also involve co-ordination of provision of equipment and training for relevant officials.

### **Step Five: Monitoring and Follow-up**

In order to complement the expert assessment and subsequent implementation of the recommended action by the respective participating States, the Programme Team will maintain a database of up-to-date information on the progress made by each participating State in fulfilling the commitments set out by the MC decision.

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